

familiesfirst



e-NEWS

DECEMBER



Welcome to the December e-newsletter from the *Families First* team.

Let us know what interests you so we can devise a newsletter that matches your interests.

*Families First magazine is a lifestyle magazine which encourages strong marriages, good parenting & active faith. It is for people who care about family life; people who want the best for their own family, families in their immediate community and families worldwide.*



## *Families First* on BBC radio

*Families First* editor Catherine Butcher is to be interviewed for BBC local radio on Sunday 6 December in a programme about family life. The interview, prompted by Catherine's posts on the social networking site [MumsNet](#), is to respond to Dr Katherine Rake's recent assertion that marriage is irrelevant. Dr Rake is the Chief Executive of the Family and Parenting Institute described in the tabloids as 'the feminist who derides the nuclear family'. Don't worry if you miss it; the interview can be heard by clicking on the link below and starts about 1hr 12mins in: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p005cjbj/Gavin\\_Ashenden\\_06\\_v12\\_2009/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p005cjbj/Gavin_Ashenden_06_v12_2009/)



## Phonebook Origami

Can you remember when you last used a printed phonebook for looking up a person or business? Has the most recent phonebook been taken out of the plastic?

Brits spend on average around £60 a year on Christmas decorations. [192.com](#) and the 'Say No To Phonebooks' campaign have teamed up with origami expert, Mark Bolitho, to provide three easy to follow guides that make use of those unwanted phonebooks by creating origami Christmas Tree, Star and Angel decorations.

To download the instructions, watch the videos and for more information on the campaign visit: [www.saynotophonebooks.org](http://www.saynotophonebooks.org)



Follow us!

*Families First* team, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB



[www.familiesfirstmagazine.com](http://www.familiesfirstmagazine.com)

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Merry  
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## Mothers' Union Baghdad

*Sad news from Baghdad...*

The Mothers' Union have lost their kitchen and clinic, from which they fed and cared for destitute families and children, in a bombing raid. There is only rubble left. They are naturally very disheartened and upset. Luckily no one died in the raid. Any donations will be sent on to them to help them keep going and hopefully eventually rebuild.

Please contact the Action and Outreach team at Mary Sumner House if you would like to make a contribution to help:

[worldwide@themothersunion.org](mailto:worldwide@themothersunion.org)



## Christmas Shopping Online

Why not purchase your Christmas shopping online and raise money for Mothers' Union at the same time.

A large number of major retailers including Mothercare, M&S, Thorntons, Waterstones and HMV will donate between 5% and 12% to Mothers' Union when you make a purchase online. Start shopping at:

[www.buy.at/mothersunion](http://www.buy.at/mothersunion)



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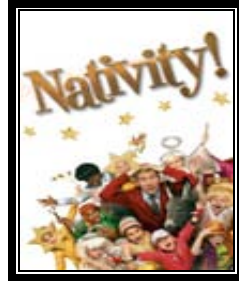
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## Nativity!



*Nativity!* centres round two schools (one state, one private) battling to win a five-star review for best school nativity play. And, apart from a certain baby delivered at the end of proceedings, Ben steals the show.

Filmed in Coventry and LA, *Nativity!* stars Martin Freeman (The Office, Hot Fuzz, Confetti), Marc Wootton (FAQ About Time Travel), Ashley Jensen (Ugly Betty, Extras) and Pam Ferris, Ricky Tomlinson and John Sessions.

Damaris, in association with E1 Entertainment, are providing a host of resources to help you to make the most of this film and these will all be available free of charge at: [www.damaris.org/nativity](http://www.damaris.org/nativity)

*Nativity!* is out in UK cinemas now.



**MagicFreebiesUK.co.uk**



MagicFreebiesUK.co.uk is the UK's leading freebies and money saving ideas website. Founded by entrepreneur Tom Bryant whilst he was still at Durham University, the site has over 175,000 members who receive a daily update of all the latest offers and freebies available both online and on the high street.

The site now receives between 16,000 and 19,000 unique visitors a day and has helped users save millions of pounds since it launched.

Take a look at the many offers available and save some pennies or even pounds at: [www.magicfreebiesuk.co.uk](http://www.magicfreebiesuk.co.uk)



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## Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland

This popular winter event has returned to the heart

Of the Capital with no admission fee for six whole weeks of festive fun!

The event features the *Largest Outdoor Ice Rink in Central London* and the iconic *95.8 Capital FM's Giant Wheel* with 40 heated pods offering truly spectacular views across the city.

Visitors can enjoy *Zippo's Christmas Circus* in its very own heated big-top with a 45 minute show especially created for Winter Wonderland, at 7pm the big-top magically transforms into a 'Palace of Illusions'.

Fantastic food and drink contributes to making Winter Wonderland such a success. Bratwurst sausages & continental beer, steaks & Gluwein are amongst the offerings in the Bavarian Village, the House of St Nicholas and the two-storey Café Grell. Amongst the other heated cafes and bars are culinary delights closer to home by way of hog-roasts, pies, hot cider & real ale.

Winter Wonderland offers good value entertainment for all the family.

Advance tickets are available for ice skating along with the Wheel & Circus. Other attractions operate on a pay-as-you-ride basis, with prices starting at just £2 for under 12s and £3 for those aged 12 & over.

Winter Wonderland is free to enter and open from 10am to 10pm every day from Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009 to Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2009 (closed Christmas Day).

Special rates for schools and groups of 20+ are available.

See: [www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com](http://www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com) to find out more.



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