

How to Make a Christingle



Safety Disclaimer

Lighting candles can be dangerous. Children should always be supervised by an adult.

You will need:

- 1 Orange
- 1 small candle (a birthday cake candle will be fine)
- enough red ribbon to go round an orange with a small overlap (or a bit more for a bow like ours)
- 4 cocktail sticks
- a few sweets or some dried fruit such as raisins or sultanas
- small piece of foil measuring about 4cm by 4cm
- pencil to make a hole in the orange

What you do:

1. Carefully push the pencil into the top of the orange to make a small hole.
2. Put about 3 sweets or dried fruit onto the cocktail sticks.
3. Push the cocktail sticks into the orange in four different directions slightly above the fattest part of the orange and pointing slightly upwards.



4. Take the foil and gently wrap it around the candle at the bottom before firmly wedging the candle into the hole that you had made in the orange. Once in position mould the foil into a shallow cup shape to catch any drips of candle wax.

5. Tie the ribbon round the orange and fasten with a bow, or just overlap the two ends, and secure with a pin to keep it in place.



6. If you want to light the candle, make sure a grown-up is there to help you as lighting candles can be dangerous.



A Prayer to say when lighting your Christingle

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for coming
to be the light of the world
for everyone.
Please be with all who are lonely
or sad or ill this Christmas
and let them see your light. Amen

The meaning of the Christingle

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Lots of churches hold Christingle services around Christmas time. The custom of giving out lighted candles in these services began in Germany in 1747 but it wasn't introduced in England until 1968.

Christingles are made up of different parts, each one being there to remind us of something.

- The **orange** represents the world.
- The **candle** reminds Christians of Jesus who they believe to be the light of the world. The foil is only there to catch waxy drips from the candle.
- The **red ribbon** goes all round the 'world' and being the colour of blood, reminds Christians that Jesus died.
- The **four cocktail sticks** have either of two meanings; the four seasons or the four corners of the world.
- The **sweets** (or sometimes dried fruit) remind Christians of God's gifts to the world including kindness and love.