



Bonpinda's Guide to a Meaningful Christmas

Stress-free, easy gift ideas with a
difference

A note from Bonpinda

After an unsettling and difficult year for so many around the world, this Christmas understandably feels a little different. Beneath the usual busyness, shopping and constant socialising, Christmas is a time which encourages us to pause and reflect. To focus on everything that's truly important in life.

Slowing down to inhale the scent of cinnamon and ginger. Hearing the familiar songs that we can't help but hum along to. Battling with strands of lights which have yet again become tangled in the box - even though you swore you wrapped them up neatly last year. The prospect of spending quality time with our loved ones over good food and great drinks. The joy that comes from sharing the gifts we searched high and low for.

We like to think gifting can be a part of this pausing. Part of the reflecting. Even just by taking the time to ask - why do we give gifts?

Whilst this season has become somewhat synonymous with excess and indulgence, your Christmas gifts don't have to be that way.





Whether you believe the gesture of giving at Christmas began with Three Wise Men, Saint Nick or you simply enjoy the tradition - we can all find our own meaning in this act.

We can find meaning in the origin and transparency of the items we choose to buy, a chance to put the planet at the forefront of our decisions. We can find meaning in choosing to support small business, artists and ethical organisations that need our support more than ever after a tough year. Or deciding that gifting this year isn't about how much we spend, but about how we show up with our loved ones who we may have dearly missed.

We all know how it feels to receive something chosen for us with thought and care - no matter the shape, size, use or cost. Some of the most meaningful gifts cost little to nothing at all.

But perhaps even more joy and meaning is found in watching someone you love open their gift. In finding the perfect token or idea with which to express how we feel about them. So here are some ideas for how to make it the most meaningful one yet.

Push & Bon
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What We'll Cover

In this guide



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What is 'meaningful' to you?

The suggestions included in this guide are really a starting point. Something to spark your inspiration. Whatever you and your loved ones find 'meaningful'... that's what matters!



Meaning can be found in the smallest things. It's what **you** hold dear to your heart that matters.



(*Whenever you see this icon, you can click the image to find the item on our website)

Memory & Tradition

MEMORY & TRADITION



Memories & Tradition

Every year we look forward to the same small things. The familiar markers of the holiday season we know and love. Whether it's the novelty jumpers, that one special meal or the Christmas Eve drinks. Traditions are what makes this such a special time, years of memories bringing us closer to those we love. Memories and traditions are powerful things, and can make beautiful gifts when harnessed.

Memories can be sensory - perhaps a favourite smell or perfume. A hamper of food from their childhood or favourite trip away. Photos arranged into a calendar for the new year. What reminds you of your loved one? What are your most treasured memories?



What reminds you of your loved one?

What are your most treasured memories?





Create a playlist of songs that remind you of them, so they can always have you close at hand and close to their heart. Or create a jar of “Remember When’s” for your parents or siblings, so they can dip in and pull out a special memory whenever they wish!

Think about your own traditions. The traditions of your loved ones. Do you enjoy cooking together? Traditions can be long-established, but they can also be started right here. Is it your first Christmas together? Can you start a new ritual you will continue for years to come?

Perhaps choosing an ornament together, from a place you’ve travelled or a milestone reached, where each year the tree reveals a little bit more about your family and your heritage.

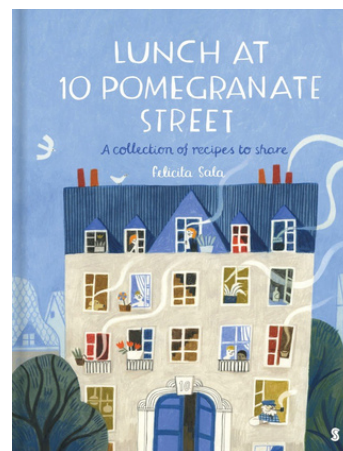
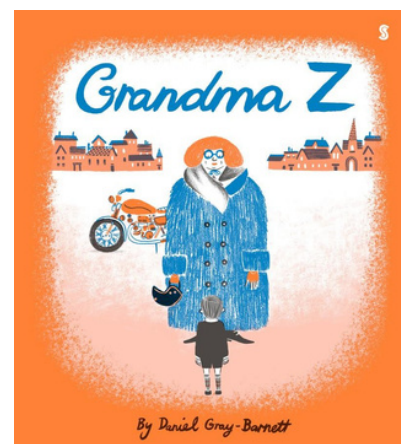


Can you start a new ritual or tradition?

Are there any special memories you can capture?

Some suggestions

Do your children love being read to? A new book to ignite the imagination and make memories could be a wonderful gift. We love Grandma Z's wacky and wonderful illustrations. Or combine the two with 10 Pomegranate Street, a cooking adventure for young chefs and their helpers!



And make this book even more meaningful by inscribing a personal message in the cover, so they'll always remember how much they meant to you. Perhaps when they are older, they could even be gifted heirlooms, connecting your children and your children's children to the generations before them.



Moments to Breathe

MOMENTS TO BREATHE



Moments to Breathe

The moments we take to breathe are never wasted. But in a busy world with never-ending to-do lists, it can be hard to find them. Often, it is hard to tell ourselves to break, or to rest. But coming from a loved one, it can be a powerful and moving experience. That's why a gift of time, of permission to pause and indulge, is always appreciated.

Perhaps take a massage class, and offer to practice on your loved one!

Handmade coupons for time out, free babysitting and chore busting might seem simple - but allowing that special someone space and time to breathe, relax and unwind could mean more to them than you imagine.



Can you give the gift of time?
Create space for them to pause?

What personal space can you
gift your loved one?





For many, it doesn't get more indulgent than a long, hot bath. So homemade bath salts are a wonderfully simple and effective present. Try your hand at mixing Epsom salts and some accessories in a glass jar for your loved ones. Also, try adding chamomile flowers, dried lavender and essentials oils for top-level pampering!

Some suggestions



A kimono is a great addition to any pamper set. Exclusive in all the best ways, our selection is created from off-cut fabrics - so they are exquisitely unique. Soft and silky, they will encourage any wearer to feel floaty and serene!



Does your loved one love to snuggle under a blanket and spend time with their nose in a good book? Then keep them cosy and warm with a stunning wool throw rug, ethically made and created for comfort.

Handmade & Heartfelt

HANDMADE & HEARTFELT



Handmade & Heartfelt

Handmade gifts are always special. The time taken to craft something is so precious and comes through in the essence of the gift. They don't have to be elaborate works of art to elicit joy, as small gestures go a long way.

If you are a dab hand at sewing, why not try a lavender bag? Always useful and adding freshness that brings a smile, or to keep under the pillow for a peaceful slumber. They are relatively easy to make with a sewing machine and some offcuts of fabric - making these gifts more sustainable too! Create cosy, comforting designs for someone special and they'll be the perfect stocking filler.



Can you get artsy and make something handmade?

Do you have any spare fabric to transform into something special?





If you have an eye for detail, why not create your own Christmas stationary? Cards for each member of your family is something they can treasure and keep safe for years to come. Or you could check out a YouTube video on calligraphy and create some decorative and personalised place cards for the main event meal!

If you'd like to get the kids involved in some Christmas crafting, why not make your own wrapping? Some yuletide shaped stamps and a little ink works wonders on recycled brown paper! It's wonderfully nostalgic, plus the kids will enjoy making the gift wrap - as much as they delight in tearing it open on the big day.



Could you follow some free online tutorials to create handmade cards?

Is there a way you could get the kids involved too?

Some suggestions

If you'd rather leave the DIY to someone else, you can still keep the warm glow of handmade gifts by buying from suppliers that craft with love. Each of the pieces we stock has a story, one that will delight your loved ones.



Like Ek'nama - who create unique handmade designs from the waste of cotton fabric. Transforming unwanted offcuts into a stunning, lifetime companion. The Blue Strap Bag is a beautifully unique addition to any wardrobe.

Or maybe a Bonpinda scarf would complement their self-expression instead? Created from a combination of wool and silk, these scarves are made with heaps of love, creativity and passion.



Niches & Quirks

NICHES & QUIRKS



Niches & Quirks

It's the little details that make up who we are. The first thing we do in the morning, the way we like our coffee and the music we couldn't live without. Only through spending quality, personal time with another do we come to know the little details that make them who they are. The things that inspire, delight and comfort them. The passions they cultivate and the things that make them inimitable.

Identifying their niches and quirks is a surefire path to a wonderful gift. Appreciating their individuality and ability to embrace who they are. The things that help them live boldly and brightly in full colour!

What makes their eyes light up? What do they perhaps not find the time to do, that they love?



What makes their eyes light up?

What's their favourite hobby?





Is there a way you could take over some of their daily responsibilities, so they can pursue this passion? One idea could even be to offer to join them in their favourite hobby!

If they love to learn, could you nurture their love for discovery by taking them on a surprise trip to somewhere new and local, and reveal fun facts you've researched about the area? Could you pull together a list of online courses or documentaries you know they'd love? Or if they're a fan of the arts, could you bring colour into their lives with something hand-drawn or painted?

Perhaps you have a little Picasso you can do some finger painting with! Or are words your paint of choice? A poem doesn't have to be complicated or classical - just a simple expression of all the ways you admire, respect and love that person. No matter how it's formed, they will be moved!



Could you join them in their favourite hobby?

Have you thought about creating something personal for them?

Some suggestions

Self-expression is one of life's great joys. We've got bright and beautiful gifts for loud declarations of love! It could be a proud slogan from Exhale - inspiring us all to embrace our bodies whatever their shape, size or appearance.



A signature peacock shirt for the party season, from pure cotton crafted by independent tailors. Or perhaps a set of beautiful earrings from self-taught abstract artist Emma Thomas.

Each one tells a unique story, one of care and attention to the human spirit and to the planet around us. A gift we all love.



The Way to Love

THE WAY TO LOVE



The Way to Love...

...they say, is through the stomach! So much of our heritage, tradition and meaning is found in food. It's the original, universal gift that is shared daily around the globe - so why should Christmas be any different?

A simple crowd-pleaser is flavoured spirits. Gin or vodka with a mixture of berries, flavourings and sugar can make for some very special tipples! If you start steeping them in some Tupperware or a glass Kilner jar now, they should be perfect come Christmas eve.

Biscuits can last very well in a glass jar too. Why not create some beautiful creations and write personalised labels for the lucky recipients? A ribbon is a fantastic final touch, adding flair and sophistication.



What makes their eyes light up?

What's their favourite hobby?





Some suggestions



Get set for making memories with a Jute Square. Artfully handwoven, take a Jute Square along for your loved one, providing them with the perfect perch for a romantic picnic or a family day at the beach. Full of character and charm, they set the stage for the together time we all know is the best gift going.



Rekha Goyal's handmade ceramic cups are a stunning addition to any home living space. Why not package up your very own hot chocolate kit along with a ceramic cup - gifting them something delicious with a personal touch too! Or why not purchase a pair and invite them to a coffee and cake morning, using your new cups?

Giving Back

GIVING BACK



Give Back

The true spirit of giving is about extending our love. Not just to our close friends and family, but to the world and to those more in need.

Does your loved one have a cause they feel strongly about? A wish to help others or to do some good? Why not donate to a charity close to their heart, or adopt a beloved endangered animal in their name?

Alternatively, can you invite them to join in with a cause that you feel strongly about instead. Could you both volunteer your time, helping to deliver food supplies to the vulnerable and elderly? Could you spend some time together, cleaning up litter in your local area? Can you both sign up to a fundraising challenge as a duo?



Does your loved one feel strongly about a certain cause?

Or is there a cause you could invite them to join?





Some suggestions



Sometimes the best way to give back is to top ourselves up first. If we are full, we can be of much more help to others. Journaling has been shown to have positive effects on wellbeing and lowering levels of stress. Gifting a beautiful handcrafted and sustainable notepad can be the beginnings of a gratitude journal. One they will use to cultivate warmth, light and joy - which they can share with the world.



If you're not sure what charities your loved one supports, then why not consider donating to Ready Set on their behalf? Ready Set strengthens communities by empowering job seekers with clothing and coaching, so they can build their confidence, realise their dreams and change their lives.

Whatever you give this Christmas, we hope it is magical for you in every way. That you are able to connect with ones you love, in whatever way that may look or sound.

That you find joy, peace and, most of all, meaning.





Merry Christmas
from our family to
yours

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