



**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

Diddy Disciples

Christingle Resource – for under 7s

by Sharon Moughtin-Mumby



Christingle
50
YEARS



Christingle 50 YEARS

Introduction

- These Christingle materials are designed to be used in groups with babies, toddlers, and young children up to about the age of 7.
- They can be used as a one-off resource, or as part of the Diddy Disciples programme (for an introduction, see www.diddydisciples.org).
- A complete Christingle session is provided. However, it's also possible simply to draw on the section **The Story of the Christingle** as part of a toddler group, school assembly, all-age service, uniformed groups session, or in other settings. Alternatively, you could use these resources in groups, nurseries, or schools in the week before a Christingle service in church to prepare young children for a more traditional Christingle service.
- In the text, words in ordinary type are to be said/sung by the leader. **Words in bold** are for everyone to join in with.





Structure of this resource

1. **Welcome**
2. **The Story of the Christingle**
3. **Time for Creative Response**, *including the option of inviting children to make their own Christingle*
4. **The Lighting of the Christingles**
5. *Optional: The Eating of the Christingles!*
6. **Taking God's Light Into the World**
7. **Music resources**
8. **Craft templates**

A note for groups that use Diddy Disciples

If your group uses the Diddy Disciples programme, this storytelling can be used at any time during the Getting Ready for Baby Jesus (Advent) or Jesus, Light of the World! (Christmas and Epiphany) units. It is particularly appropriate as an alternative to 'Jesus Light of the World' (the Week 3 climax of the Jesus, Light of the World Unit).

If your group is familiar with Diddy Disciples worship, aim to keep the pattern of your worship as close to normal as possible. For instance, if you normally end with the Peace, keep to this rhythm, rather than ending with the song suggested below. If you normally use a Prayer Building Block (Saying Sorry to God, Prayers for Other People, Thank you God), the 'Lighting of the Christingles' can take the place of this. Depending on the time you have available, you may need to leave out the Gathering Song for this session.



Pre-made or make-your-own Christingles?

Making Christingles is very fiddly for young children! They will need support from an adult or older child (8+ years). Some groups may prefer to make the Christingles in advance, on behalf of the children. However, the Christingles will always be more meaningful to the children if they've made them themselves, even if this means that they don't look like a textbook Christingle! In Diddy Disciples, we always aim to give the children as much independence as possible. There are suggestions for how to do this safely throughout the material.

Repetition is important for young children. 'Again, Again!' is one way in which they learn. In these resources, the opportunity for children to make their own Christingle is placed in the middle of the session. This creates the opportunity for children to strengthen and deepen their understanding of the Christingle and Jesus, Light of the World, as they sing the song before, during, and after the making of the Christingles.

What you will need

For each Christingle:

- An orange or satsuma/tangerine. Oranges are the traditional fruit for a Christingle. However, if you are planning for young children to have the opportunity to make their own Christingle, they may find a satsuma (or similar) easier to manipulate. Birthday candles can be easily placed in the satsuma independently by children: show them how to turn it upside down and push the candle through the indent in the skin. Turning them upside down may make the Christingle wobbly! Small plastic cups can come in useful to hold the Christingle when placed down.
- Red ribbon/tape cut at the length that will fit around the circumference of your orange or satsuma. Red tape is much easier for children to place, as it will stick to the fruit as it's wound round.
- A white candle or white birthday candle. Traditionally, larger candles are used. However, if you're using satsumas (or similar), a birthday candle will be a better fit.
- Four cocktail sticks. These can be sharp so make sure children are well supervised. If children are going to be invited to walk around with any sticks (including as part of the Christingle), you may need to snip the sharp ends off.



Christingle 50 YEARS

- Sweets (such as dolly mixtures, jelly tots) or dried fruits (such as raisins, apricots). If young children are constructing their own Christingles, dried fruits can be easier for them to use, as they're generally softer and less likely to split. Check that your choices that are easily pierced by a cocktail stick and don't present a choking hazard.
- *Optional:* Small square of foil to place around the candle before it is inserted in the orange

For the group:

- A pre-made Christingle for the Story of the Christingle.
- A small cup to hold your premade Christingle steady
- Matches or a pre-lit candle
- *Optional:* we have found muffin/fairy cake tins helpful for holding the Christingles steady and upright when they are not being held by the children. Unsightly tins can always be covered with tinfoil!





1. Welcome

Start with any welcome song or words that your group is familiar. If you would like to try something different, you could try this Diddy Disciples Welcome song.

**Song: 'The Diddy Disciples welcome song'. Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby
Tune: 'Glory, glory, alleluia!' (traditional). See Music Resources below.**

Welcome your group.

Let's start by going round the circle
and saying our name out loud.

My name's _____.

Go round the circle so that every adult and child has the chance to say his or her. If any of the children don't want to say their name or aren't able to, you (or a parent or carer) could say it for them and wave. For the song, go around the circle the same way as above. See if each of you can remember the others' names and insert them into the song.

Welcome Name 1 to St Peter's*

Welcome Name 2 to St Peter's*

Welcome Name 3 to St Peter's*

You are welcome in the name of the Lord!

** Insert the name of your church or children's group, or sing 'our worship' or similar.*



2. The Story of the Christingle

Today we're going to tell the story of the 'Christingle'.

Show the group a Christingle.

This is a 'Christingle'. Can you say 'Christingle'?

Christingle

To tell the story of the Christingle we need to learn a song.

It's about Jesus being the Light of the World, like the sun.

Let's crouch down and show the sun hiding

before it comes up in the morning.

Lead the children in crouching down.

Now let's show the sun rising with our bodies . . .

Up, up, up and out!

Raise hands upwards and outwards as you stand up.

We're going to use that action for our song.

And then because Jesus is SHINING bright, *jazz hands*

we're going to finish with jazz hands! *Jazz hands*

Let's try that.

Lead the children in singing with the actions of the rising sun:

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World . . . *action for the rising sun*

is shining in the darkness! *Jazz hands*

Repeat if necessary until the children are basically familiar with the tune.



We're ready to tell our story.

Show the Christingle

Can anyone remember what this is called?

Accept responses.

This is a 'Christingle'.

The Christingle shows us that Jesus is the Light of the World!

Place a Christingle in front of you where the children can see it and so you can still use your hands. You might find it helpful to place it on a small cup.

Who can tell me what fruit this is?

Accept responses.

This is an orange.

What shape is this orange?

Accept responses. If older children suggest sphere, accept this impressive answer and ask what 2D shape a little child would say it is!

The orange is round. *Make a round shape with both your hands.*

It reminds us of the world.

The world is round like an orange.

Let's make a round shape with our hands.

Lead the group in making a round shape with both your hands.

Let's sing "This round orange is the world!"



This round orange is the world! *Make a round shape.*

This round orange is the world! *Make a round shape.*

This round orange is the world! *Make a round shape.*

Interrupt the singing: "Wait! Listen!"

Continue singing: For this is our Christingle! Hold cupped hands out as if holding a Christingle

Can you sing that last line?

Lead the group in singing:

For this is our Christingle! *Hold cupped hands out*

Let's sing that again.

This round orange is the world! *Make a round shape.*

This round orange is the world! *Make a round shape.*

This round orange is the world! *Make a round shape.*

For this is our Christingle! *Hold cupped hands out*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World . . . *action for the rising sun*

is SHINING in the darkness! *Jazz hands*

Indicate the Christingle in front of you.

There's a ribbon around the orange.

After 3, who can tell me what colour the ribbon is?

1, 2, 3.... RED!

There's a RED ribbon around our orange

in a big circle. Above the orange trace a horizontal circle with your finger.

This red ribbon is the love of Jesus! Continue tracing the circle.

It goes all around the world!

No-one's left out! Shake head

Let's sing, 'This red ribbon is the love of Jesus!'

Trace a circle with your finger, this time around an imaginary orange so the group can copy the action



This red ribbon is the love of Jesus. *Trace a circle*
This red ribbon is the love of Jesus. *Trace a circle*
This red ribbon is the love of Jesus. *Trace a circle*
For this is our Christingle! *Hold cupped hands out*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*
Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*
Jesus, Light of the World . . . *action for the rising sun*
is SHINING in the darkness! *Jazz hands*

And look!
There are fruits and sweets on our Christingle!
Mmmmm!
The sweet things help us remember:
Say slowly as these will be the words of the song.
the world is filled with all good things!
Mime scooping generously and showing the group

Let's imagine we're scooping up all the good things in the world:
Fruits and vegetables and treats and sweet things!
Lead the group in miming scooping generously and showing each other your cupped hands
Let's sing: The world is filled with all good things! *Scoop and show.*

The world is filled with all good things! *Scoop and show.*
The world is filled with all good things! *Scoop and show.*
The world is filled with all good things! *Scoop and show.*
For this is our Christingle! *Hold cupped hands out*



Jesus, Light of the World, action for the rising sun
Jesus, Light of the World, action for the rising sun
Jesus, Light of the World . . . action for the rising sun
is SHINING in the darkness! Jazz hands

Optional:

Indicate the Christingle.

Our fruits and sweets are on sticks.

Let's count how many sticks there are.

Lead the group in counting as you point to the sticks one at a time.

1, 2, 3, 4!

Point to the sticks one at a time again as you say:

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer!

The four sticks remind us of the four seasons!

Count to four with your fingers as you say:

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer!

Let's sing 'Autumn, winter, spring, and summer!'

Let's count on our fingers as we sing.

Lead the children in counting to four with your fingers and singing:

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer!

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer!

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer!

For this is our Christingle! Hold cupped hands out



Jesus, Light of the World, action for the rising sun
Jesus, Light of the World, action for the rising sun
Jesus, Light of the World . . . action for the rising sun
is SHINING in the darkness! Jazz hands

Indicate the candle in the Christingle in front of you.

And most important of all, what's this?

Accept responses.

This is a tall candle!

Let's light our candle.

Move the Christingle to a safe place to light it, or hand it to an adult standing in a safe place to hold it.

When the candle is lit.

This candle reminds us of Jesus, Light of the World!

Let's look at our candle for a moment.

Watch the light dancing on the candle!

Let's hold our finger out like a candle.

Lead the children in holding fingers out.

After 3, let's light our finger candles.

1, 2, 3... Tsssss *Lead the children in miming striking a match and lighting your finger candles.*

Let's stand tall like the candle

and show the light dancing and swaying with our bodies.

Lead the group in standing holding your arms above your head to make a flame, then sway with your whole body and go up and down, like a candle flame. This will become the 'flame action'.

Slowly (these words will become the words of the song):

This tall candle is the Light of the World!



Let's sing 'This tall candle is the Light of the World!'
And make our bodies dance like the light.

This tall candle is the Light of the World! *Flame action*
This tall candle is the Light of the World! *Flame action*
This tall candle is the Light of the World! *Flame action*
For this is our Christingle! *Hold cupped hands out*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*
Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*
Jesus, Light of the World . . . *action for the rising sun*
is SHINING in the darkness! *Jazz hands*

Look at those beautiful candles shining and dancing!
Let's sit down for a moment.

Let's sit down for a moment.
When the group is ready.
Jesus, Light of the World,
is shining in the darkness! *Jazz hands*

But let me tell you something important.
The Light of the World isn't just shining in Jesus. *Shake head.*

Jesus said that you *point to a child*
and you . . . and you . . . and you . . . *point to three more children*
All of us . . . *point in a circle to everyone in the room and back to yourself*
All of us are the Light of the World!



There's a little light shining in all of us!
Trace your finger in a circle around your heart.
It's Jesus! The Light of the World! Shining in us!
When we share Jesus's love with other people.
Our little light shines bright!

Today, our Christingles are helping us remember
to share Jesus' love and light with other people.

Let's close our eyes for a moment.
When the group is ready:
Let's think of someone who's lonely.
Let's imagine sharing Jesus's love with them.
Let's imagine Jesus's light shining brighter and brighter inside us.
until it fills us up,
then fills up our church/school/name of place,
then bursting out to fill the whole world! *Jazz hands*

Let's open our eyes again.
Let's make our song into a prayer.
Let's sing *slowly*: 'Shine, shine, shine in me, in me!'

Let's start off really tiny:
Lead the children in crouching down.
a little light like on our Christingle. *Indicate Christingle.*
Then as we sing let's get louder and louder.
Make a flame shape with your body and sway.
And let's make our dancing light, bigger and bigger
'til we show Jesus's love - shining through us –
filling the whole world!



Lead the children in a flame dance, starting small and getting bigger and bigger as you sing.

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

The Light of the World is shining! *Jazz hands*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World *action for the rising sun*

is shining in the darkness! *Jazz hands*

OPTIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

If you're collecting money for The Children's Society, this is a good opportunity to mention this, while the children are not distracted by Christingles in their hands. The collection is optional and of course entirely voluntary. Parents and carers should be informed beforehand that you will be taking a collection, so the children can be prepared.

Adapt according to your setting:

One of the ways we're sharing Jesus's love today

is by collecting money for some people called 'The Children's Society'.

The Children's Society help children who feel alone and have no one to talk to.

They make sure those children FIND someone to talk to.

They share Jesus's love with them.



Either:

Some of us have been collecting our money at home.
There'll be a time to give our money to The Children's Society later
so they can carry on helping children who feel alone.

Describe simply and clearly how and when this will take place.

When we take our money forward,
let's imagine ourselves shining with Jesus's love
like this Christingle!

Or:

Some of us have been collecting our money at home.
Let's give our money to The Children's Society now
so they can carry on helping children who feel alone.
Let's shine with Jesus's love like this Christingle!
Let's sing quietly as we bring our money forward.

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

The Light of the World is shining! *Jazz hands*

End with:

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World *action for the rising sun*

is shining in the darkness! *Jazz hands*



3. Time for Creative Response

These starter ideas are designed to spark imaginations and open up opportunities for the children to respond creatively in their different ways to the Story of the Christingle that you've told together. Choose from these suggestions or add your own according to your group and resources. You may find it helpful to arrange these starter ideas table by table. Children may prefer to stick to one activity, or may move through a variety.

Let's Make a Christingle

For groups that wish to provide the opportunity for young children to construct their own Christingles

- Give the children the opportunity to make their own Christingle. Try to provide only the support that they absolutely need. It's far more important that the child feels that this is THEIR Christingle, than that it looks perfect to an adult's eyes. Remember: if you're using satsumas, it's easier for little hands to insert the candle if you turn it upside down. Encourage the child to sing the Christingle song quietly with you as you construct the Christingle to support their understanding of the different parts. You can omit the 'Jesus light of the world' refrain, and each verse can be sung more than once!

To learn how to make a Christingle, go here: **childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/fundraising-and-events/christingle/how-make-christingle**

If you can provide an adult or older-child-partner for each young child present, it may be possible for your group to all make Christingles at the same time, especially if you follow the suggestions for adapting the Christingles for small hands outline above, by using satsumas, tape, and soft dried fruits. In groups where young children outnumber adults and older children, you may find it easier to set aside one or two tables for the Christingle making, inviting children to come as adult/older child partners become available to support them. Alternative starter ideas that require less adult support can be made available at other tables for the children who are waiting for their turn to make a Christingle.



I'm a little Christingle!

- Jesus asks all of us to shine with God's love in the world. Invite the children to make a Christingle hat to show their little light shining. Invite them to attach a candle template to an orange band of paper to make a hat (masking tape is easier). Invite them to cut out pictures of fruit from a supermarket magazine to stick to the hat or they may prefer to draw their own pictures of fruit. Let's go out and shine with God's love in the world! *Provide candle templates (see end of this resource), scissors, crayons/pencils/pastels, orange hatbands, glue, masking tape, pages from supermarket magazines with pictures of fruit.*

Saltdough Christingle Candle holder

If food poverty is an issue in your local area and you're going to eat your Christingles at the end of the session, you may like to give the children the opportunity to make an alternative Christingle to take home. The candle from the fruit Christingle could be transplanted into this saltdough Christingle.

- Invite the children to roll the saltdough into a ball to make the orange then add the red tape or a line of red paint. Then invite the children to glue or tape (masking tape is easier for young children) small pictures of fruit to the cocktail sticks. These can then be inserted in the ball of dough. A birthday candle can be added at this point, or (if you are using the candles from the fruit Christingles) at the end of the session. *Provide orange saltdough, red tape (or red paint), cocktail sticks (ends snipped off), small pictures of fruit (see Craft templates at end of this resource), masking tape, birthday candles and a paper plate to help transport the Christingle home.*

How to make orange salt dough:

Mix 2 cups of flour with 1 cup of salt. Add a few drops of orange food colouring to 1 cup of water, then add to the flour and salt combination and mix. If it's too sticky, add more flour; if it's too dry, add a drop more water. If you're making the dough in advance, it can become sticky when stored, so make sure you take extra flour with you and check the dough before use. The dough can be dried in an oven (on a low heat for around 3 hours) or in a microwave (check every few seconds), but very large balls of dough may be quite hard to dry out.



Jesus is the Light of the World!

- Give the children the opportunity to create their own 2D globe by taking a paper plate and painting it with blue and green paints, or sticking green and blue tissue/ crepe paper or other collage to it. Expect these 'globes' to be very impressionistic! *Provide paper plates, green and blue collage materials paints and PVA glue coloured with blue paint. Once the children have created their globe you could also provide yellow/gold collage materials and invite the children to add them on or around the paper plate to show Jesus, the Light of the World.*
- Invite the children to make a globe light-catcher by gluing green and blue tissue paper to a circle of wax paper. The light will shine through! Expect these globes to be impressionistic! *Provide circles of wax/baking paper (some pound shops sell ready-cut circles), glue, green and blue tissue paper cut into small (if possible, irregular) shapes.*
- Give the children the opportunity to create a stained glass 'window' that they can watch the light shine through, just as Jesus, the Light of the World, can shine through our lives. Invite them to glue brightly coloured tissue/cellophane/crepe paper to squares or circles of wax/baking paper. *Provide rectangles or arched window shapes of baking/wax paper (the whiter the better, but brown paper still works), glue and brightly coloured tissue/crepe/cellophane paper (e.g. transparent sweet wrappers from Christmas).*



Biscuit Christingles

- Invite the children to make their own edible Christingles. Invite the children to spread orange icing over a biscuit to make the 'world'. Leaving space in the centre of the biscuit for the 'candle', a red strawberry lace can be placed on the biscuit to show Jesus's love. Raisins or soft sweets can be placed directly onto the biscuit (without the use of cocktail sticks) to show the fruits of the world. To create a 'candle', children could build up a small column of three white chocolate buttons (with orange icing between each layer) in the centre of the biscuit. A tiny dollop of orange icing or an orange or yellow jelly tot (or similar) can then be placed on top of the 'candle' to show Jesus, Light of the World. Alternatively, a jelly baby could be placed in the centre of the biscuit to represent Baby Jesus. If the children make more than one Christingle biscuit each, and you're meeting as part of a church, nursery, school, or similar, you could even sell them afterwards to raise money for The Children's Society. *Provide rich tea biscuits (or similar), orange icing (premade by mixing icing sugar, orange food colouring and a little water), red strawberry laces, raisins or small soft sweets (such as dolly mixtures, jelly tots, smarties or similar), plus white chocolate buttons or jelly babies to represent Jesus, the Light of the World.*

Let's explore Christingles!

- If your group chooses not to construct Christingles during the session, you could still give the children the opportunity to explore Christingles for themselves. Lay a number of Christingles out on a table and invite the children to explore them. Check that these Christingles are toddler-friendly, for instance, by snipping off the ends of the cocktail sticks once they have been constructed. For these demonstration Christingles, it would be best to use oranges as they're harder for children to peel and eat straight away! However, do not be surprised if some parts of the Christingles are eaten!

Note: In areas where food poverty is an issue, it's best practice to avoid using food in worship or creative activities that will not be eaten. At the end of the session, you could cut these demonstration Christingles into quarters for the group and share the fruit and sweets.



Exploring Light and Dark

- Invite the children to explore Jesus, Light of the World by making a darkness/light collage. Encourage them to decorate white/dark paper with dark and light colours. *Provide white/dark paper, glue, dark collage materials and gold, white, yellow, orange and silver collage materials (e.g. tinfoil).*
- Invite the children to explore light shining in the darkness by creating their own 'light' patterns with oil pastels, paint, chalk or glitter on dark paper. *Provide dark paper plus oil pastels/paint/chalk/glitter. If you use glitter, make sure it is disposed of in the bin rather than down the sink. Consider using biodegradable glitter.*

Christingle Observational Drawing

- You could invite children to make an observation drawing of a lit Christingle that has been placed in a safe place. Talk with the children about what they can see. What do they notice about the colours and movement of the light? *Provide pastels/chalks on dark paper, or crayons/felt tips/pencils on white paper. If you use glitter, make sure it is disposed of in the bin rather than down the sink. Consider using biodegradable glitter.*



Light of the World Sensory Resources

Sensory resources that you could provide for the children (including babies and toddlers) to explore for themselves include:

- real oranges and red tape;
- torches, battery tealights, camping lanterns, or sensory light toys like flashing stars or light sticks;
- survival blankets and unwanted CDs (these make amazing sparkly sensory objects for young babies to explore light);
- a toddler-friendly globe, map jigsaw or laminated map for the children to explore;
- a light box. Put battery fairy lights (or similar) into a clear box and tape the lid firmly shut. *Provide different coloured cellophane paper, tissue paper or other child-safe objects that light can shine through. Include some items that no light shines through to create a contrast.*

Paper-plate Christingles

- Invite the children to create a 2D Christingle on a paper plate. *Provide paper plates, scissors, glue, red tape/ribbon/flower ribbon, cocktails sticks (with the ends snipped off for safety), pages from supermarket magazines with pictures of fruit, candle templates*



4. The Lighting of the Christingles

Invite the children to sit in a circle. If they've made a Christingle that can be lit, or if you have pre-made Christingles, invite the children to hold these in their hands (unlit).

Look at these beautiful Christingles!

Our Christingles tell us a story!

We're going to light them in a moment.

But first, let's tell the story of the Christingle again.

Lead the children in singing the song again, this time without the refrain, until the end.

Indicate the orange: First, the orange.

This round orange is the world! *Point to the orange*

This round orange is the world! *Point to the orange*

This round orange is the world! *Point to the orange*

For this is our Christingle! *Hold up Christingle*

Indicate the ribbon: Then the ribbon.

This red ribbon is the love of Jesus. *Trace around the ribbon*

This red ribbon is the love of Jesus. *Trace around the ribbon*

This red ribbon is the love of Jesus. *Trace around the ribbon*

For this is our Christingle! *Hold up Christingle*

Indicate the fruits and sweets. And the sweet treats?

The world is filled with all good things! *Point to each of the fruits/sweets*

The world is filled with all good things! *Point to each of the fruits/sweets*

The world is filled with all good things! *Point to each of the fruits/sweets*

For this is our Christingle! *Hold up Christingle*



Optional:

Indicate the sticks. And the four sticks?

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer! *Point to each of the sticks in turn*

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer! *Point to each of the sticks in turn*

Autumn, winter, spring, and summer! *Point to each of the sticks in turn*

For this is our Christingle! *Hold up Christingle*

And most important of all, the candle!

This tall candle is the Light of the World! *Point to the candle*

This tall candle is the Light of the World! *Point to the candle*

This tall candle is the Light of the World! *Point to the candle*

For this is our Christingle! *Hold up Christingle*

It's time to light our Christingles!

Lighting Christingles with large numbers of very young children can be challenging. In groups where adults can partner with young children, it may be possible for the Christingles to be lit while the children are still holding them. At St Peter's Walworth, however, we've found that this isn't possible due to the number of babies and toddlers present. It can also be challenging for families with toddler twins or more. One by one, we invite the children to bring their unlit Christingle forward to place in a muffin tray in the centre of the circle (starting at the back of the tray). Once the child has placed their Christingle, they are given a long candle to light it safely with supervision. They then sit back in their place and the next child comes forward. As a group, we then watch the Christingles burning safely.



Option 1

In small groups, where the lighting of the Christingles will not take long, you could sing, repeatedly:

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*
Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*
Jesus, Light of the World *action for the rising sun*
is shining in the darkness! *Jazz hands*

Option 2

In larger groups, where the lighting may take a while, you could introduce this new song (to the tune of Incy, Wincy Spider). If you're using this, you may like to play this in the background during the Time for Creative Response. See the music resources below and The Children's Society website for a version sung by children.

First we need to learn a song.
Let's sing it 'my turn, your turn'.

See in the darkness, a little light shines bright!
See in the darkness, a little light shines bright!
Light of the world, shining love in darkest night!
Light of the world, shining love in darkest night!

Let's sing those two lines together:
See in the darkness, a little light shines bright!
Light of the world, shining love in darkest night!

Then 'my turn, your turn' again:
Light of the World, shine for everyone to see!
Light of the World, shine for everyone to see!
O Light of the World, shine your light of love in me!
O Light of the World, shine your light of love in me!



Let's try those two lines together:

Light of the World, shine for everyone to see!

O Light of the World, shine your light of love in me!

Now let's see if we can sing that all together:

See in the darkness, a little light shines bright!

Light of the world, shining love in darkest night!

Light of the World, shine for everyone to see!

O Light of the World, shine your light of love in me!

Let's sing as we light our Christingles and watch the light dance!

Sing repeatedly as the Christingles are lit.

See in the darkness, a little light shines bright!

Light of the world, shining love in darkest night!

Light of the World, shine for everyone to see!

O Light of the World, shine your light of love in me!

All groups:

When all the Christingles are lit, you may like to hum the song you have been singing one more time.

When the group is ready:

Look at those beautiful lights, dancing in the darkness!

In a moment (not yet!) it's time to blow them out!

But when we blow them out,

the light doesn't disappear!

The light goes inside US! *Trace circle on heart*

WE become walking [or crawling] Christingles,

shining light in the world for Jesus!



So after 3, let's stay in our places
and with a big *PUFF* blow out our candles
and imagine the light shining in us!

1, 2, 3.... Blow!

Lead the children in blowing out the candles, either in their hands or on the muffin trays. If they are on the muffin trays, they'll need a bit of extra help from adults standing a little closer. Make sure enthusiastic children don't run towards the candles!

Now Jesus's light is shining and dancing in us! *Point around the circle*

5. The eating of the Christingles (Optional)

If food poverty is an issue in your local area, it is best practice to avoid using food in worship or creative activities that will not be eaten. As an Estate Church, where food poverty is present, we follow the children's lead at St Peter's Walworth, and give them an opportunity to eat their Christingles at the end of the service.

If the children are not holding their Christingles at this point, you may like to sing the song you have been singing as you return them to the children.

Now it's time to eat our tasty Christingles!
Because WE'VE become little, walking Christingles!



6. Taking God's Light Out Into the World

It's time to go.

Let's remember that the little light of love
inside us goes with us! *Trace a circle on heart*

Let's remember to let it shine BRIGHT today! *Jazz hands*

Let's remember to shine like Christingles!

If your group has a usual going home song, you may like close with this. Alternatively:

Either:

Let's stand up!

Let's sing our 'shine, shine, shine in me' song one more time.

This time as loud as we can.

Let's show our whole bodies, waving with the fire of God's love.

Let's ask God to help us let that little light shine!

Lead the group in swaying like a candle flame as you sing:

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

Shine, shine, shine, in me, in me-e!

The Light of the World is shining! *Jazz hands*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World, *action for the rising sun*

Jesus, Light of the World *action for the rising sun*

is shining in the darkness! *Jazz hands*



Or:

Let's stand up!

Let's sing our 'See in the darkness' song one more time.

But this time, we're the little lights! We're the Christingles!

Look! *Point at a child*

You, you, you, you, AND me! *Point around the whole circle*

Let's ask God to shine the light of love in US!

Let's show our whole bodies, waving with the fire of God's love as we sing.

Lead the group in swaying like a candle flame:

See in the darkness, a little light shines bright!

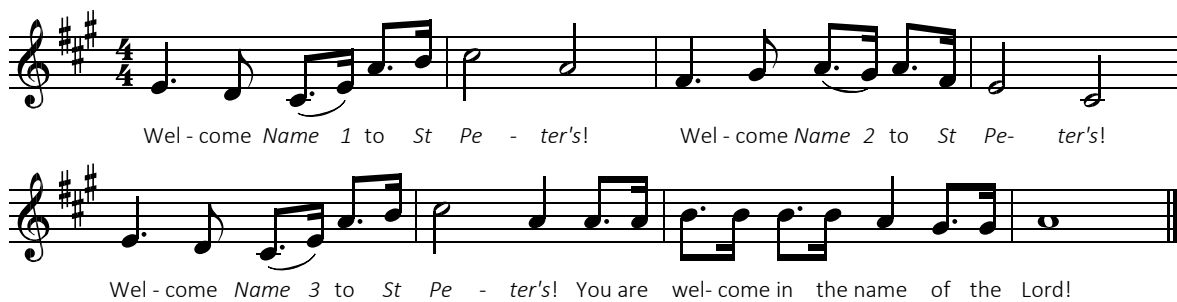
Light of the world, shining love in darkest night!

Light of the World, shine for everyone to see!

O Light of the World, shine your light of love in me!

7. Music resources

**Song: 'The Diddy Disciples welcome song'. Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby
Tune: 'Glory, glory, alleluia!' (traditional).**



Wel - come Name 1 to St Pe - ter's! Wel - come Name 2 to St Pe - ter's!

Wel - come Name 3 to St Pe - ter's! You are wel - come in the name of the Lord!

**Song: The Diddy Disciples Christingle Song Words: © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby
Tune: 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor?' (traditional).**



This round oran - ge is the world! _ This round oran - ge is the world! _

This round oran - ge is the world! For this is our Chris -

tin - gle! Je - sus, Light of the World!

Je - sus, Light of the World! Je - sus,

Light of the World, is shi - ning in the dark - ness!

**Song: 'See in the darkness' Words: © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby
Tune: 'Incy Wincy Spider' (traditional).**



8. Craft templates.

Please use these templates as you see fit. They have been drawn by Diddy Disciples at St Peter's, Walworth.

