

LIGHTING UP CHILDHOOD FOR 40 YEARS

24th Jul 2008

Parishioners in the Diocese of Coventry raised over £15,500 for The Children's Society in 2007 by taking part in their local Christingle services. This year, the charity celebrates 40 years of Christingle with the Church of England and hopes to raise more funds than ever to help give all children in the UK a better childhood.

Over the past 40 years, thousands of heart-warming candlelit services have brought families into church and communities together to celebrate and explore the Christian faith, while raising millions of pounds to help disadvantaged children.

In 2007, more than £1.2m was raised at over 6,000 services across the country, making it the most successful fundraising year to date. Over a million people celebrated the Light of the World at Christingle services across the country, bringing together families and friends.

The Children's Society hopes to make this year even more special and is calling on volunteers to organise a service in the Diocese of Coventry. Organising a service couldn't be easier with The Children's Society's wide range of Christingle resources. These free resources, developed in partnership with the Church of England's Children's Work Advisers, give you lots of ideas for Christingle services. With liturgy, prayers, posters, school and children's activities, stickers, collection candles and a Create-a-Christingle guide, it's never been easier to make your Christingle service a success.

Help The Children's Society reach its aim of more services and fundraising by organising your local Christingle service. Call 0845 300 1128 or visit www.christingle.org for your free Create-a-Christingle Worship pack and find out how to get involved.

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Images of Christingle events are available on request.
Notes to Editors

The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK. Our national network of centres and projects deliver specialist services for children who face danger or disadvantage in their daily lives. Our schools work, children's centres and mentoring programmes help children develop the skills and confidence they need to play a full part in their local communities, while our research and campaigning creates real change, making childhood better for all children. Visit www.childrengsociety.org.uk

Christingle is one of the most popular children's services in Britain also enjoyed by adults. Over half a million children take part in the celebration during the traditional period – November to February. Christingle is a

custom of the Moravian Church and originated in 1747 and was introduced to the Anglican Church by The Children's Society in 1968.

The Good Childhood Inquiry – the UK's first independent national inquiry into childhood – is managed by The Children's Society. The inquiry's final report and recommendations will be published in 2008. For more information please visit www.goodchildhood.org.uk

Visit our website at <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>

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