

## Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

When: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Time: 9am – 12 noon

Where: St James

Last year my friend & I decided to have a go at making our own Christmas Wreaths and were amazed at how well they turned out. We followed the YouTube 'How to Make a Christmas Wreath / Kew Gardens' and ended up with these.



So, if you want to have a go you will need some basic things for the wreath and then additional things to decorate them.

### The basics:

- A wreath – can be any format (rattan/polystyrene/metal etc) but NOT florist oasis which is too soft (you have to pull the string tightly to secure the foliage). Our wreath was 30cm (12 inches).
- A ball of string – 3-5m length, any colour as it is hidden by the foliage.
- A selection of foliage – Kew recommends at least 3 different types, we used 5 which we collected wandering around whilst walking the dog. You need a lot and there is a lot of waste.

- Scissors, secateurs and maybe some gloves if you are using holly.

#### **The extras:**

This is the fun part where you can use anything you like or have available to decorate your wreaths, Kew recommends putting decorations on in thirds and having two different themes. We used the following:

- One dried whole lime/orange plus three cinnamon sticks (x3 and so a total of 3 limes and 9 cinnamon sticks)
- Three slices dried oranges plus two pine cones (x3 and so a total of 9 orange slices and 6 pine cones)

When we collected the pine cones they were closed because it was cold-but if you pop them in the microwave the heat opens them up (and also kills any bugs so you hopefully won't have any infestations)

- You will need some florist wire (you can get this in packs measuring about 6 – 8 inches long), this is how you attach the decorations to the wreath. Get about 25 wires.
- We also used some fake berries that comes on their own wire. (By the time we make these the birds have often eaten the real berries and maybe they need them more than us if it's a cold winter!)
- Ribbon to create the bow – we didn't want long dangling ribbon and so depending on how big etc you need at 2m long.

You could use Christmas tree decoration babbles, little birds, small nativity figurines or anything you want to use but you will need the approx. quantities noted above to fill the wreath and the florist wire to attach them.

We are very fortunate in being able to have free use of the church hall (thank you Bev for arranging) and we will have tea / coffee / homemade cake / biscuits available and so it would be appreciated if a contribution were made on the day to the church towards the cost of heating / lighting.