



The 12 Apps of Christmas

1. Christmas Gift List

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.xmaslist>

This Google App is the perfect tool to help you get organised this Christmas. Set a budget for each person and gift and mark them off as you purchase them. The list is password protected to keep it safe from prying eyes. Send your list to others via email or Twitter if you are purchasing as a group. Can't remember what you bought last year? No problem, the app automatically archives your gifts once the new year rolls around.

2. Lynda.com

<https://www.lynda.com/>

Lynda.com is installed on all University computers. It is an online learning platform that helps you learn business, software, technology and creative skills. There are hundreds of videos about a wide range of topics including marketing, presenting, creating infographics, photography, web design ... the list goes on. Pitched at various levels the videos will help you achieve personal and professional goals.



3. HeadSpace

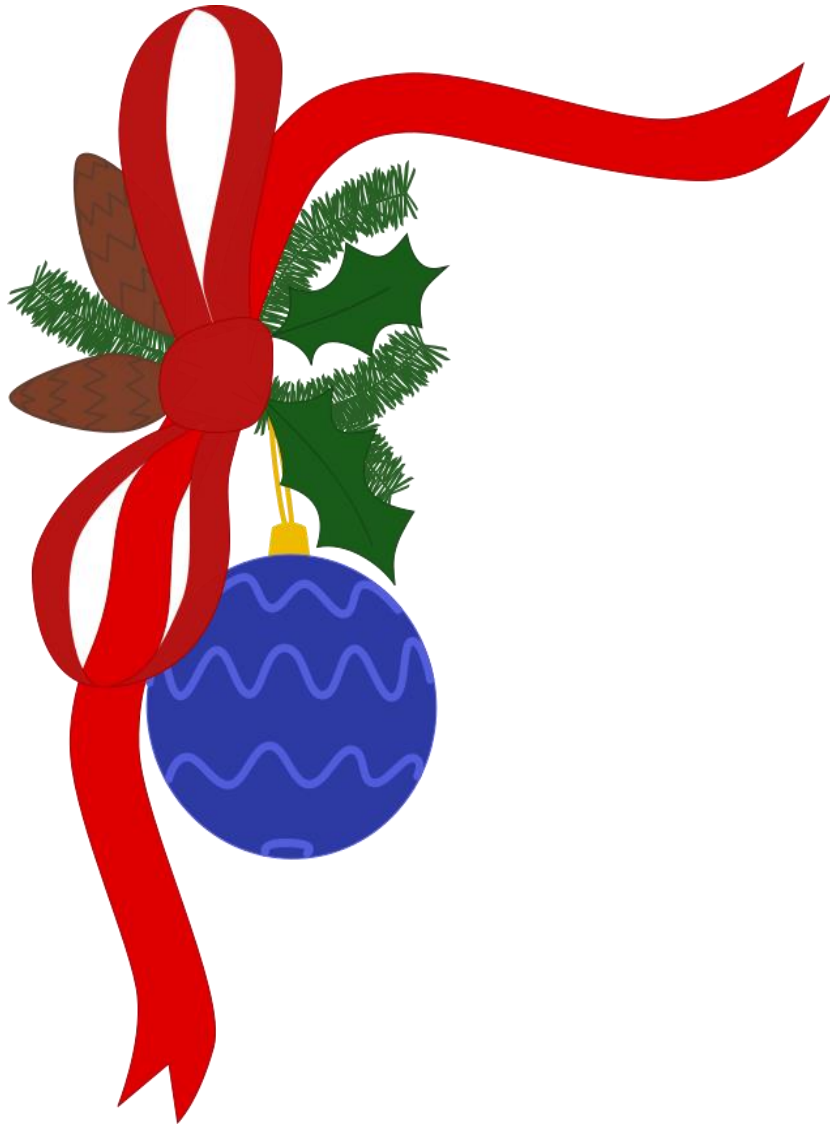
<https://www.headspace.com/headspace-meditation-app>

This app for iOS or Android uses animations to teach you the basics of mindfulness and meditation. A basic package of 10 days' worth of guided meditations and a selection of 'minis', including a calming breathing exercise, is free to download. The tone of the delivery is perfectly pitched. There is a monthly subscription for the rest of the content which includes more specific content such as productivity and pain management.

4. BoB

<https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/>

You've met Lynda, now meet BoB! That's Box of Broadcasts. The platform works across desktop, iOS and Android devices and allows off-air recording of programmes from mostly free-to-view TV channels and a selection of radio channels. Save your recordings in playlists for later playback. Intended for educational use this is a great way to record documentaries that might be useful for your studies.



5. MindFi

<http://www.mindfi.co/>

Mindfi takes a different approach to HeadSpace in that the short mindfulness exercises (10 minutes maximum) can be fitted in throughout the working day. The app encourages you to meditate 'with your eyes open'. With that in mind much of the content is not as in-depth as other mindfulness apps but is perfect for dipping in and out of during the day.

6. Circle of Six

<https://www.circleof6app.com/>

It's easy to lose contact with your friends on a night out but several apps have been developed promoting personal safety, for use on or off-campus. One of our favourites is The Circle of Six app. It works on both Android and iOS. It's designed for locating lost friends on nights out, calling your circle of friends at the touch of a button. A GPS tracker also marks your location, so you know where each of your friends are. Really useful on a crawl around town!



7. TED

<https://www.ted.com/talks>

Don't stop learning just because you are on vacation! Keep your brain cells ticking over by viewing some of the TED Talks on a broad range of topics, from science to business to global issues. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, sometimes controversial - let this educational app open your mind to new and interesting ideas.

8. WiseDrinking

<https://www.wise-drinking.com/app/>

Tis' the season to be jolly! But let's be responsible too. WiseDrinking charts how much you've been drinking and suggests how much is safe. There is also an alert to remind you when to call a cab and it also maps your location in relation to public transport services.



9. Mendeley

<https://www.mendeley.com/>

If you have been struggling with referencing, then this piece of software is going to remove much of the anxiety. It collects, manages and inserts the citation into a Word document in the selected referencing style. A real time saver and serious consideration for any student collecting large numbers of references.

10. SelfControl

<https://selfcontrolapp.com/>

Do certain websites distract you from productive study or work? If so this free app for iOS is perfect for you. It that lets you block your own access to distracting websites, social media and email. Select a period of time to block content, and that time suddenly becomes your study time free from interruptions!



11. Office Lens

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/microsoft-office-lens-pdf-scan/id975925059?mt=8>

Office Lens is basically a scanner on your phone but with the added feature of turning your images editable as either Word or PowerPoint files. You can also save to PDF. Scanned print and handwritten text will be automatically recognized (using OCR), so you can search for words in images and then copy and edit them. The app corrects for glare and shadows and within the document mode, trims and colours images perfectly.

12. NORAD Santa Tracker

<http://www.noradsanta.org/>

No! You are not too old for this! The North American Aerospace Defence Command have their satellites trained on Santa as he zooms across the planet. We hope he makes it to you.

From all of us at Loughborough University Library

Merry Christmas

