

Make this your brightest Christingle

Your guide to a fun and safe celebration



**Two ways to celebrate
– online or in person**
Read page 4 to find
out more.

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How collections like yours could change a life like Jada's.

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Not long to go! Choose your resources to make your Christingle unforgettable.

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See the magic of Christingle on a grand scale.

Spread hope with the light of Christingle

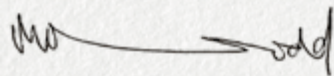
I'm delighted to welcome you to Christingle. One thing that the events of this year has made clear to me, as I'm sure you agree, is that community spirit is more important than ever. Your Christingle will be a celebration of that spirit, and a wonderful way to bring hope to all – especially vulnerable children and young people like Jada, whose story you can read opposite.

We'll do everything we can to make sure your Christingle is fun, memorable, and above all, safe. This guide is full of inspiration for your service, including tips to organise an online event, and details about our fantastic range of new resources that will make organising as easy as possible for you.

Remember, how you celebrate your Christingle is very much up to you, whether it's in person or online. As long as the candles are lit and the light shines bright, the message of Christ will continue to glow too.

Are you ready to share the light this year?

Thank you.



The Revd. Mike Todd

We must be there for vulnerable young people – especially now

Jada's childhood was overshadowed by physical and emotional abuse. When she was just 11 years old, her older sisters were taken into care. Jada continued to live with her mum, as her troubled homelife spiralled out of control.

Throughout her teenage years, Jada escaped by running away, and was in and out of the care of social services. Then, at the age of 16, Jada was locked out permanently by her mum. She was forced to admit herself into emergency foster care.

After years of abuse, Jada's self-esteem was low and her life was chaotic. That's when she met Kirsten, a support worker at The Children's Society Missing from Home service. Kirsten was able to give Jada the caring and stable support she so desperately needed.

Now, Jada can finally see a way forward. She's currently attending a traineeship, with an ambition to study Psychology at university. Your Christingle collection will help young people like Jada feel hopeful for their future. Because whatever a young person is going through, they shouldn't have to face it alone.



Photo of model. Credit: Chris O'Donovan

Christingle your way

After everything that's happened this year, Christingle is going to be different – but it's more important than ever. As churches, schools, and community groups, we're all having to find new ways to bring people together, even when we can't be together. So we've been in touch with some brilliant Christinglers and devised some ways to make sure this year's celebrations go ahead – whether they happen **online or in person**. Here's some advice and inspiration to help you decide:

Share the light in person

There may be some extra things to consider in your preparations, but there is no reason why it can't be an awe-inspiring celebration.

Make the most of our resources and you'll have everything you need to celebrate in person while social distancing, and make it the most memorable service yet.

The most important thing is that everyone feels safe, so think about how you could make sure you follow the government guidelines:

- Put up our safety poster at the entrance.
- Provide hand sanitiser.
- Put markers on the floor to help your guests maintain social distancing.
- Consider ways to reduce crowding, such as implementing a booking system and holding more than one service.
- Reduce the handling of cash by setting up an online giving page.
- Wear masks when indoors or in close contact.
- Prepare Christingles in advance to reduce the handling of sweets and dried fruits.



Share the light online

Whether you decide to Christingle in-person, online or both is up to you. We've created new resources to help you get started, such as our handy online guide, our at-home Christingle bag, and a video to share with your guests.

Get started at christingle.org/join

By signing up, you'll get a unique fundraising page for your Christingle, so you can securely take donations directly to The Children's Society – perfect for virtual Christingles, and a cashless option for in-person celebrations. Find out more on page 14.

Tell the world

Make sure your friends, family, and community know they're invited by sharing an invite to your Christingle on social media. If anyone is unsure how to use video calling technology, offer to talk them through it ahead of the service.

Here's one idea – an online scavenger hunt!

If children don't have the resources to make their own Christingle, why not ask them to hunt around their home during the service to find something that represents each part of it?

For example, instead of candles, what represents hope to them? Or for the sweets and fruit, what represents God's creations to them? It's a fun way for children to think about what Christingle means.

From window displays to invitation posters, we've got plenty of goodies to help you let people know about your online Christingle. Download your resources now at christingle.org/resources

Can't decide? You don't have to just hold one Christingle. Why not hold a service in person and another online to make sure no one is left out this year?

Everything you need for a brighter Christingle

This year we've added lots of new resources to help you organise your Christingle in whatever way is best for you – whether in person, online, or a bit of both. Please go to christingle.org/resources to order online.

Planning and promoting

Organiser's Checklist

Make sure you've covered everything with this handy checklist – just in case!

How to Christingle Guide

Everything you need to know to help you host the perfect Christingle, in person.

Online Christingle Guide

If you're planning to host through a video call, this guide will help you make the most of going online.

How Christingle Helps Leaflet

Help people find out how the collection they contribute to can help vulnerable young people.

Christingle At Home for Offline Services

A one-stop guide about what Christingle is and how it can be enjoyed at home safely.

Promoting your Christingle Celebration

Includes a press release template and lots of advice on how to make sure everyone knows that you're Christingling this year.

Invitation Poster

Display this to encourage people to come to your event.

Photography & Social Media Guidance Pack

This guidance and consent form will help you capture moments, make memories and share them online.

Safety Poster




To make sure everyone stays safe throughout the celebration.

Dementia Inclusive Christingle

This pack will support our Christingle organisers and those living with dementia in their community.

Christingle In Care Homes

Advice and ideas to bring the light of Christingle to a care home.

-  Printed resource
-  Digital download
-  Physical item



Celebrating and collecting

Paper Bags for At-Home Christingles

For those preferring to celebrate Christingle at home this year, these bags can be filled with all the Christingle essentials to share with your community.

Window Decoration and Prayer Card

Colouring-in Christingle templates for your community to display, and an inspiring prayer.

Wax Candles

To help share the light at your Christingle. Each box contains 50 candles.

Red Tape

Each reel is enough to bring up to 300 Christingles to life.

Handy Template for Red Tape

A handy laminated template to help share your red tape in the Christingle at-home bags.

Stickers

A set of 24 stickers featuring the cast of Christingle characters to share the fun beyond the service.

Balloons

Add a pop of colour to your Christingle celebration with 5 orange balloons per pack. Ideal for larger services.

Collection Candles

Children can use these fun candle-shaped money boxes to collect any donations.

Collection Envelopes

A simple way for guests to give to your Christingle collection.

Arts, Crafts and Games

These unique activities are designed to bring fun and excitement to children at your celebration.

Safety Gloves

We recommend wearing gloves when preparing your Christingle oranges. These are anti-allergenic, with two pairs per pack.

Worship resources

Order Of Service

Plan your Christingle using this order of service, which you can adapt to suit your celebration.

Talks and Sermons

Popular talk and sermon ideas which can form part of your Christingle.

Hymns and Songs

Our dedicated Christingle song book will help everyone get in the Christingle spirit.

Ideas for Informal Christingles

Your Christingle can be whatever you want it to be – these ideas will help if you're planning something a little more casual.

Messy Church Christingle

We've partnered with Messy Church to provide fun activity ideas for children and families during Christingle.

Nativity Rhyme

Our rhyming script will help tell the story of the nativity in a fun way for children.

Diddy Disciples Under 7s Worship

Use this resource to help organise a session for children under 7.

Photo of model. Credit: Jon Sheddin



We come up with different themes each year to keep it fresh

Dave, Diocesan Ambassador



School resources

Assembly Pack and Collective Worship

There's an assembly plan for primary schools, including a PowerPoint presentation, as well as an act of collective worship for a whole school assembly.

After your Christingle

Thank You Poster

Stick this up after your event so that everyone can see how they've helped.

Paying In /Giro Form

Please use this when sending cheques to us or when paying in your collection at your bank or Post Office.

Video resources

Promotion Video

Download this video to help you promote your Christingle celebration in your community.

Video About The Children's Society

Play this video to show how our vital work changes young people's lives.

Please note our helpful call centre is open Monday to Saturday from 8am-8pm and on Sunday from 9am-6pm. Please note they are closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day. You can contact them on 01904 202338.

Primary School Lesson Plans

Separate lesson plans covering EYFS, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2, with lots of fun and varied ideas for the classroom.

Feedback Form

We want to hear from you about your Christingle – how you celebrated, how it compared to Christingles you might have organised before, and your ideas for next year.

Thank You Video

Play this video at the end of your celebration to thank everyone who took part. This will be available later in the year – check [christingle.org/resources](https://www.christingle.org/resources) when you're ready to thank your community.



Spread the word

It's never been more important to share the light. So why not make sure everyone can be part of it?

If you're happy to make your Christingle public, just go to christingle.org/join so that your community can see there's a service in their area.

If you have a website, why not post an invite on there too. We want everyone to feel part of the celebrations this year, whether they join in person or online.

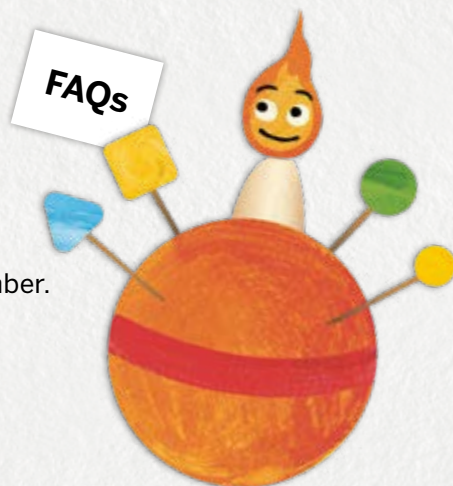
Sign up at christingle.org/join

Questions? We've got the answers

To help your Christingle run smoothly, we've created a list of Frequently Asked Questions at christingle.org

Here you'll find our latest answers to your questions, including information about keeping everyone safe at your Christingle, receiving your resources, and other ways we can help you have a celebration to remember.

If you can't find the answer to your query, just let us know by emailing christingle@childrensociety.org.uk



We're happy to help

If you'd like to ask a question about your Christingle, our friendly Supporter Care team will help.

Call: **0300 303 7000**

Office hours: **Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm**


Email: supportercare@childrensociety.org.uk

Share the light with other Christinglers – and us too!

If you want to join the conversation with fellow Christinglers, we have a Facebook group you can join. It's really useful for planning and seeing what others are up to! Search 'Christingle Organiser's Forum'

Get social with us

We love seeing how you celebrate Christingle, so please don't forget to share your stories, photos and videos with us.

 facebook.com/childrensociety

 [@childrensociety](https://twitter.com/childrensociety)

 [@thechildrensociety](https://www.instagram.com/thechildrensociety)

#Christingle

Please download our Photography and Social Media Guidance pack to see how you can make the most of what you capture on the day.

Last year, there were over 5,500 Christingle services in support of The Children's Society, raising over £1.2m to help children and young people. Thank you.



Photo of model



Credit: Piers Allardyce



Photo of model. Credit: Jon Snedden

Three ways to have fun with oranges

Some of our Christinglers have told us that they worry about oranges going to waste. So we've come up with some fun ideas to share with your attendees, to help them give their oranges a new lease of life after the service.

Make fresh lollies

This simple, easy treat will be a hit with children. Grate some of the zest, peel the oranges, roughly chop them and then blitz in a processor until smooth. Pour into lolly containers, poke in sticks and freeze until solid. Voilà!

Decorate your house

Make a Christingle-inspired posy to hang in your home. You could use dehydrated orange, along with herbs and cinnamon sticks. Tie it all together with a red ribbon, and it'll be lovely reminder of your service. And it'll smell great too.

Have a cup of Christingle

You could make a special blend of tea with orange peel, cloves and loose tea, for a more festive cuppa. Why not experiment to find your perfect blend?

We're listening

Our supporters told us the collection candles were too big, especially for little hands! A lot of Christinglers also suggested they should be made from recyclable materials.

So this year, you'll find the candles are smaller and made from recyclable plastic. After the service, just pop them in your usual plastic bin at home.

A date for your diary...

Church of England National Christingle service for The Children's Society

Sunday 13 December

You're invited to feel the magic of Christingle on a grand scale, by joining our nationwide online service.

The service will be streamed onto Facebook and YouTube – you can find out more at the website below. We can't wait to see you.

[churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy](https://www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy)

Christingle is a magical service and really brings the community together in Selby Abbey. Its been going strong for over forty years and is a highlight of the year, firmly established in people's calendars and Christmas preparations.

Christine Buttery, Chair of Selby Committee

Your Christingle collection



Let's make sure the money you raise helps children and young people in the UK.

How to fundraise

If you'll be coming together in person for your Christingle, please order the Collection Candle or Envelope for any donations.

Please try and limit the handling of cash, and do so wearing disposable gloves, to avoid putting yourself at risk.

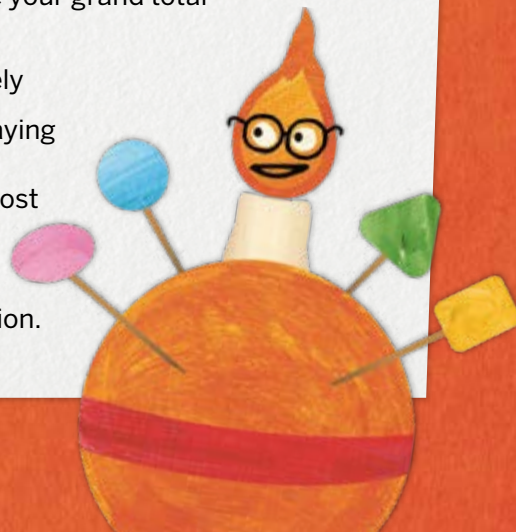
You may also consider isolating cash and other items your guests have handled for 72 hours, to minimise the potential spread of the virus.

Try and maintain social distancing, keeping 2 metres apart and wearing face coverings if preferred.

Get your own fundraising page

Sign up at christingle.org/join and you'll receive a personal fundraising page, which you can share far and wide. You'll also:

- Be able to set a target and see your grand total
- Take donations directly to The Children's Society, securely
- Claim Gift Aid, enabling tax-paying supporters to increase their donation by 25% at no extra cost
- Promote your Christingle on our website to help your community find your celebration.



How to pay in

If you have set up your own personalised fundraising page, then your donations will automatically be received and you will receive a letter of thanks for your collection.

If you don't have your own donation page or choose to collect in person, there are four ways you can pay in your donation:

1. Through our website

Simply pay the funds into your own bank account and then transfer the funds using our safe online payment form at christingle.org/donate. Don't forget to tell us whether you're paying in on behalf of an organisation or for yourself. You'll receive an email confirmation to thank you for your donation.

2. Send a cheque

You can pay in collections raised into your own bank account and then send us a cheque for the total in the post. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Children's Society' and should be sent along with the top half of the Christingle Paying In/Giro form to: The Children's Society, Whitecross Studios, 50 Banner Street, London. EC1Y 8ST.

3. Go to the bank or Post Office

You can pay your collections directly into our account at your local Barclays bank or Post Office. To do this, you'll need to order a Christingle Paying In/Giro form and take the bottom tear-off section along with your donations when paying in. You can pay in at another bank if necessary, however you may be required to pay a nominal fee to do this and we may not be able to acknowledge your donation.

Christingle Giro forms can be ordered via our online shop at christingle.org/resources

4. BACS payment

To ensure that we can accurately tie your BACS payment to your records, please ensure that you include your full name and organisation details on all communications.

Sharing the light — made easy



Seven simple steps to sharing the light:

- 1 Decide between an in-person or online service** – Whichever option you choose, we'll help to make it easy for you to organise. You could even do a bit of both!
- 2 Pick a date** – Christingles usually take place between Advent (29th November) and Candlemas (2nd February).
- 3 Order your resources** – Go to **christingle.org** or call **01904 202338** to place your order today.
- 4 Let people know** – Why not put one of our invitation posters up in your church, school or community hall? We also have a handy promotion pack to help you spread the word, and with your permission, we can include your Christingle on our website.
- 5 Keep everyone safe** – Make sure you're following the latest government guidelines about social distancing and remind your Christinglers to kindly do the same.
- 6 Hold a collection for The Children's Society** – Raise vital funds to help children and young people living in dark situations. Find out how to set up your own fundraising page at **christingle.org/join**
- 7 Send in your Christingle collection** – Choose the easiest way to send your funds from the list on page 15. As soon as you send in your donations, they'll go straight to helping vulnerable children and young people, so please don't delay. Thank you!