



# LET’S TALK MONEY

## A CHRISTMAS BUDGET GUIDE



### START WITH YOUR USUAL EXPENSES

Before planning your holiday spending, make sure you're covering your regular living costs like rent, utilities, and groceries. These costs are your priority, so make sure you consider them into your budget first.

### REMEMBER!

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS BY FOCUSING ON MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES, NOT MATERIAL THINGS

### PLAN FOR GIFT AND HOLIDAY SPENDING

- **Set a Budget for Gifts:** Be realistic about how much you can spend on each person. Stick to what you can afford, and if necessary, get creative with affordable DIY gifts or experiences instead of store-bought ones.
- **Holiday Activities:** Budget for any Christmas events or activities you'd like to attend, such as dinners, nights out, or local celebrations. Look for low-cost options like community events, dinners with friends, or movie marathons at home.
- **Food and Meals:** Christmas meals can be costly, but you can save by cooking together with friends or flatmates. Plan your meals in advance to avoid overspending on last-minute items.

### TALK TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Set expectations for gifts: Maybe agree to a spending limit or exchange homemade gifts to keep things affordable.
- Avoid the pressure to spend more than you can afford: If someone insists on extravagant plans or gifts, it’s okay to politely set boundaries that make sense for your financial situation.

### AVOID DEBT AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

It's easy to overspend and let your holiday excitement carry you away, but starting the new year in debt can be stressful. Keep your budget realistic and stay within the limits you’ve set. If you’re tempted to go beyond your budget, remember that the holidays are about spending time together, not about buying things you can’t afford.

### TIPS:

- Be realistic
- Track your spending
- Have fun without breaking the bank

GIFT IDEAS	TYPICAL AVERAGES
Gift Sets	£10-£50
Perfume	£20-£80
Gift Cards	£10-£50
Books	£5-£15
Mugs	£5-£15
Clothes	£15+
Electronics	£30+
Clothes	£25+

