



Advent Three - Christingle



Hello again from St Mary's church in Bottesford. Usually at this time of year there would be a Christingle service in the church. You know, the one with the oranges! I'm sure that some of you will have been to one of those services. If so, you will already know about Christingle and what it means.

Maybe some of you are new to Christingle. So, let's find out together what Christingle is and what it means for us today.

First, we need to make a Christingle. Here's a completed one so you can see what it should look like!



And here are all the things you need if you want to make a Christingle too.



An orange, some red ribbon or tape (enough to go around your orange), a small piece of tin foil, a candle, four cocktail sticks,

and some small sweets or dried fruit to go on the sticks. You will also need a sharp knife to make a hole for the candle to go in, some matches to light the candle, and maybe something to hold the orange for you while you build your Christingle. I used a small glass ramekin.

Let's start with the orange. In a Christingle, the orange is the world that God made for us to live in. The orange is about the same shape as the earth.

Next is the red ribbon or tape. This goes around the middle of the orange, in the same place as the equator is on the earth. The red ribbon is God's love. When you hug someone, you wrap your arms around them to show you love them. This ribbon shows us that God's loving arms go around the whole world.





The candle is next. Using the sharp knife, make a small hole in the top of the orange. You might need the help of an adult with this. Take the small piece of tin foil – this is to catch the drips of wax from your candle once it is lit. Put the tin foil over the hole then push your candle down through the tin foil into the hole.

The word 'Christingle' means 'Christ's light'. In the Bible we are told that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. This candle is Christ's light for you and for me!

To finish our Christingle, we take four cocktail sticks and put sweets on the ends. We push each stick into the orange near the top, making sure that each stick points out in a different direction – north, south, east and west. Christ's light and love is for everybody in the world!

The sweets are all the good things that God gives us. Our homes, our families, our school, our friends. I wonder what other 'good things' you can think of that God gives you...

We have now finished our Christingle. Shall we light it? Make sure you ask an adult to help you light the candle. If you have made more than one Christingle in your family, maybe you can light one, then pass the light from one to the next.

Now that we have Christ's light with us, something else the Bible tells us is that God wants us to share the light with other people. I wonder if you know how to do this...

Not everyone in our world has love in their lives, or special treats at Christmas. And sometimes it's hard for us to share things, isn't it? But when we do share our sweets, give a toy to the food bank, or invite someone new to play, we're passing on Christ's light to someone else.



Advent Activity This is our Christingle!

Advent Prayer Here is a prayer you can say when you light the third candle on your Advent wreath, which stands for love:

Lord Jesus, Lord of love and light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world. Amen.



Online Christingle Service There is a St Mary's Christingle service taking place on Zoom on Sunday 13th December 2020 at 5pm. You can make your Christingle as part of this service so please bring all the things you will need to make one! Alternatively, you can bring one you have already made.

To find out how to join this Zoom service, please contact the Church Office on stmbottesford@gmail.com or ring 01949 842859 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. We look forward to seeing you!