

## WHAT'S ON AT HEADCORN PARISH CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS

### 11<sup>th</sup> December – 6<sup>th</sup> January. Outdoor Christmas Trees

Get into the real Christmas spirit by taking a walk along the church path as it gets dark and admiring all the Christmas Trees that have been sponsored by local businesses, organisations and residents.

### 11<sup>th</sup> December onwards – Tree of Remembrance

In the lady Chapel. Please bring your own pen with which to write on your stars (which will be available from 6<sup>th</sup> December).

### 13<sup>th</sup> December – Village Carol Service

This will be an on-line only event this year – but at least you can belt out the carols in your own front room.

### 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Story Trail

Pick up your map from the Lychgate between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> or between 11am and 2pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and start your trail around the village to find the posters that will point you to the true meaning of Christmas. Prizes for completed entries

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm in the Village Hall Car Park –

**Christmas Sing-a-long.** Wrap up warm and bring a torch or lantern to enjoy a socially distanced opportunity to sing your favourite carols and other Christmas songs.

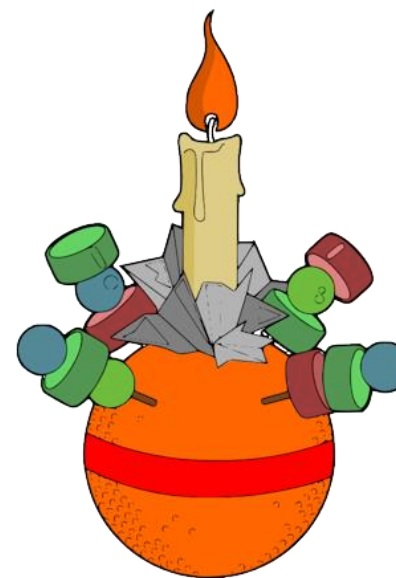
### 2pm onwards on 24<sup>th</sup> December – On-Line Headcorn Nativity

Unfortunately it will not be possible to have our family carols and crib service this year. However there will be an on-line Nativity available for you to watch and sing along to via our Facebook page and website.

**4pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December – Away in a Manger.** Let's all stand on our doorsteps and sing together!

More details available on our website – [www.handschurches.org](http://www.handschurches.org)

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Headcorn



# Christingle

## Goes Virtual

### Sunday 6 December 2020

## Instructions for making your Christingle

We are sorry that, in view of the current regulations, it is not possible for us to hold our normal family orientated service this year.

However, we hope that you will enjoy making your own Christingle at home and will take the time to think about the symbolism of the different elements. You may also like to try some of the fun games and activities that have been suggested in the accompanying leaflet. Templates are also available to download from our website. [www.handschurches.org](http://www.handschurches.org)

### Christingle (Christ Light)

The first Christingle dates back to 24<sup>th</sup> December 1747 when a German Bishop, Johannes de Watteville decided to make a special and meaningful gift for all the children at the Christmas service. However, it didn't look quite the same as the Christingles that we have today. Instead, it consisted only of a white candle, to represent Christ "the light of the world", with a red ribbon (or possibly a ruff) wrapped around it to represent the blood which he shed for us all. As the bishop gave out these first Christingle gifts he said the following prayer: "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these dear children's hearts".

Over the years the popularity of Christingle spread to many parts of the world until in 1968 it was adopted in this country by the Childrens Society. Today, thousands of churches and schools up and down the country hold Christingle services to raise funds for this very worthy charity.

Please do consider making a donation to the Children's Society now, there is an envelope in your pack which can be placed in the donations box in church.

- First take your orange – this stands for the world we live in. You will notice that a red tape has been wrapped around it. This reminds us of Jesus' blood which he shed for all of us because he loves us .
- Now ask an adult to cut a small slice off the bottom of the orange so that it will be able to stand up without falling over. Then, either cut a cross into the top of the orange, or use a potato peeler to make a hole in the top to hold the candle when you have finished everything else.
- Take 4 cocktail sticks – these stand for North, South, East & West and also Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. They remind us that God's love covers all places at all times.
- Put some dried fruit and some sweets on the cocktail sticks – the fruit reminds us of all the food that God gives us to eat, while the sweets symbolise the extra things that he gives us to enjoy.
- Now put your cocktail sticks around the hole that you have made in the top of your orange.
- Take the piece of aluminium foil and put it over the hole – this will protect the orange from any wax that might drip from the candle when it is lit and reminds us that God promises to look after us.
- Now put the candle in place and very carefully light it. This light reminds us of the light of Jesus coming into the world at Christmas. You may also like to say the prayer that was said when Christingles were first thought of, "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these dear children's/our hearts".
- As you look at the candle flame, notice how the light reflects off the foil – perhaps you can think about the way in which we should all be reflecting God's love to all those around us.