



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”  
Isaiah 9:6



Christmas 2016

It’s that joyful time of year again, when we celebrate the son of God becoming the son of man – “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”. And what a celebration this is – a festive season of wonder and gratitude to the one who sent us His son, and all other good gifts besides.

So I can hardly begin this letter without joyful thanks to God and to you too for your good gifts and prayers. I’m reminded that Christmas is a time of peace, of family and friends, of unity. So what better time than Christmas to write to you, the wonderful members and supporters who make up the Evangelical Alliance family, to share the challenges we’re facing, the opportunities arising, and *to say thank you for uniting with us in the name of Christ.*

**Because this unity isn’t yet reflected across our nations. In fact we’re in a time of extraordinary fragmentation and division – in the light of the EU referendum and US election, the wounds of separation and discord often run deep.**

As I reflect on this, I can’t remember a time when the UK has been more divided – across economic and social backgrounds, older and younger generations, urban and rural locations, segmented by different histories, hopes, beliefs and values.

Yet with these challenges come great opportunities for the gospel. As the Church, we are called to wade into this mess, get our hands dirty, and offer unity and hope. We are commissioned to share the good news of the Prince of Peace that we celebrate at Christmas. And we must be ever more united as the body of Christ, or else the good news we bring will not bear the weight of truth.

**So I hope you will allow me to write to you openly and ask: will you enable us this Christmas to unite the Church to change the story – to promote unity where there is division, and speak out boldly about our faith to a world that no longer understands its significance?**

In fact, 51%<sup>1</sup> of the UK population now say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. It’s shocking to think that half of the UK – our friends, family and neighbours – no longer recognise the centrality of Christ at *Christ*-mas; our faith and the one we worship are being pushed to the sidelines.

<sup>1</sup> Christmas Starts with Christ



Yes, I'd like to give a gift this Christmas

You can also call **0207 520 3830** or visit **eauk.org/christmasappeal** to make your gift

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ £25

☐ £50

☐ £100

☐ Other £

I understand that this gift is over and above an annual membership donation.

If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid this donation, please fill out the form overleaf. ➡

Thank you!

Please tear off the completed form and return in the PREPAID envelope provided. Alternatively, you may send the form to:

☐ I wish to give by cheque/charity voucher payable to Evangelical Alliance.

OR

☐ I wish to give by Mastercard/Visa/Debit/Charity Card  
Card number (delete as appropriate)

Issue date

/

Expiry date

/

Issue no. (if req.)

Security code

Name on card

Signature:

Despite the claims by recent prime ministers that the UK is a “Christian country”, just one in four people see Christianity as an important element of Britishness. Yet 86% of evangelicals think British values should be strongly shaped by Christian values.

**With your help, we can meet these challenges - our advocacy team can continue to bring a unified and coherent voice to evangelicals, speaking out on behalf of the Church in the corridors of power and across society.**

But this is not just about being British.

As evangelical Christians, you and I believe the best thing for our friends, our neighbours and our world is that they come into a living faith and loving relationship with Jesus. At the Alliance, we realise this good news is something we all have a role in sharing, that Jesus gave his great commission in Matthew 28 to all of us – indeed, what better gift is there?

*That is why, with your past generosity, we’ve just launched the Great Commission website, to help Christians talk about their faith in Jesus. Your support is enabling [greatcommission.co.uk](http://greatcommission.co.uk) to inspire greater passion for evangelism and empower churches and individuals to make Jesus known. This evangelism hub brings together a wide variety of stories about people who have come to faith, and categorises evangelism resources and initiatives for easy searching.*

But this is just the beginning. The opportunities are many - especially at Christmas. With your support today, we can provide more inspiration and tools to equip even more Christians to make Jesus known.

**So could you give a gift this Christmas to help us meet these challenges and make the most of these opportunities? Will you play your part in uniting and equipping the UK Church to share the good news with confidence and boldness?**

Thank you once again for uniting with us in the name of Christ.

Happy Christmas, and may you have many opportunities to share the good news this season,

Steve

**Steve Clifford**  
General Director  
Evangelical Alliance



*PS We're in a time of extraordinary fragmentation and division in our nations. Yet with these challenges come significant opportunities for the gospel. So could you give a gift this Christmas to help the Church bring unity and hope to discord and disillusionment, sharing the true Christmas story of God become man to bring peace?*



**Gift Aid Declaration for past, present & future donations**

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we are able to claim an extra 25 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further.

*giftaid it*

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:  
☐ today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future (Please tick all boxes you wish to apply)

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given since 6 April 2011 or will give in the future (depending on the boxes ticked).

Signature:

Date:

We would like to keep you informed about our work and the different ways you could support it.

If you would prefer to opt out of future fundraising communications please tick here: ☐

If you are a member, please note that this does not cover membership-related communications. Please also note that it may take up to five working days to remove your contact details from our fundraising mailing lists, so do bear with us if you hear from us in the meantime.