

Gifting Guide

Enhance your online gifting
& fulfilment experience



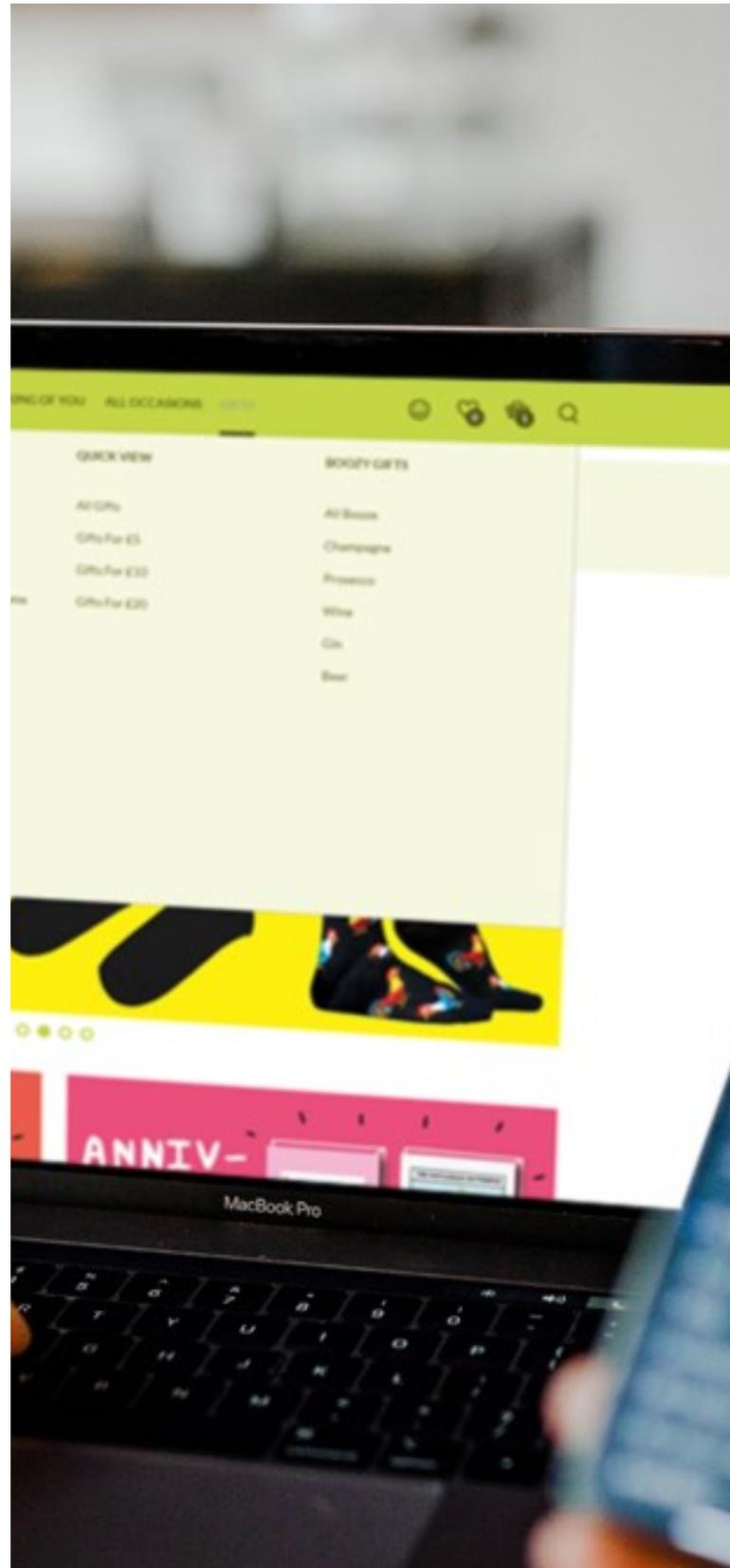
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People give gifts all year round with several events providing significant spikes in the trading calendar. You'll often see countless promotions and adverts highlighting various religious holidays and celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Halloween etc... In fact merchants are keener than ever to latch on to any popular event and have even gone as far as creating their own, such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Aside from those national occasions, people will also have their own personal celebrations for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, births, graduations etc... The list is almost endless.

Bearing in mind the average British household spent £604 on just Christmas gifts last year, it's easy to see why retailers are desperate to win a slice of all these lucrative markets. In fact, 65% of people buy at least some of their Christmas gifts online, so whilst merchants are quick to embrace these events with promotions and advertising, are they providing the types of gifting functionality online that their customers would want and expect, and are they replicating what's available in their stores or joining those experiences with their store estate? In this guide we will look at some example of the types of services you should be offering.



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Gift Wrapping

Seems obvious but it's essential and not everybody offers it. You should offer the same experience that you would in-store (if applicable) which means multiple gift wrapping and packaging types —bags, boxes, hampers, wrapping paper, bows, different patterns or styles etc... These should be available on every single line item of an order, as well as groups of products within an order, or the entire order as a whole, meaning buyers can order a gift or gifts as part of a larger order. If you are predominantly a gift retailer then perhaps offering these services for free can further incentivise customer and add value to your products. If not, it's a nice and easy way of increasing your average order value.



Gift Receipts

Another obvious one but online retailers need to allow customers to specify that their order/part of their order is a gift, and therefore any paperwork/receipt that is sent to the recipient, should not contain any pricing. However, It still needs to allow them to make a hassle-free return or exchange when returning these items to the local store (if applicable) or via a collection service.

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Gift Messages/Personalisation

Gifting is personal so you must enable your customers to send personal messages. Messages must be able to be applied on an item, group or basket level and should also include the option of 'Do not open until...' with a selectable date which can be displayed on the outside of the gift or message card. If relevant to the products you sell, you should also include other personalisation options such as embroidery, labelling, monogramming, or engraving. These extra details always help elevate the uniqueness of the gift and your proposition. Users who spend time personalising items are also much more likely to convert as they've already made an investment into purchasing that gift.



Send Anonymously

Ok, so this is obviously aimed at Valentine's Day in particular and those mysterious deliveries, but it's also useful for customers wishing to send surprise gifts to friends or family by ensuring that the sender's information is always removed. Definitely worth offering, particularly if Valentine's Day is one of your biggest trading periods.

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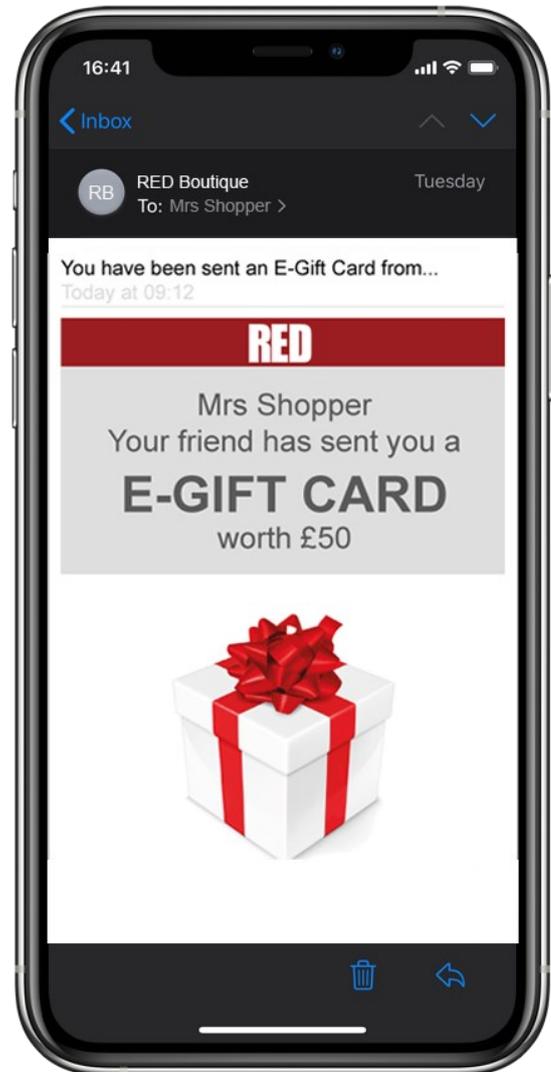
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Gift/E-Gift Vouchers & Cards

The Popularity of gift cards and vouchers continues to grow. In fact, the UK Gift Card and Association estimates people will spend over £5bn on these services this year.

With that in mind you would think all retailers should offer them in some guise or other, whether that is generic multi-store gift cards or preferably ones that tie a consumer to your brand. Ideally they should be purchasable and redeemable across any, and all, channels including both online and in-store. These should also include both physical and e-gift cards, as 77% of consumers prefer the choice, with the ability for customers to check balances, top-up the account etc... both online via their account, as well as in-store — potentially via a mobile device. These vouchers/ cards should also include personalisation capabilities so they can be sent as gifts.



The tradeit ecommerce platform has been fully integrated with Givex to provide both omni-channel retailers and dedicated online merchants with sophisticated gift card functionality over and above what is available in tradeit. This enables retailers to offer their customers the ability to buy gift cards or e-gift cards online, specify the value and redeem them both in-store and online. Users can select or customise the value of any gift cards they send, as well as tailoring any unique messaging that is sent with the gift card. tradeit also allows online payments to be split between a gift card and a credit/debit card transaction.

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Gift Reminder Service

Keep your customers coming back to you, year on year, by offering a gift reminder service enabling them to receive an email from you (at a set time before the event they want reminding about — i.e. 1 week before) to remind them of an upcoming event. This can all be stored and administered in their account and even include who they sent gifts to last year, what they sent and suggestions of what to send this year.

The screenshot shows the Scribblor website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'scribblor' logo and categories: FATHER'S DAY, BIRTHDAY, THINKING OF YOU, ALL OCCASIONS, GIFTS. There are also icons for a smiley face, a heart with '0', a shopping cart with '0', and a search icon. Below the navigation, there's a breadcrumb trail: Home / My Account / Event Reminder. The main content area is partially obscured by a modal form titled 'Add Event Reminder'. The modal has a close button (X) in the top right corner. It contains the following fields:

- Event date ***: A calendar widget showing May 2020. The date 29 is selected.
- Event name ***: A text input field.
- What's the occasion? ***: A dropdown menu with 'What's the occasion?' selected.
- Who's it for? ***: A dropdown menu with 'Who's it for?' selected.
- Name 1 ***: A text input field.
- Name 2**: A text input field.
- Email me a reminder**: A checkbox that is currently unchecked.

At the bottom of the modal is a green button labeled 'ADD EVENT REMINDER'. In the background, the website shows a sidebar with account options: MY ACCOUNT, VIEW YOUR ORDER HISTORY, YOUR SHORTLIST, UPDATE YOUR DETAILS, UPDATE YOUR PASSWORD, EVENT REMINDER (highlighted), ADDRESS BOOK, PRE-PAY, CLOSE ACCOUNT. There's also a 'LOGOUT' button and a 'SIGN ME UP!' button at the bottom right.

Gift Subscriptions

Subscriptions are always a popular gift and great for ongoing revenues. If you offer products that are required regularly then a subscription service, which can be sent as a gift, is a great idea. Items such as food & drink (particularly of the luxury variety), magazines, and health & beauty products all make ideal subscription gifts.

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Gift Fulfilment/Delivery

The fulfilment and delivery services that you offer could be the key to gaining more gift business. You wouldn't queue up multiple times in the same store to buy gifts for different people, so why expect your customers to do it online? Allow single orders to be split on a line, group or basket level, and be delivered to multiple recipients. Then offer multiple fulfilment methods for each element of that order, including specified delivery days or maybe Sunday delivery. If you have physical stores, it's essential that you provide Click & Collect/Reserve services and perhaps Rapid Fulfilment where orders are taken from store stock and delivered, often within 90 minutes of being placed, to the local area. Having multiple fulfilment options is essential in giving your customer as much flexibility as possible and gaining an advantage over your competitors. You might want to also consider giving in-store purchasers the option of having their gifts delivered from there too.



Promotion

Ensure you promote your gifting capabilities across your website, store estate, social media and via other marketing activities. It's not just the actual gifts or gift experiences that are worth shouting about, but the complimentary services that you provide alongside them too. Making your users aware of the services you offer could be the key to gaining their business. Somebody looking for a last minute gift might be swayed by your 90-minute fulfilment from store service, or may like the fact that they can order lots of gifts, for different people, from you in one go, so it's vital that you promote these capabilities wherever possible.

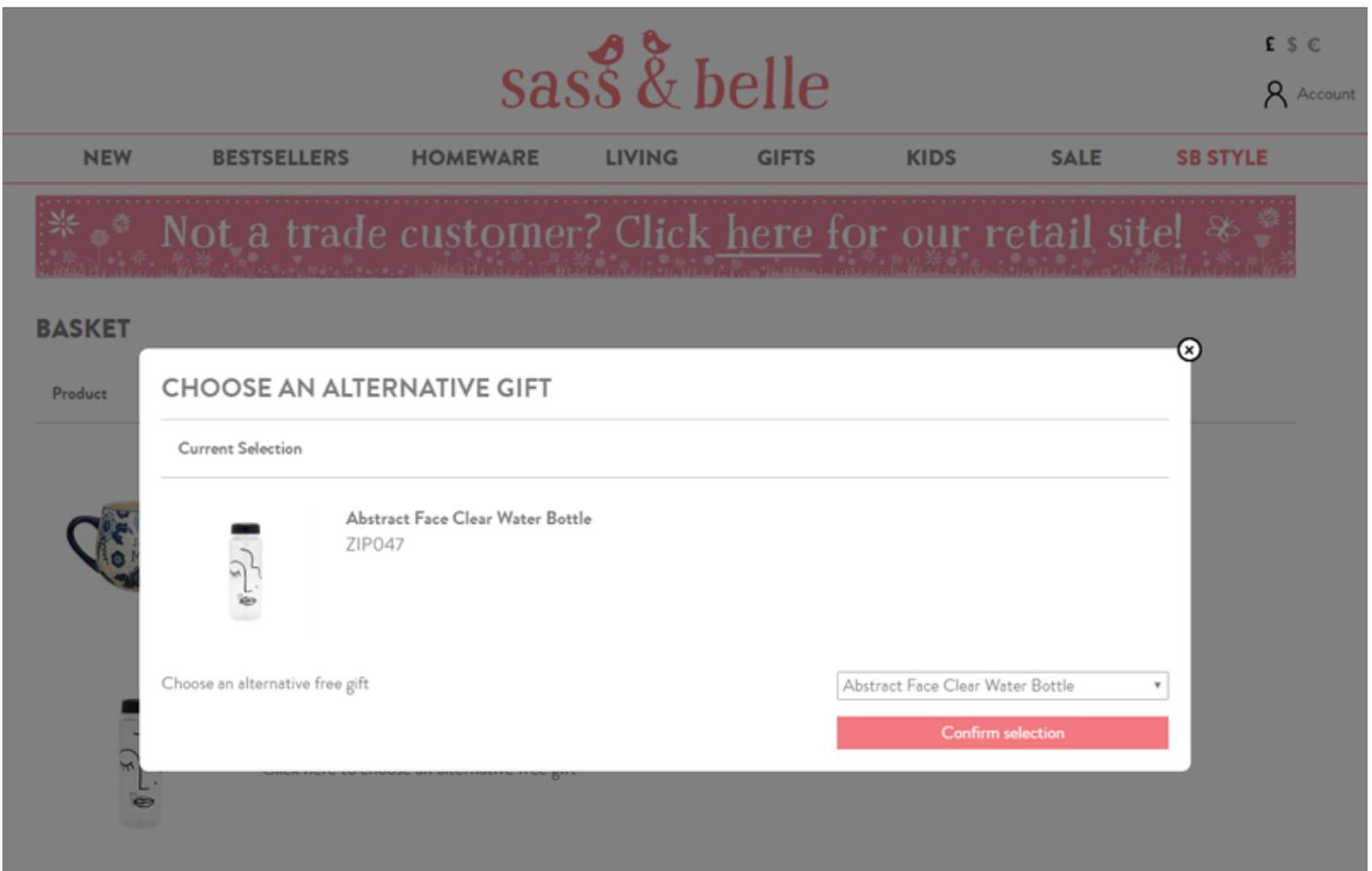
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Selectable Free Gifts

Free gift promotions are normally warmly received so ensuring your platform can offer simple free gift promotions is one thing but giving customers the choice of free gifts by selecting from those you have available is an added bonus.



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Gift Lists

Commonly used for weddings and the like, these are essentially an extension of a Wish List but with distribution functionality and a shared login. I'm sure you all know how it works - users should be able to set up a list of items they would like from your store in the same way they create a normal Wish List. Where it differs is the capability to then distribute that list (which should be available via online login and at any store if applicable) which people can then make purchases against — unbeknownst to the person(s) who created it. When the requested purchases are made, the items should be instantly removed from the Gift List with that information updated across all channels.



• Dedicated gift categories/menus

Make your gift items and categories stand out by including them in your navigation. Perhaps have a main category of GIFTS and add and remove different sub categories depending on the time of year and approaching different holidays or events. Also ensure that your on-site search brings back all necessary and relevant results for gifts and your gift services.



Gift packs

Not exactly cutting-edge, but selling pre-packed/pre-wrapped items that are sold as such, and ready to be sent as gifts is a simple and easy way to entice consumers. People have more and more things to occupy their time, so providing a ready made, ready packaged gift for them to send, saves them time.

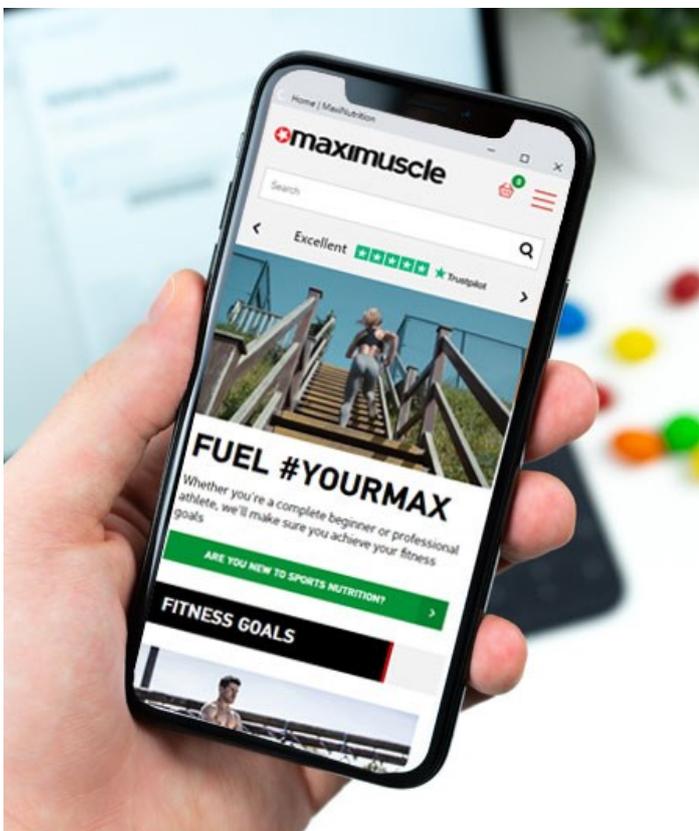


Corporate gifts

If it suits your product range, an easy way to sell in volume is to offer corporate gifting with volume-based discounts and bespoke/branded packaging. Ideal for your customers to offer as staff incentives or for promotional launches. Gift cards are also ideal for company incentive programmes too.

Why Red Technology?

We deliver world-class ecommerce solutions by combining the power of our award-winning ecommerce platform **tradeit** and our range of complementary ecommerce services. We forge long-term partnerships through consultation, design, development and support of your ecommerce eco-system, meaning you can focus on growth through products, marketing, merchandising and customer service.



Award-Winning Solutions

We have over 15 years' experience of delivering best-in-class ecommerce solutions for our customers that are recognised and rewarded across the industry.



Class-Leading Platform

The **tradeit** ecommerce platform offers ultimate scalability and flexibility, coupled with strong multichannel capabilities, rich functionality and a clear roadmap for platform innovation.



Expert Integrators

Seamlessly joining together your critical business systems for improved efficiency and ease of management. We're ecommerce integration experts.



Comprehensive Support

We pride ourselves on providing 24/7/365 responsive support services for both your ecommerce site and your hosting environment.

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