

## Christingle

We begin with an orange. As we hold it in our hands it reminds us that God made the world and He holds it in His hands. He knows everything and everyone in it. He made the world and He saw that it was good because He loved it. As we hold the orange we thank God that He holds each one of us in His love.

The four sticks with sweets and fruit stuck on them speak of God's provision of food for His creation, for you and me and everyone, growing through each of the four seasons. God gives His gifts to everyone because He loves them. He wants us to share His gifts and to love one another.

But sadly, we do not always share His gifts and love one another. Some take more than they need while others don't have enough. We quarrel, say and do unkind things and people can even hurt and kill each other.

God does not stop loving us. The red band around our orange speaks of God's love sending Jesus into our world, to be born as a baby in Bethlehem. He came to save us even though He knew that to do so He would suffer and die on a cross. But even death cannot destroy God's love. Jesus prayed as He was nailed to the cross, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' He died but rose again to new life on Easter Sunday.

And so we complete our Christingle by adding the candle which tells us that in Jesus the Light of God's love has come into the world. His light always shines in the darkness and the darkness can never overcome it because God loves us and Jesus died for us.

So as we light our Christingle today, let us be still and wonder at God's love for us. Let us thank Him for Jesus and pray that we may share all He gives us with others, not only this Christmas but always.

You may well want to eat the sweets on your Christingle before Christmas, but on Christmas Day try to find a time to light it again with your family around you and remember together this story of God's love for you.