

What are 'Christingles'?



'Christingle' means **Christ Light**.

Christingle services take place in many churches at Christmas to celebrate the coming of Christ, the light, into the world. The symbolism is very old, although no-one knows exactly how far back it goes.

In recent years the service has been revived in many churches and is particularly popular for children's services as it provides such an effective visual symbol and way of involving children in the activity of lighting and holding the Christingles as a hymn is sung and the lights are dimmed.

How to make a Christingle:

- Make a hole in the top of a large orange. Do not make the hole too large. Wedge a piece of foil in the top to prevent wax and juice from dripping .
- Place a candle (white or red) in the hole (small votive candles are best)
- Thread fruit (dried raisins, glace cherries etc and small sweets (dolly mixtures etc) onto four cocktail sticks and fix in place on the orange around the candle
- Tie a piece of red ribbon round the 'equator' of the orange.

What the different parts represent:

The orange - the world

The candle - the light that Jesus brings to the world

The red ribbon - the blood of Jesus shed for us

The four cocktails sticks - the four seasons

The fruit and sweets - the fruits of the earth

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