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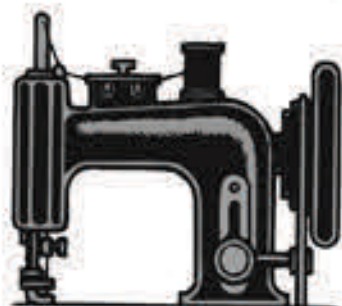
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## **The Christingle Story**

The custom of the Christingle began in the Moravian Church and was first used as part of a Christmas Children's Festival in Germany in 1747.

The symbol of the Christingle consists of an orange representing the World, with the candle inserted in the centre and lit to represent Christ the Light of the World. Into the orange are inserted cocktail sticks decorated with nuts, fruits, raisins and sweets. These stand for the fruits of the earth and the benefits that come to our lives through God's bounty. Red crepe paper forms a frill at the base of the candle and reminds us of Christ's Passion.

The Christingle Service is a Children's Celebration close to Christmas in which we place the child in the midst of all we do. At the climax of the service, each child receives a lighted Christingle and in the magical moment of the darkened Church, the visual symbol tells the truth of the Christmas story - that in the darkness of the world there has shined a great light.

The Children's Society introduced it to the Church of England in 1968 and it is now a popular, much-loved family event.



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