

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTINGLE

(Kits are available from Bruton Convenience Store for £2.50 - just add an orange!)

Christingle means 'Christ Light' and is a symbol of the Christian Faith. Christingle services are held around Christmas time, and come from the Moravian custom of giving lighted candles to children on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth and the light of Christ. Christingles are very easy to make! All you need are some cocktail sticks, some sweets or dried fruit, some red ribbon or tape, a small piece of silver foil, a small candle, and of course an orange. All these different things have special meaning.

The **ORANGE** is the world and the red ribbon represents the blood of Jesus.

The **FRUITS** or **SWEETS** represent all of creation or the fruits of the earth.

The lighted **CANDLE** represents Christ, the light of the world.

The **LIGHT** is perhaps the most important part because it represents light in the darkness, which at this time of **ADVENT** is very important.

More importantly it represents the birth of Jesus, **GOD'S LIGHT** for all.



First, find a nice round orange! Next, wrap some red ribbon or tape around the middle part so that the orange is wearing a belt. If you use a ribbon it can be held in place with a couple of ordinary pins. Cut a small cross in the top of the orange and place a small square (around 4cm x 4cm) of silver foil on top of the cross. Use the candle to push it into the orange, creating a firm grip for the candle and a good way of catching any wax that might drip down once the candle is lit! Next take your four cocktail sticks and load them up with 2-3 pieces of dried fruit or sweets and then stick them equally spaced into the orange (see the picture above).

There it is! One beautiful Christingle ready to bring along to the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. You can store it in the fridge until you're ready to bring it along, but be careful of the cocktail sticks as they're very pointy. Don't light the candle just yet because that will happen in the service. Afterwards, when the Christingles have been blessed and you have received the gift of Christ's light, you can take it home to enjoy. Why not put it on the Christmas table and light it again on Christmas Day for everyone to share?

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ST. MARY'S!

