

So what's this 'Christingle'?

A **Christingle** is a symbolic object used in the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany services of many Christian denominations. *Christingle*, from a word of German origin, *Christkindl*, meaning 'Little Christ Child', is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World".

The history of the Christingle can be traced back to Moravian Bishop Johannes de Watteville, who started the tradition in Germany in 1747. At that time it was just a red ruff wrapped around a candle.

In the intervening years, the Moravian Church spread the tradition of Christingle through their early role in the Protestant missionary movement.

It was popularized in the United Kingdom by John Pensom in 1968. He was raising funds for the charity The Children's Society. In 2018, over 6,000 services were held for The Children's Society. Each year Christingle raises over £1.2million to help vulnerable young people.

A Christingle usually consists of:

- An orange, representing the world
- A candle pushed into the centre of the orange, then lit, representing Jesus Christ as Light of the World
- A red ribbon wrapped around the orange or a paper frill around the candle, representing the blood of Christ
- Dried fruits and/or sweets skewered on cocktail sticks pushed into the orange, representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.

