



The
Children's
Society

Christingle crafts and games

By Revd Mina Munns



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Introduction to this resource

The activities in this resource could be used in a children's or youth group to explore the meaning of Christingle and the work of The Children's Society. Some of them are themed around hope.

About the author

The Revd Mina Munns is Priest-in-charge and Pioneer Minister of the parishes of Cresswell and Lynemouth in the Diocese of Newcastle. Mina also runs the Flame Creative Kids website: flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk.



Christingle crafts

Crafts for thinking about Christingle

Playdough mat

You will need: Laminated copies of the playdough mat (see page 5), playdough.

Encourage the children to use playdough to add a ribbon, sweets, a candle, and a flame to their Christingle. They can fill in the flame with a model of something they'd like to say thank you for.

Top tips:

- It's a good idea to give each child a small bag with a pencil, some felt tip pens, and some playdough (if applicable) so that they all have their own supplies. They can also use this to store their crafts.
- Allocate a leader to each activity so that everything runs smoothly.
- You can also do these activities easily at home.

Christingle colouring sheet

You will need: Colouring pens or pencils, copies of the colouring sheet (see page 6).

Print out the sheet and let the children have fun colouring them in. Ask them to think about what 'abundant' life might mean. Do they have any examples?

A light for hope

You will need: Paper or card in a variety of colours, a hole punch, scissors, glue sticks or sticky tape, battery-operated tea lights.

Cut an A5 size sheet of paper or card. Use a hole punch and scissors to cut holes and shapes into the card. Roll the card into a tube and stick the edge down so that it stays secure. Make sure that the tube is wide enough to stand over the top of a battery-operated tea light. Switch the tea light on, and place it inside the tube, with the tube standing upright. Watch the light flickering through the holes and shapes you have cut. Think about the symbol of light on the Christingle and about how hope is like flickers of light in the darkness

World suncatchers

You will need: PVA glue, plastic lids (e.g. from large yoghurt pots), green and blue food colouring, a cocktail stick, spoon.

Pour PVA glue into the lid and spread it out with a spoon until the whole lid is covered in a thin layer. Drop some little blobs of food colouring into the glue and use a cocktail stick to swirl and spread them around. Try to make a distinction between land (green) and sea (blue). Leave to dry. When the glue is fully dry, lift the suncatcher out of the lid. Then punch a small hole in it and hang it in the window for the sun to shine through. Ask the children about their hopes and how they think they can help to bring hope to the world.



Crafts for thinking about hope

Paper towel rainbows

You will need: Kitchen roll, felt tip pens (must be water soluble), two cups or glasses, water.

The rainbow is a symbol of hope, and this craft helps children think about how we can grow hope together. Cut the kitchen roll paper into strips of about 10cm by 20cm. Divide the strip roughly into thirds. Colour each of the end thirds with rainbow stripes and leave the middle third blank. Put some water into two cups and place the paper strip so that each end of the strip is in a different cup, touching the water, and the blank part of the strip is stretched across the middle of the two cups. Watch as the kitchen roll absorbs the water and the ink begins to run. The rainbow will start to grow across the middle section and eventually become complete.

Pavement pictures

You will need: Chalk, a pavement or large paved area where you have permission to draw. Use chalk to make words or drawings about Christingle and about hope on the pavement or path.

Christingle games

Christingle scavenger hunt

You will need: A scavenger hunt sheet for each child (see page 7), a small bag or matchbox for each child.

This game is best played outside in daylight. Give each child a scavenger hunt sheet and set them off to find something in nature that fits each category. If they want to, children can use the bag or matchbox to collect what they come across. Make sure that you issue health and safety warnings about not eating anything they find. Set a time limit (perhaps 10 minutes) and then bring everyone back together to share findings. Link each item on the hunt to the various parts of the Christingle.

Scavenger hunt checklist of things to find: Something round, something red, something flame-shaped, something you can share with others, something heart-shaped, something yellow, something orange.

Christingle pictictionary

You will need: Flipchart paper, a felt tip pen for every player.

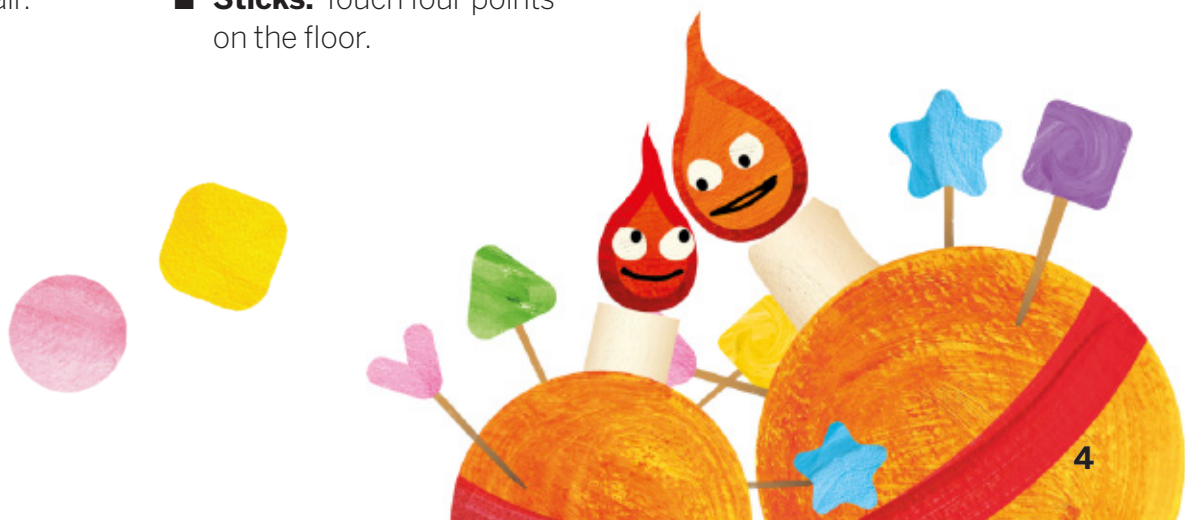
Divide into teams. Each team chooses an artist to come forwards to the leader to receive the first word on the list. The artist goes back to the team to draw a picture of the word. When the team guesses the word from the picture, a second artist is chosen to tell the previous answer to the leader and then receive the next word. The process repeats until all of the words have been guessed. The first team to complete all of the words is the winner.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ■ orange | ■ world | ■ candle | ■ blood |
| ■ sticks | ■ love | ■ Jesus | ■ sweets |
| ■ gifts | ■ ribbon | ■ light | |

Christingle actions

Children run around, keeping out of the way of each other, until one of the following words is shouted. When the word is shouted, children must do the associated action. This is a great game for running off steam but you could make it competitive by eliminating those who are last to perform the action or who do the wrong action by mistake.

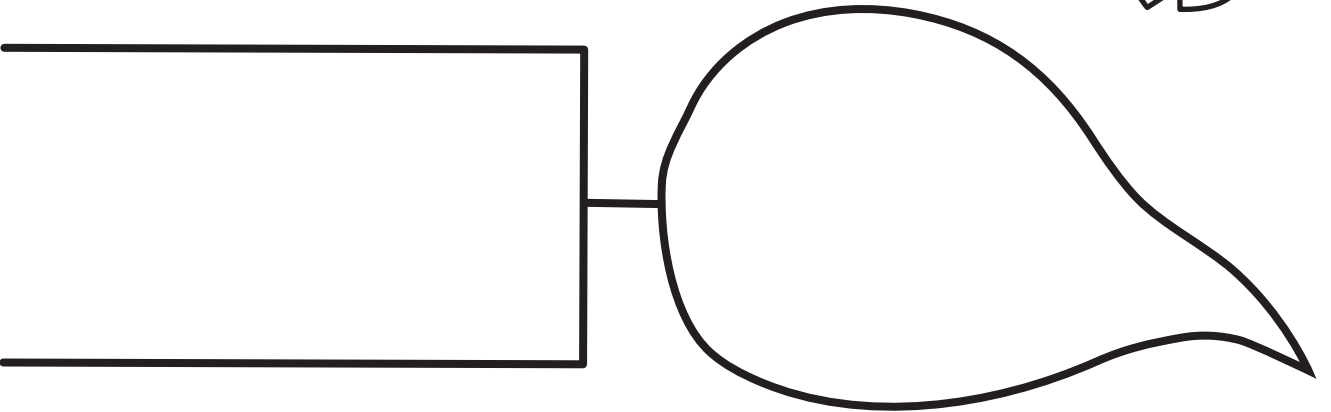
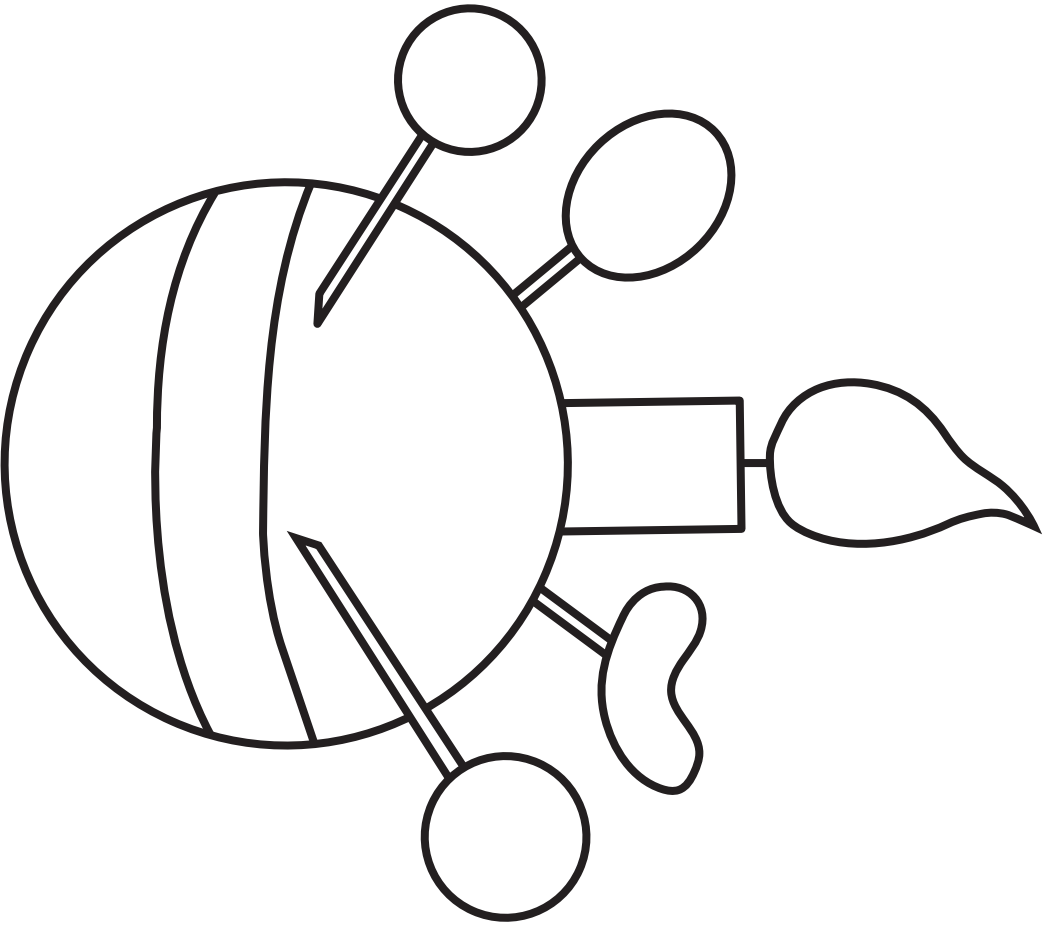
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|---|---|------------------------------------|
| ■ Orange: Curl into a ball. | ■ Ribbon: Hold arms in a circle in front of you. | ■ Sweets: Jump up and down. |
| ■ Candle: Stand up tall and wave fingers in the air. | ■ Sticks: Touch four points on the floor. | |



Templates

1. Playdough mat

Christingle

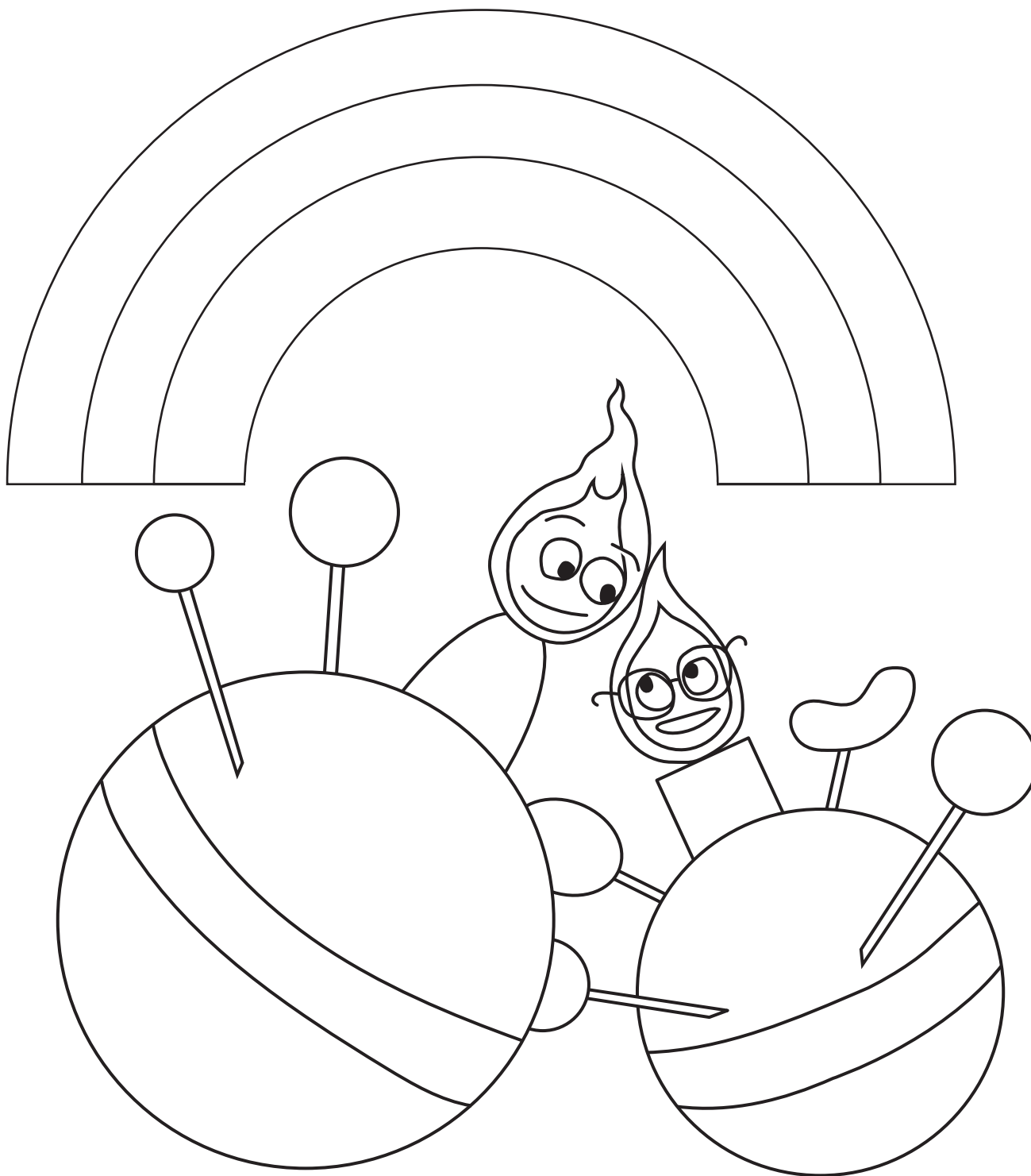


Use playdough to add a ribbon, sweets, a candle and a flame.

In the flame, make a model of something you would like to say 'thank you' for.

**“Jesus said, ‘I came that they may
have life and have it abundantly.’”**

John 10.10



3. Christingle scavenger hunt

Something
round

Something
red

Something
flame-
shaped

Something
you can
share with
others

Something
heart-
shaped

Something
yellow

Something
orange