

I fervently believe that Christmas is a thoroughly good thing and an occasion for real celebration. However there will always be a practical side to the festivities, in that someone will have to prepare the feast before it can be enjoyed. I wrote my first Christmas book all of nineteen years ago, and the response and appreciation shown by countless Christmas cooks since then has been phenomenal. So why do it again? First, there is a whole new generation of those who have to cook Christmas for the first time. Secondly, the devoted followers of the original will, I'm sure, appreciate a brand new collection of recipes alongside the old ones.



So here it is – Delia's Happy Christmas – a practical and helpful collection of ideas, recipes and suggestions and the crucial last 36 hours step-by-step guide that will keep things on track. We have included all the traditional recipes that have served people well over the years, and if I have an agenda myself this time round, it would be to encourage younger people, who have never been shown that home-made traditional Christmas recipes – the puddings, the cakes, the mincemeat, and not least cooking the turkey itself – are not difficult if they are explained simply. So don't be afraid. A little help is all you need and, hopefully, it's all collected in the new book. I really want to show you that a home-made Christmas is always going to (i) cost less and (ii) be, oh, so much better. And even if you find yourself with little time available, the Last Minute Christmas chapter will show you that a few minor miracles can be achieved with a little imagination.

My last wish is, most of all, that you will have a very happy time preparing and cooking for Christmas, an even happier time enjoying the feast, and that you will fill up your glasses and have a very Happy Christmas.

*Love Delia*