

# NINE ELMS ADVENT CALENDAR

TRAIL 2020

## DECORATE YOUR OWN WINDOW OF LIGHT

GUIDE AND ACTIVITIES PACK



*FOLLOW THE LIGHT*

9

ELMS

ARTS MINISTRY

#nineelmsadvent

PACK CREATED BY

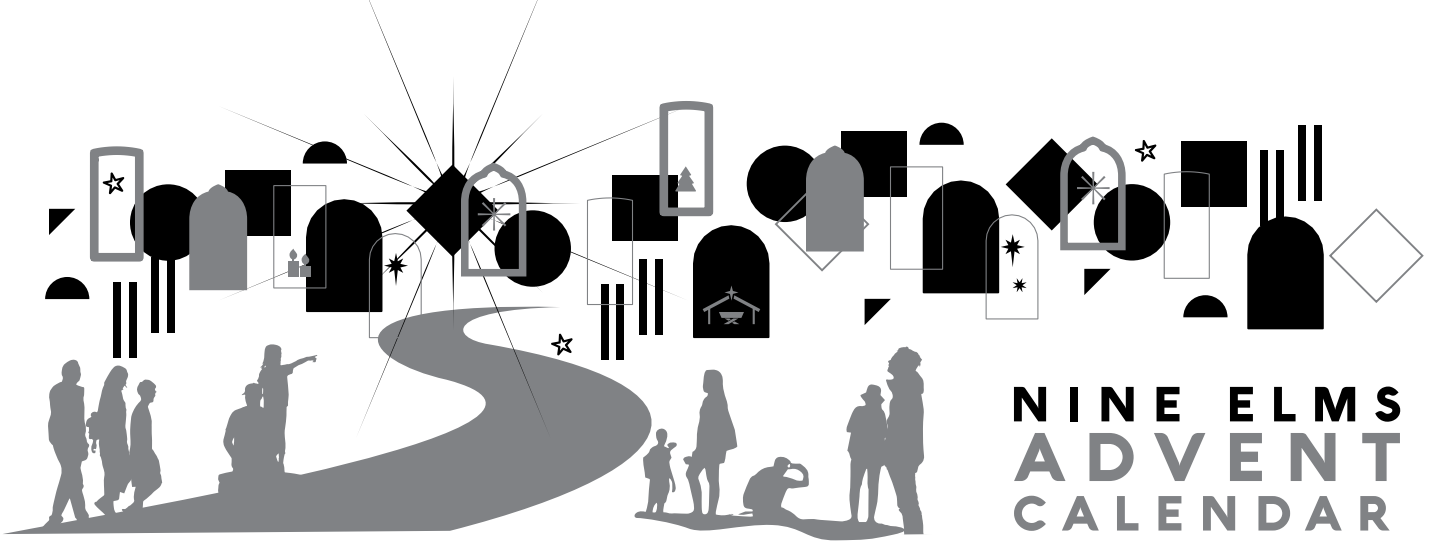
Natalie Wiggins for  
Nine Elms Arts Ministry

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# NINE ELMS ADVENT CALENDAR

TRAIL 2020

## FOLLOW THE LIGHT

### What is the Nine Elms Advent Calendar?

Following last year's fantastic Giant Advent Calendar, where from 1st – 24th December, a Christmas Carol themed 'Window' was revealed each night in different venues around the Nine Elms and Battersea area, Nine Elms Arts Ministry are coordinating a Covid-safe version for 2020.

A trail of beautiful windows, across the area, will be decorated by artists in the windows of businesses and community organisations around the theme of 'Light in the Darkness', with a map you can use to follow the

trail of light from 1st December to the 2nd January 2021. Every day, online, we will spotlight a different window and there will be activities, sing-alongs and competitions to keep you entertained.

#### GET THE MAP!

- ✉ Subscribe: [www.nineelmsartsministry.org](http://www.nineelmsartsministry.org)
- @ Follow us: @NineElmsArtsMinistry (Instagram & Facebook)
- ✉ Email: [AdventCalendar@NineElmsArtsMinistry.org](mailto:AdventCalendar@NineElmsArtsMinistry.org)

### Join us in lighting up windows and hearts in Nine Elms

We are asking as many people as possible to decorate a window in their homes that will shine a light in the darkness throughout December. You don't have to be an artist, we'll help you in this pack (and online) by sharing some simple ideas you can use and adapt,

adding your own flare. Light up your window with a variety of lights - the more the better and have fun with it! Even if you don't think many people will see your window, the more that are lit up, the lovelier Nine Elms will look!

### Light in the darkness - put a light in your window

On the 1st of December we encourage you all to put one light (or set of lights) in your window and switch it on to be a light in the darkness and light it up every evening in December.

Then over the next few days or weeks you could decorate your window using the theme of 'light in the darkness'. If you can, please put the word LIGHT in your

window somewhere, to bring a unity to all the displays. We've collaborated with local artists, schools and partner organisations to put together some examples and activity sheets to help you, with some ideas to show light in the darkness through your window to your community. Let's have fun, share hope, and light up windows and hearts. Follow us online to see our free 'how-to' videos

### Taking a good photo and sharing the message

Please do take photos and videos of your own window and your neighbour's or others you see on the trail and share.

- ◇ Do not use a flash if photographing at night.
- ◇ Square the window and get the frame in as well if possible.
- ◇ Take a few from different angles - but front-on is usually the best.
- ◇ You could take a picture from the inside looking out too.

Email your images to [adventcalendar@nineelmsartsministry.org](mailto:adventcalendar@nineelmsartsministry.org) or post on social media

SNAP  
& Tag us!

@nineelmsartsministry  
#NineElmsAdvent

### When lighting your displays please be safe and think about any fire risks or hazards.

- △ DO NOT use any real candles or tea lights with open flames (only LED tea lights).
- △ Make sure any lamps, fairy lights etc. don't get too hot or are too close to material that can catch fire

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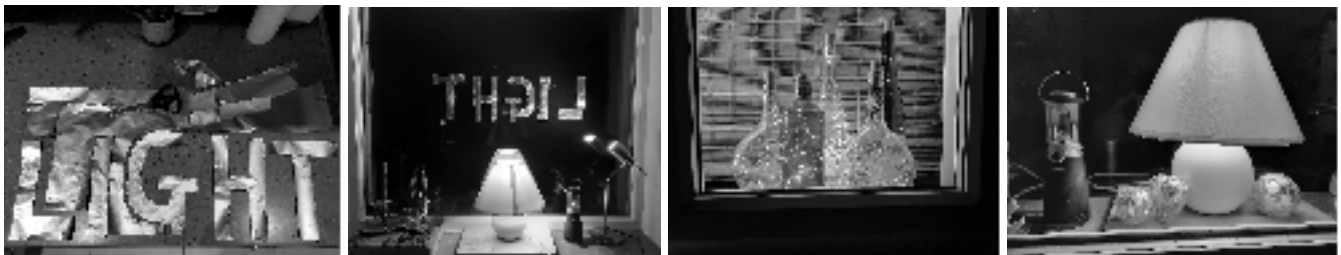


## Diversity of Light

We all bring light to our surroundings in different ways. Have a think about how you can represent 'light in the darkness' using the word LIGHT as the central feature in your window, and personalise it in some way. You could:

- write your own poem about light - big enough so people outside can read it easily (see activity sheet).
- use song lyrics or a quote from your favourite book or movie mentioning light (you could use glass paint)
- cut out/display/paint the word LIGHT in a creative way. You could use things you already have around your home like tin foil, tissue paper, or anything that allows the light to shine through.

Then grab some table lamps, torches, fairy lights, LED tea lights, maybe some mirror baubles and let the light shine on your display. Remember wording needs to be put on backwards so that people can read it from the outside.



## Poetry of Light

Here are a few suggestions to help you create a short poem or message about 'light in the darkness'. To help the ideas flow, why not start by making a word cloud. You can do this on your own, or with members of your household.



Get a blank piece of paper and write the word LIGHT in the middle. Then jot down all the words you can think of that the word LIGHT brings to mind. You can set a timer (for e.g. 5 minutes) or keep going until the page is filled up. The words might be feelings or images, maybe even sounds or smells!

Now take a few moments to look at your word cloud and circle three or four words that you like best. Use these as a starting point to write a message or poem – and don't forget to include the word LIGHT too.

## Two poetry forms to try

**Haiku** – this is a Japanese form consisting of three lines. The first and third line have five syllables and the middle line has seven syllables. For example:

that big glitterball  
in the sky sends dancing rays  
of light through deep night

**Acrostic** – the first letter of each line spells out a word when read downwards, in this case LIGHT. For example:

Look up  
Into infinite  
Glittering  
Heavens  
Tonight

☆ To help the word LIGHT stand out you could write, paint or print it in bold, capital letters, in a different colour to the rest of the text, or cut out letters from a newspaper, magazine, cereal packet or similar.  
Poems by Hilaire. Blog: <https://hilaireinlondon.wordpress.com> | Twitter: @xilaire | Instagram: @hilaireinlondon



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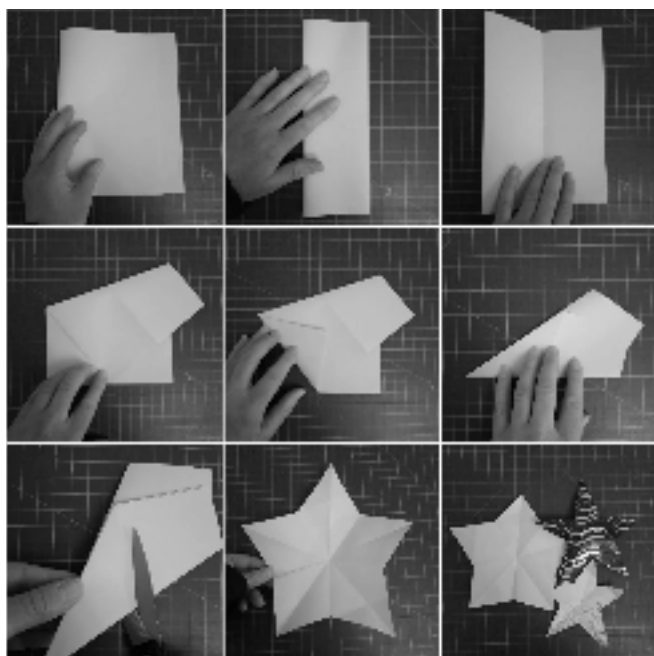
## Stars

Stars are often used as symbols representing something beautiful, good and positive. They can help guide people when they are lost - sailors at sea for example and the three wise men in the nativity. As well as including the word LIGHT in your display, don't forget to personalise it in some way – maybe with messages of hope and encouragement. You could;

- cut out some stars from paper, tissue, newspaper, magazines, cleaned crisp/coffee packaging or stick sweet wrappers on for sparkle). Write messages on them. Then put a hole in each star and thread them on to some string to hang in your window (vertically or horizontally).
- stick coloured tissue paper stars on jars and put an electric tea-light in the jar and line your windowsill.
- maybe have a whole solar system displayed in your window with papier-mache planets and stars!

Here is a simple example of how to make a star and how you can create a window using these stars cut from old wrapping paper, tin foil, crepe paper.

**To cut a perfect star from folded paper follow these steps below:**



1. Have the paper landscape. Fold the paper in half from left to right. Fold it in half again, in the same direction.

2. Unfold that second fold you just made, to reveal a nice crease down the middle of your paper.

3. Grab the top left corner on the folded edge, and fold it down to the bottom so the point is in-line with the crease (this creates a little triangle to the left).

4. Fold that little triangle up, along the long fold line.

5. Fold the same area (the triangle) up again, to the long edge (the corner point should line up along the long edge)

6. Cut diagonally from the right edge up to the left edge corner to create the points of the star. The deeper the angle of this cut, the more pointy the star will be.



Images by NWiggins or Saltaire Living Advent Calendar facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=saltairainspired&set=a.7590316391045190>



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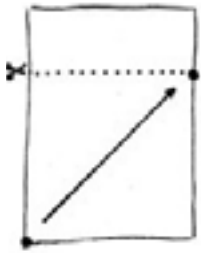


# Lanterns

Lanterns are used in many festivals to symbolise a wish for a bright future, hope and success, light is a positive energy and helps us all in various ways - please include the word LIGHT in your display. You could;

- use real lanterns with battery-operated tea lights or fairy lights placed inside.
- make some box lanterns from coloured or shiny card (or any thin card like cereal boxes that you have around) and wrap around jars with an LED tea light inside to shine out. See activity sheet for instructions.
- make lots of simple paper lanterns or origami folded lanterns and decorate them with wishes or prayers and display them in your window. See activity sheet.

**DO NOT use candles** or real tea lights anywhere near curtains, paper, card or anywhere that it could be knocked over.



You can make a square with a A4 page by bringing the bottom left corner to the other side (black spots) to make a triangle. Cut off the extra at the top.

Step One:

Start with a square piece of paper. Write or draw a message and fold your paper following the lines.

Step Two:

Bring the four corners to the centre (Black spot). Now Flip Over.

Step Three:

Bring the four corners to the centre. Flip Over.

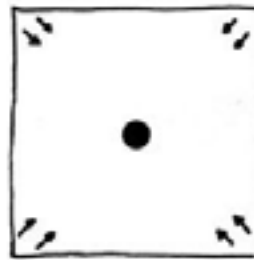
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



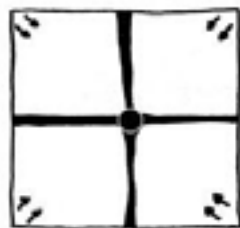
Step Four:

Bring the four corners to the centre.

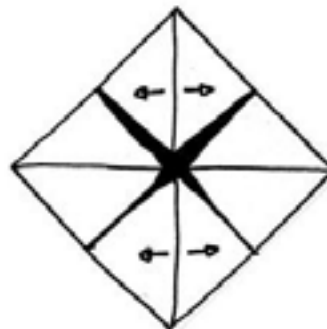
Step Five:

Rotate your paper and open the paper up at the top and the bottom.

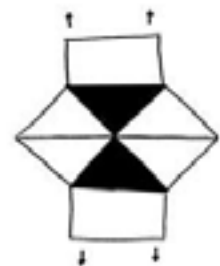
Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step Six:

Pull up the top and the bottom. Your message is now locked inside, until someone opens it!

You could also write words of hope and light on the outside of the lanterns for people to see.





## Get creative

Why not think about using fabrics, coloured tissue paper, books, glass bottles or natural objects (like leaves or twigs) to make your own window. Think about the depth, perspective, silhouettes, and how you will light the window.

- How about cutting out/creating a silhouette of a loved one and yourself holding a light or a pet looking up at some stars?
- If you have a bay window and you're missing the theatre maybe create a 'set' inside the room of a light inspired by a scene from a show.
- Or display a scene - with a light in the darkness theme - using lego, a train set or artwork on a table by the window.
- You could use two levels with windows that are above or below in your home.
- Do you have a tree, bush or gate you could safely hang battery lights on - leading up to your window?

## Top Tips

- Think about the theme and what you want to say, then say it as simply as you can.
- See your window as a picture frame and notice what the light from around the outside of your home is like.
- Tracing paper, baking paper, tissue paper are great. They are very effective with letting light through. Black paper is best for Silhouettes.
- Use dry glue (i.e. pritt stick) or sellotape or invisible sticky dots
- Think back-to-front with any text you display.
- Consider the angles you need to light the window. Back lighting, from the side, top down, or bottom upwards.
- Be safe, consider fire hazards (like curtains or paper) or radiators or heaters that get very hot.
- Sketch an idea, test the materials and lighting, then have fun. Enjoy the process of exploring, making, decorating and sharing!

For more tips type '[Lucy Reeves Khan wordpress](#)' into your internet search engine and read her blog 'What do I know about making a window display?' **And watch out for online videos on our social media #nineelmsadvent**

Here are some images to inspire you from other places who have decorated windows in the past (with different themes).



Images from; Window Wanderland Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/windowwander/pins/> ,

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Saltire Living Advent Calendar facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=saltireinspired&set=a.2590316391045190> and Becky Plummer.



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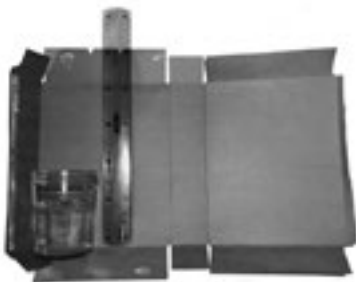
# Discover 575 Wandsworth Road

In collaboration with Nine Elms Arts Ministry and Agora Arts Circle

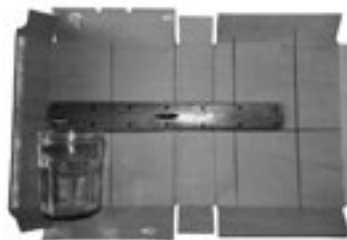
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Behind the door of 575 Wandsworth Road is a magical secret. For over twenty years, Kenyan born novelist, poet and British Civil Servant Khadambi Asalache turned his modest terraced house into a work of art. Almost every surface is decorated in hand-carved wooden fretwork, which was illuminated with a vast array of lanterns and candles.

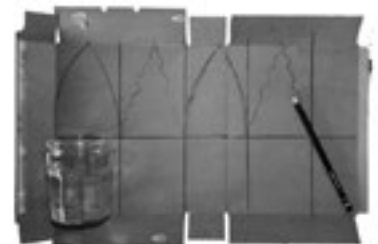
With this year's theme of 'light in the darkness', this activity sheet will show you how to make a simple lantern to decorate your windows, inspired by Khadambi's creative spirit, and love for light and shadow play.



Open your cereal box and measure the height and the length of your glass.



Make four identical boxes at the bottom and four on top. Leave some space at the bottom.



Draw different shapes at the top of your lantern.



Cut the top of your lantern and the bottom, leave a thin piece on one side to close the lantern.



Fold each side, the bottom and the thin piece on the side. Now it is time to decorate it! The more holes you cut in the sides, the more light will shine through. You can also use scissors to punch small holes before you decorate.

**Do not use on open flame in the lantern!**

Share your lantern with us

@nineelmsartsministry #NineElmsAdvent or email it to us  
adventcalendar@nineelmsartsministry.org





Griffin Primary School

# Simple Twig Star

You will need: 5 bendy twigs & something for binding (string, wool or florist's wire)

①

Find 5 pieces of bendy twigs that are roughly the same length & thickness.

②

Bind 2 twigs together so that one thick end is connected to one thin end (do this for each attachment point) Make sure right is on top of left!

③

Add the next twig, making sure it's the top-crossing twig. Each new twig you attach should go on top.

④

Weave the 4th twig through, forming the star's top point. Weave under & over then attach.

⑤

When adding the final twig, it's easier to do the weaving 1st & then tie it in.

- ★ Remember:
- Thick end to thin
  - Upper or lower placement is dependent on how the last twig was attached.
  - Weave under, then over.

Enjoy!

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