

# The Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church's Scarecrow Festival



## How Do You Make a Scarecrow?!

There are lots of pages on the Internet about how to make a scarecrow. So many, in fact, it can be bewildering! So here are some basic instructions to help get you started.

### First decide whether your scarecrow will be standing or sitting:

- If it's **standing** then you will need to follow **Step 1** below.
- If it's **sitting**, then no framework is needed; start at **Step 2**.

## Step 1 – Make a Scarecrow Cross

Scarecrows start with a basic cross in the same proportions as the familiar Christian cross. Any sturdy water-resistant material will do: 2x4s, old fence posts, bamboo, PVC pipe, etc.

Cut a tall piece to the size you want the completed scarecrow to be (usually 5 to 6 feet), but add a couple of feet more if the scarecrow is to be inserted into the ground.

Cut a second piece in proportion to form the horizontal part of the cross..

Put the two pieces together on the ground to form a cross, and connect with duct tape or string: criss-crossing back and forth between the cross joints until the connection is firm. (Or screw them together if you're using wood.)

You can also add another horizontal part lower down to attach the scarecrow's pants to.

## Step 2 – Make the Scarecrow's Head

For a simple head you have lots of possibilities:

- An old pair of tights or a white polythene bag stuffed with any old material or paper;
- An old pillowcase or canvas bag stuffed with rags etc;
- An old football, cut open so it can be pushed on top of the cross and wrapped in fabric;
- Even a balloon might do (although it might go down or burst!).

For a more artistic result, blow up a balloon to the size you want. Then apply layers of short, narrow paper strips stuck on with watered down PVA glue. Build up the layers until they're thick enough and in the shape you want. When it's dry you can paint it, and finish by applying more of the watered down PVA glue to help it resist water/rain.

## Step 3 – Gather Your Scarecrow's Outfit

Old clothing from around the house, second-hand stores or charity shops makes great outfits for scarecrows. You'll need a large long-sleeved shirt, a jacket or coat, gloves and long pants.

A hat large enough to fit its stuffed head is a fun option.

## **Step 4 – Dress Your Scarecrow**

Put the shirt, jacket etc over the “arms” of the cross.

Add a glove to the end of each arm using safety pins. (If the shirt sleeves aren’t long enough to reach the ends of the arms that’s OK. Just attach the gloves to the ends of the shirt and let them flap down a little.)

At this point you can choose whether to stuff the inside of the shirt/jacket to add bulk – straw, paper, old rags or dried leaves are useful. Tie the bottom of the shirt to the scarecrow’s main pole to keep the stuffing inside.

Attach the top of the pants to the front bottom edge of the shirt with jumbo safety pins. Or if you added a second horizontal bar, attach the top of the pants to that for extra sturdiness. Stuff the legs of the pants, then place their ends into old shoes or boots.

Fix the head to the top of the cross or body.

For the face you could buy a suitable mask from a toy shop. But it’s more fun to make your own! For example:

- If you’re using a papier maché head, paint it to give it the skin colour you want.
- Use paint or a marker pen to add eyes, nose and grin. Alternatively you can make them from scrap fabric or old buttons and glue them on.

Attach the hat, if you’re using one, to the head and secure it with safety pins if it’s loose (unless you’re using a balloon, of course!).

## **Step 5 – Display Your Scarecrow**

If your scarecrow is to stand you could:

- Dig a hole in the ground to hold up its post, or
- Fix it to a fencepost or railings, or
- Put the bottom of its post into a large plant pot or similar and fill it with rocks, sand or soil to weigh it down.

Make sure you can move your scarecrow to bring it inside each evening! The Police have advised bringing them in each evening to avoid them being vandalised.

## **Step 6 – Add Accessories!**

Make your scarecrow even more noticeable by adding accessories – eg, balloons tied to string; silver reflector tape; a small windsock or windmill; old scarves etc.

## **Step 7 – Admire!**

Step back and admire your masterpiece!

Remember to register it on our website before the deadline – [www.hwmc.org.uk/scarecrows](http://www.hwmc.org.uk/scarecrows)