



Fundraising Ideas



From collections and coffee mornings to cake sales, there are lots of tried and tested activities you could easily put on in your church. For those seeking inspiration to do something a bit different, this guide provides fundraising ideas specifically linked to the Let there be light! theme of Christian Blind Mission Sunday this year.

Colour in your congregation

A fun new spin on a non uniform day that could really brighten up your Sunday service...



- Encourage each individual to donate £1 to join in.
- Invite everyone to take a slip of paper with a colour written on it in exchange for their donation.
- Ask everyone to come to the service dressed in at least one item of clothing to match the colour they picked.
- You could arrange this in advance of your special Christian Blind Mission service, or during the service ready for the following week, to create an extra opportunity for reflection.

Keeping who it's for in focus



Hemedi is joyful at seeing his father's face for the first time. But Mathias is still waiting for light to break through his darkness. Like Hemedi, he will only be able to have a cataract operation with CBM's help because his family are too poor to afford the treatment he needs.

Mathias' cataracts could be easily treated for as little as £95 per eye.

Thankfully there are people who want to help; people like CBM and your church.

Read more about Hemedi and Mathias in our worship resources, available to download from www.cbmuk.org.uk/sunday-resources

Light and sight tax

A great way to grow in thankfulness and stack up the pennies... encourage your friends and family to donate a tax for some of the ways light and sight make a difference in their home. Here are some suggestions, but feel free to adapt them to suit you:



1p for each light in the house

5p for each TV, computer or mobile device

1p for each picture on the wall, or candle-holder

5p for each bookcase in the house

2p for each window

10p for a conservatory

2p for each person in the house who has their own Bible they can read

10p for each family member who has glasses or contact lenses

5p for any patio windows or French doors

25p for any person living in the house who has had an eye operation.

Day in the dark

Sponsored activities – you could raise money by experiencing what it's like to not be able to see or use your eyes as freely as usual – this can be a brilliant way to learn as well as raise money, especially with youth groups. You could encourage people to be sponsored to:



- Fast from watching TV and/or looking at any screens.
- Wear a blindfold, or very dark sunglasses and try to do whatever they would normally be doing.

For inquisitive, ambitious or competitive individuals, you could set challenges to attempt while they are 'in the dark'. You could even ask people to sponsor you at a higher rate if these are completed:

1. put on a jumper
2. eat a meal
3. go for a walk or run
4. 'watch' TV
5. tell the time
6. go and fetch a particular item from another room

Don't forget to make sure that anyone wearing a blindfold for the day does so with a 'buddy' to make sure they stay safe.

Light up more lives

Encouraging groups within your church to craft simple items to sell is a great way to get everyone involved. The focus for Christian Blind Mission Sunday this year is 'light and sight' so making decorated candles and tea-light holders would be a great idea and gives an opportunity to explain to people who purchase them, how their help can transform lives.



Whatever you do:

- **Make a plan and set a target.**
- **Recruit a team to help you and divide up the work.**
- **Publicise your event with a poster, in your church magazine, email list, Church website and on social media.**
- **Explain why Christian Blind Mission's work is important.**
- **Ask people to Gift Aid their donation – if they are a taxpayer, Gift Aid will add 25% to the value of their gift. Contact us if you would like Gift Aid envelopes for your congregation to help you collect the relevant details.**
- **Most importantly - have fun!**

Need help?

If you need any help or advice, contact Jacqueline Atkinson, CBM's Community Officer: email community@cbmuk.org.uk or call 0800 567 7000. We can send you all the resources you need to help your activity to run smoothly, including: Gift Aid envelopes, posters, sponsorship forms, t-shirts, balloons and leaflets.

What difference will our support make?

Your support could turn the lights back on for more children like Mathias; still waiting in the dark for cataract surgery which his family in Uganda can't afford without CBM's help.

- **£190** can pay for surgery to remove cataracts from a child blind in both eyes, lighting up their world and giving them back the chance of a bright future.
- **£310** could cover the cost of essential optical equipment, which will be used in a hospital to diagnose thousands of people's eye conditions.
- **£420** can pay for diagnostic and refraction skills training for an ophthalmic nurse, so they can deliver high quality treatment for years to come.

Sending in your donation

After you have finished your fundraising, please complete the Response and Donation Form in the Church leader's guide for Christian Blind Mission Sunday, and post it to CBM with a cheque for the total amount raised, along with any completed Gift Aid envelopes. Thank you!

About CBM

CBM is the overseas disability charity with more than a hundred years' history of being motivated by Christ's love. We reach out to some of the most forgotten people in the world's poorest places; transforming the lives of people with blindness and other disabilities.

Contact us:

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Registered charity numbers: 1058162 (England & Wales) and SC041101 (Scotland)