ST CHAD'S CHURCH, BAGNALL —NEWSLETTER 03.12.23

Christingles:

The roots of the practice lie with John de Watteville in Germany and an attempt to get children to think about Jesus. He started the tradition in 1747 in his Moravian Church congregation. At the time it was just a candle with a red ribbon given to each child. This represented Jesus being the light of the world and the final prayer of that first service was "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become". The custom went around the world with the church. Missionaries brought the Moravian Church to England in the 1700s.

The word Christingle could have come from several sources. It might be an 'English' version of the German word 'Christkindl' (meaning little Christ child), which is by far the most popular theory. It could also be a the putting together of the words Christmas and ingle. Ingle is an old Scots word for fire and so that would make it mean the 'Christ Light

Christingles were made popular in England by The Children's Society (one of the earliest children's charities in the UK and it has strong connections with the Church of England). The first Christingle service held in the Church of England was in 1968. The idea came from John Pensom who was also known as "Mr Christingle"! People didn't think the service would work as making the Christingles would be too complicated - but they were wrong! The custom has spread through to all kinds of churches and is one of the most common and popular Christmas services in the UK, especially among children.



The orange

represents the world.



The red ribbor

indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the cross.



The dried fruits and sweets

are symbols of God's creations. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.



The lit candle

symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.

CALLING ALL SINGERS:

We have been invited to go to the Stafford Arms on Saturday 9th December at 12.30 to sing a few carols. Santa is visiting the pub in the morning till midday and then there is a ukele band on at 3pm so we would be middle of the bill..

I have said yes and am hoping enough of you will join me otherwise its going to be a pretty poor show.

We will be singing outside so will need to wrap up warm – though we should be able to use their shelter.....

If you could let me know who can come asap then I can confirm to the pub. They will fuel us up with mince pies, coffee and tea.

Julia

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES:

You can now include your Christmas messages on the newsletter. Just let me know what you want to say by email, phone or in person (please write it down in this case as I've a terrible memory!)

I'm just getting everything ready for my two stalls at the Christmas Fayre tomorrow. I hope that I'll see you there and I don't have to bring too much stuff home!

Hopefully, I'll give you a write up of it all next week. So, fingers crossed for a good turnout and some much needed funds for our church.

December Services:

★ 3rd- Family Christingle service—★ Julia and Claire

↑ 10th—Carol by Candlelight at 4pm ★ Kathryn and Muriel
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 ↑ 10th—Carol by Candlelight at 4pm ↑ 10th—Carol by Candlelight

★ 17th—Holy communion—

★ Rev Barry

★

∴ 24th—No Morning Service

★ 24th— Outdoor carol service at 5pm -★ Family service team

24th—Midnight Communion at 11pm— Rev Barry

★ 25th—Christmas Day—no service

31st— To be arranged

Prayer Corner:

Christingle

Jesus said, "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

→ John 12:46

Jesus, light of the world,
You are the light that shines for all
people, a light which can never be
snuffed out.

Help us to protect the flame of your love
and hope for ourselves, and to reflect its
light for others in the way we live our
lives.

Amen.

Muriel



☆

Smiles:

☆

☆

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It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mum if he could have a new bike. So, she told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So his mum told him that would be fine. Sam went to his room and wrote 'Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.' But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.' He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.' He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. 'Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'

One Christmas eve, Pete and Jane were driving their Russian friend Rudolph back to his house. The weather outside was frightful.

Jane asked Pete, "Do you think that's sleet or rain out there?" "It's rain, Jane" said Pete.

"I think it's sleet, Pete," said Jane.

Rudolph chimed in, "It's definitely rain, Jane."

"No, I really think it's sleet, Rudolph" said Jane.

"Don't argue with the expert, Jane," said Pete.

"What do you mean, Pete?" asked Jane.

Pete replied, "Rudolph the Red knows rain, Dear.



