



ST PETER'S COLLEGIATE CHURCH WOLVERHAMPTON

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December 2025 - 4.00pm



Christingle Service with Blessing of the Crib

Celebrant
Revd Brian Prentice

Storyteller
Jon Bruton

Collection in aid of The Children's Society

The story of the Children's Society began in 1881. Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday school teacher and civil servant in South London, saw the effects of poverty on children and decided to do something about it.

When two young boys failed to turn up for his Sunday school, he went to look for them and was shocked to find them begging for food on the streets. Their father had died, leaving their mother struggling to bring up seven children under the age of 11.

Rudolf soon realised this was not a unique story and there were countless young people living in poverty. At that point, he decided to dedicate his life to improving the lives of children who had it toughest. This was the beginning of The Church of England Children's Society. Christingle was established by the Moravian Church in 1747 as a symbol of Christ's light and love. The Children's Society introduced it to the Church of England in 1968.

Welcome and Introduction by the Celebrant

Welcome to our Christingle Service, in which we celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, and the new life and hope he brings - and also to raise money and awareness to support the work of the Children's Society, who bring light and hope to the lives of vulnerable children and young people in this country. Today we have the opportunity during our service to celebrate Jesus, the Light, coming into a world of darkness, and to share that light and hope with others.

Later you will be asked to come up to the altar and offer your Christingle Cards. Please write a prayer or message on your cards before you bring them up. They will be displayed with the Christingle poster afterwards.

Christ has brought us out of darkness

To live in his wonderful light

Christ has brought us from death to life

To live in his glorious hope

The Advent Wreath is Lit

Jesus, Light of the World,

Shine in this place

Jesus, hope of the World,

Live in our hearts

Jesus, Light of the World,

Shine in our lives

Jesus, Hope of the World,

Bring hope to the ends of the earth.

Amen

Hymn: Shine, Jesus Shine

**Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light**

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood, I may enter Your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me**

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light***

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

A Christmas Story: Jon Bruton

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

**2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.**

**3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his Heaven,
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him,
Still the dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

*Tune: Forest Green (NEH 32)
Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks*

The Christingle:

A completed 'traditional' Christingle has an orange, some red tape, a candle, four cocktail sticks, and fruit or sweets. Each part has a meaning and the Christingle as a whole tells the Christian story

- The orange represents the world, God's good creation
- The red tape or ribbon represents the love and blood of Jesus, who gave his life for us
- The candle represents Jesus, the Light and Hope of the world
- The cocktail sticks and the dried fruit or sweets represent all the good things in creation that God has given us. The Cocktail sticks may also represent the four corners of the earth or the four seasons

Today as you leave church you may collect some of the items you will need to make your own Christingles when you get home.

Worship Song: Christingle Song

During the singing of the song the children (and supporting adults) will process around church and offer their Christingle cards at the altar then move to the crib in the Memorial Chapel following the direction of the Stewards.

**The Christingle begins with an orange,
like the world which the Lord God made.
For creation is full of his glory;
all around we see his love displayed.**

***Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it s the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.***

**Every year we give thanks for the seasons,
and the fruits of the earth to share.
The Christingle is here to remind us
that the love of God is everywhere.**

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

**God of love, we give thanks now for Jesus;
we remember his birth again.
But the red ribbon round the Christingle
tells the story of his cross and pain.**

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

**To complete the Christingle: a candle,
telling us of the world's true light.
For the darkness shall not overcome it,
Jesus shines on in the darkest night.**

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

*Text: Mark Early (b.1965)
Music: CP 433 Sing Hosanna, traditional melody
arranged by Gerald Knight (1908-1979)*

Baby Jesus is placed in the manger

The Blessing of the Crib

God our Father your Son Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary for us and for our salvation, was laid humbly in a manger. Bring us with the shepherds and the wise men to kneel before your holy cradle, that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven.

Bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth. May all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

Amen

Worship song: Away in a Manger

During the singing of the song everyone returns to their pews.

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

Text: Anonymous

Music: NEH22 W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Prayers:

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope to the world, we pray that your hope will live in us
Lord in your Mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus bringer of hope to the vulnerable, we pray for those in need of your care and
compassion

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope to children and young people, shine your light on those who
feel afraid and without hope, that they may have a brighter future

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope to the helpers, we pray that you would be with those who
support young people. Strengthen and enlighten teachers and carers, may they know your
blessing upon them.

We pray for the work of the Children's Society and all those who support their work with
young people.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Amen

Lord our God

We thank you for the world of which we are a part, your creation which nurtures and
sustains us.

We thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, for his love and grace which is freely
given to all of us.

We thank you for the coming light of Christ and we celebrate together this Christmas

And we thank you for the ways you richly and abundantly bless us.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: Calypso Carol

There will be a collection, during the hymn, in aid of the Children's Society

**See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the Prince of Glory is his name.**

***O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of Glory when he came.***

**Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!**

O now carry me...

**Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.**

O now carry me...

**Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.**

O now carry me...

Text & Music: Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)

Celebrant receives the offertory:

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer, and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

and also with you

Christ the son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us/you and those who you love and remain with us always.

Amen

The Sending Out:

We go in peace

To share the peace of God with all we meet

We go in love:

To share God's gift of love with the world.

We go in hope:

To share hope for the world with everyone

We go in the light of Christ:

To shine as lights in the world.

To the glory of God the Father.

Amen

Organ Voluntary: Sleigh Ride (Leroy Anderson)