

- 1 **Christmas is supposed to be a time for \_\_\_\_\_, but for loads of people all the shopping, cooking and \_\_\_\_\_ presents makes it really stressful.**

But the Bishop of Reading says he's come up with a way of cutting down the workload.

- 5 The Right Reverend Dr Stephen Cottrell says we should stop sending Christmas cards to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone we know, because it's a waste of time.

He says we should save time by only sending cards to people we really \_\_\_\_\_.

Dr Cottrell told a newspaper that all the rushing around is taking away the true \_\_\_\_\_ of Christmas.

He's telling people to use the time they would have done writing loads of cards, to put their feet up and \_\_\_\_\_!

Dr Cottrell also urged people to send more cards by \_\_\_\_\_, and give the money they save on buying cards to \_\_\_\_\_.

10 **Cards at school**

For some children, \_\_\_\_\_ and receiving Christmas cards is a big deal. Lots of schools have special post boxes at this time of year to handle the hundreds of cards that get sent from pupil to pupil.

In the past, some schools have \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas cards because they think it's too upsetting for the kids who don't get very many.

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Dr Cottrell's advice came as the Church of England launched a campaign to get people to slow down in the run-up to \_\_\_\_\_.



**Discuss the following questions with your group. Write your answers in full sentences in your Reflective Reading Journal.** (Except for Big Talk questions!)

1. What type of text is this? What is its purpose and where do you think this piece have text could have come from? Explain your answers.
2. Summarise Dr Cottrell's main ideas for saving time at Christmas.
3. Do you think these are good ideas? Why? Why not?
4. What do you think he means by the 'true meaning of Christmas'?
5. **'Christmas cards are a waste of time, money and trees; they should be banned.'**  
Write an argument, explaining your own personal viewpoint, in response to this statement.



- 1 **Christmas is supposed to be a time for RELAXING, but for loads of people all the shopping, cooking and BUYING presents makes it really stressful.**

But the Bishop of Reading says he's come up with a way of cutting down the workload.

- 5 The Right Reverend Dr Stephen Cottrell says we should stop sending Christmas cards to ALMOST everyone we know, because it's a waste of time.

He says we should save time by only sending cards to people we really LOVE.

Dr Cottrell told a newspaper that all the rushing around is taking away the true MEANING of Christmas.

He's telling people to use the time they would have done writing loads of cards, to put their feet up and RELAX!

Dr Cottrell also urged people to send more cards by EMAIL, and give the money they save on buying cards to CHARITY.

- 10 **Cards at school**

For some children, GIVING and receiving Christmas cards is a big deal. Lots of schools have special post boxes at this time of year to handle the hundreds of cards that get sent from pupil to pupil.

In the past, some schools have BANNED Christmas cards because they think it's too upsetting for the kids who don't get very many.

- 15

Dr Cottrell's advice came as the Church of England launched a campaign to get people to slow down in the run-up to CHRISTMAS.

