



**The
Children's
Society**



**Worship At Home
Third Sunday of Advent: A Christingle service with
The Children's Society
13th December 2020**

WELCOME

The Rt Rev Libby Lane, Bishop of Derby and Vice-Chair of Trustees, The Children's Society

A very warm welcome to this, our first ever national online Christingle service. I'm Bishop Libby Lane and I welcome you to my chapel here at Bishop's house, my home in Derbyshire. As well as serving as Bishop for this county and city, it is my privilege to be Vice-Chair of Trustees for The Children's Society, who introduced the service of Christingle to the Church of England just over 50 years ago.

Christingles this year will look very different with many like this one happening online. And although we can't gather in person through the wonders of technology, it is a privilege to be able to share the Good News of the light and hope of Jesus who always shines in the darkness.

During our service today, we'll be visiting Canterbury and Gloucester cathedrals to find out more about the meaning of Christingle. And we'll be lighting Christingles together as a reminder that the light and hope Jesus brings always overcomes darkness.

WELCOME AND A PRAYER

The Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and President of The Children's Society

It's wonderful to be with you all. We don't know much about Christmas this year. It's going to be different, that we do know. But one thing is the same because Christmas is different every year in every family, sometimes in happy ways, sometimes in sad ways.

And that's why The Children's Society is around. And all over the world, children will be celebrating Christmas in all kinds of good ways and less good ways. Some in refugee camps and war and others in lovely, secure places of warmth and comfort and love. But one thing never changes. However great the darkness, Christmas has at its heart the idea that the light of God comes into the world.

The light of Christ comes into the world, into our lives, into the creation. That light is celebrated at the Christingle.

In the darkness of winter days it brings together churches, schools and communities to celebrate the light, the light that always overcomes the darkness. We make Christingles to symbolise the world. That's the point of the orange because it's round and it's like the world. They have the fruit of the earth on them, all the good things that the world produces for us. And if you're sensible like me, you slowly eat the fruit on your Christingle through the service to give you energy. Although you will be told that that is the wrong thing to do.

They have a red band round them, which reminds us that Jesus came and died on the cross. It's the red band of the love of Jesus shown in the shedding of his blood on the cross.

And they have a light, which is the light of Christ. And we light that light to say to ourselves, we will be light in the world. We'll be the presence of Jesus. One way in which that happens is that through the Christingle celebrations, which raise about 1.2 million pounds a year for the work of The Children's Society, there is support given to some of the most vulnerable children and young people.

Many of them are in very dark places, physically, spiritually, economically lacking love and care. And The Children's Society comes in with light and it's a light of warmth and hope. By taking part in your service, by helping The Children's Society, you're directly helping those children who need your help. I support passionately the work of The Children's Society.

I want to thank them for what they do. And I want to thank you for being part of this service and for bringing the light of Christ to those who so desperately need it. I'm going to end with a little prayer, praying for this Christmas, for the light, for The Children's Society:

Lord Jesus, light of the world.
As I hold this Christingle
and think about Your great love for me
and for those especially in
places of darkness at this time,
give me strength,
give us all strength to take
this light into the world,
to share your love with others,
especially vulnerable
children and young people.
And we remember particularly before you,
the work of The Children's Society,
guard and bless them.

All Amen.

SONG

Light of the World

Sung by Joanna Forest, accompanied by Joel Goodman

Light of the World, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.

Chorus

*Here I am to worship;
Here I am to bow down;
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly you came
To the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

I'll never know,
How much it cost,
To see my sin
Upon that cross.

Chorus

Music: Tim Hughes
Words: © Adonia Verlag

Introductory words from the Rev Phil Greig at All Saints Church, Canterbury, with pupils from St John's C of E Primary School

GREETING

Christ has brought us out of darkness
All To live in his wonderful light.

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, Royal President of The Children's Society

As Royal President of The Children's Society. I'm delighted to take part in this year's national online Christingle service. I have happy memories of attending the wonderful celebration of the 50th anniversary of Christingle in Salisbury Cathedral two years ago and meeting the excited school children who took part. Christingle is a much-loved Christmas tradition in many churches, schools, and communities up and down the country.

And this year, the light and hope symbolised by Christingle is needed more than ever. It is a comfort to many that despite the challenging circumstances, Christingle services such as this, would be happening in new and creative ways.

Wherever and however they take place. I hope they will be joyous occasions for communities across the country. Christingle services also make an important contribution to the vital work of The Children's Society.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attend and take part, the charity's work to support some of the UK's most vulnerable children and young people can continue and help to change lives for the better. This work is also more important now than ever as vulnerable children and young people have been hugely affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

For some, their mental health and wellbeing has worsened. For others, the challenges of poverty has been even more acute. Since the coronavirus outbreak, I have been keeping in touch with The Children's Society and have been heartened to learn about how they have adapted their services, giving support over the phone or online to children who may be isolated or unsafe at home. And continuing to support young people, including young carers, refugees and migrants remotely.

I know that The Children's Society will continue this work to champion the hope and happiness of young people. As we come together to celebrate Christingle, I wish you and your family and communities a peaceful and joyful Christmas season.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Led by the Rev Phil Greig at All Saints Church, Canterbury, with pupils from St John's C of E Primary School

Each Sunday in Advent, we light a candle on the Advent wreath to remind us of those who prepared the way for Jesus, the light of the world. And on this third Sunday in Advent, we remember John the Baptist.

Light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day and as we celebrate the light of Christingle, help us to be ready to welcome you now.

All Amen.

(Times and Seasons: Prayers at the lighting of the Advent wreath, Advent 3)

OPENING RESPONSES

As we think of those who prepared the way for Christ, we say

Jesus, Light of the World,
All Shine in this place.
Jesus, Light of the World,
All Shine in our hearts.
Jesus, Light of the World,
All Shine in our lives.
Jesus, Light of the World,
All: Shine in all the earth. Amen.

SONG

People Look East

Sung by St Martin's Voices

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though the earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
he for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Tune: Besancon

The Rt Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, at Canterbury Cathedral

Hello, I'm Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover in the Diocese of Canterbury. I am delighted to be taking part in the first ever national online Christingle Service. As a parish priest, the Christingle service was not only a favourite of mine but also for the families in our parish and the children in our local school.

We would spend the time making the Christingles, getting many people involved, even my local shopkeepers would purchase the oranges and it would be a wonderful service for the children, as together we talked through the story of the different elements of the Christingle. The red band, the four seasons of the year, the fruits, the light of Christ in the centre of that Christingle. I miss being in the parish and those wonderful Christingle services.

The Children's Society is an important organisation. Important because of the work that it does with vulnerable children and young people. They believe in the potential of every child and young person. Your support of The Children's Society is in effect supporting these children and the young people they work with. They seek to empower young people to make positive changes and rediscover their sense of hope. They want a future for the young people and for the children. A future that they can look forward to. A future that they can ensure that they flourish.

Working alongside young people is at the heart of what The Children's Society do. And they not only work directly with these young people but they also work with the families and communities. So it's a real holistic work being done. And I hope that you will support The Children's Society so that this important piece of work can continue.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

Read by the Rt Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

SAYING SORRY

*Led by the Rt Rev Rachel Treweek and pupils from Bluecoat C of E Primary School,
Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire*

Welcome to Gloucester Cathedral. My name is Bishop Rachel and I'm the Bishop of Gloucester. And every year we're delighted to hold a Christingle service in this cathedral and children from all over the diocese, from our schools come and take part. Sadly, this year we can't do that but I am so glad that we are taking part in the first ever national Christingle service online.

And of course, one of the things we do at Christingle is celebrate the amazing work at The Children's Society. The Children's Society support children and young people in some of the most difficult places of struggle and pain in our country. Children and young people who are experiencing places of real darkness. This Christingle service has much to say about that.

That reading we've just heard from the Book of Isaiah written hundreds of years before Jesus Christ came to earth, it reminds us that our world is far from perfect and that many people in our world, including children and young people are living in situations of darkness, of struggle, of pain. It's very easy for us to point the finger at other people and blame other people for that but the truth is that each of us is a little bit broken.

Each of us has added to the world's darkness. So before we say sorry to God and join in with a prayer of confession, let's keep a few moments of silence to think about those times when we have added to the world's darkness and the world's brokenness. Let us pray.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

In a dark and disfigured world
we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Bishop Rachel

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

WHAT'S A CHRISTINGLE?

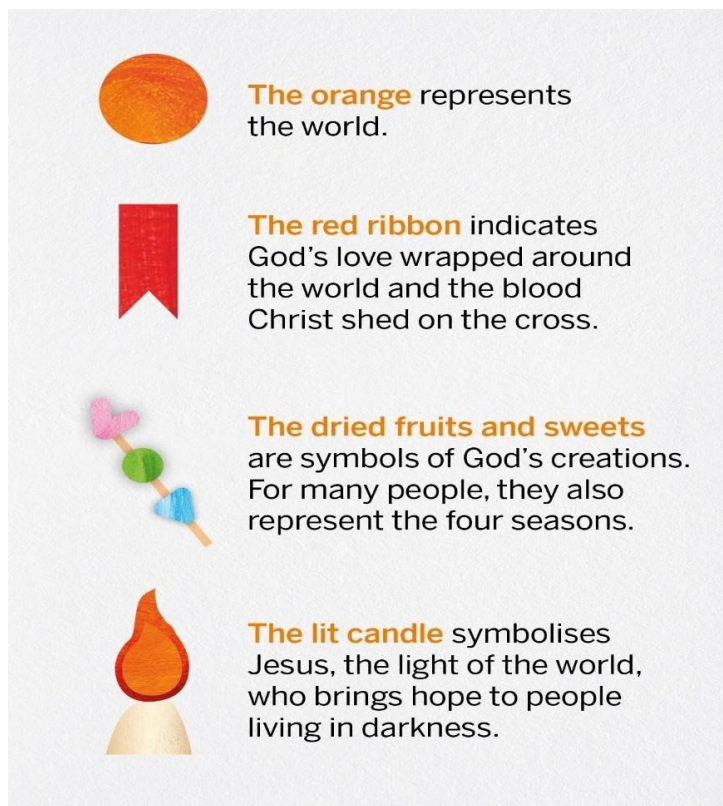
Bishop Rachel, pupils from Bluecoat C of E Primary School and a special guest!

Let's invite on our Christingle. Oh, look at this wonderful Christingle! Now I'm hoping you are going to help us understand what this means. Strange-looking Christingle! First of all we've got the orange. Who can tell me what the orange means? Does it represent the world? The world, the beautiful world which God created. And then there's this big red ribbon that goes around the orange. What does the red ribbon stand for? God's love for the world going right around the world. And often when we draw love hearts they're red, aren't they? The colour of our hearts. So reminding us of God's love for the world. And then I think my favourite part, we have the cocktail sticks covered with sweets and dried fruit. Who knows what those mean? All the good things that God gives us.

So we've got the world, God's love for the world. The four seasons. All the good things that God gives us. And then last but not least, the candle. What does the candle tell us? The candle is Jesus, the light of the world. Here in the middle of our Christingle.

And we're remembering that God loved the world so much that Jesus came into the world to show us what God's love is like. Jesus loved us so much that Jesus died for us but Jesus came to life again. And even if it was really, really dark in this cathedral, the tiny flame of the candle could still be seen because Jesus' love and light and hope can never be put out by the pain and struggle and even death in our world. So what a wonderful Christingle. Thank you so much for helping us understand what the Christingle means.

The elements of the Christingle



How to make a Christingle

What you will need:

- 1 orange
- 1 candle
- Square of foil
- Red tape or ribbon
- 4 cocktail sticks
- Selection of dried fruit and sweets
- Pair of scissors or a small knife

What to do:

1. *Make sure adults supervise young children throughout. Also ensure that long hair is tied back and that everyone keeps a safe distance away from candle flames at all times.*
2. *Take an orange and fasten a piece of red sticky tape around the middle.*
3. *Cut a small cross in the top of the orange and lay a square of silver foil (75mm or 3 inches square) over it.*
4. *Place a candle on top of the foil and wedge it firmly into the orange (the foil should catch the hot wax as it drips).*
5. *Load four cocktail sticks with a mixture of dried fruits or sweets so that the points are covered and insert around the base of the candle.*

Christingle scavenger hunt!

A little later in the service we're going to be lighting our Christingles. Don't worry if you haven't got a pre-prepared Christingle to hand.

You can either colour in the Christingle on p.13 or you can have a Christingle scavenger hunt and find items in your home that represent the different parts of the Christingle:

- What do you have in your home that represents the world, God's beautiful creation? Eg: Something round, a globe or a photograph of a lovely place?*
- What represents the love of God to you? Eg: Something red, something heart-shaped or a precious piece of jewellery?*
- What do you have that represents God's good gifts? Eg: Something natural like a piece of fruit or some shells, a photograph, or even a cuddly toy in the shape of a favourite animal!*
- What do you have that represents Jesus the Light of the World? Eg: A candle or a lamp.*

Go and find them now while we join together in 'Sing Christingle!'

SONG

Sing Christingle!

Sung by Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church Choir, conducted by David Ogden

The Christingle begins with an orange,
telling us of the world God made.
By the fruits of the earth in their seasons
We can see the love of God displayed
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.

God of love, we give thanks now for Jesus;
we remember his birth again.
But the red ribbon round the Christingle
tells the story of his cross and pain.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.

To complete the Christingle: a candle,
shining out in the darkest night.
Jesus promised to lead us and guide us;
come and celebrate the world's true light!
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.

Words: © Mark Earey (1998, 2003)
Tune: Sing Hosanna!

GOSPEL READING

John 1.6-8,19-23

Read by a pupil from Bluecoat C of E Primary School

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

TALK

Mark Russell, CEO, The Children's Society

VIDEO

The Children's Society: What we do: video

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

Led by pupils from Bluecoat C of E Primary School

Jesus said, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light'.
Jesus, you came as the light of the world,
we pray for the places where there is darkness and danger,
and for the work of The Children's Society
in sharing your light.

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not stop them'.
Jesus, you gave children a special place in your kingdom.
We pray for children in trouble and in need,
and for the work of The Children's Society
in sharing your promise of hope.
Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus said, 'Love one another, as I have loved you'.
Jesus, you cared for those who were poor and those who were sick,
and you made friends with the people that nobody else would love.
We pray for those in need in our community, our nation and in the world, and for
the work of The Children's Society in sharing your love.
Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus said, 'Shine as lights in the world'.
Jesus, you call us to act justly and with kindness.
We pray for wisdom as we work to make the world a better place
and for the work of The Children's Society
in fighting for hope for all children and young people.
Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Led by a pupil from Bluecoat C of E Primary School

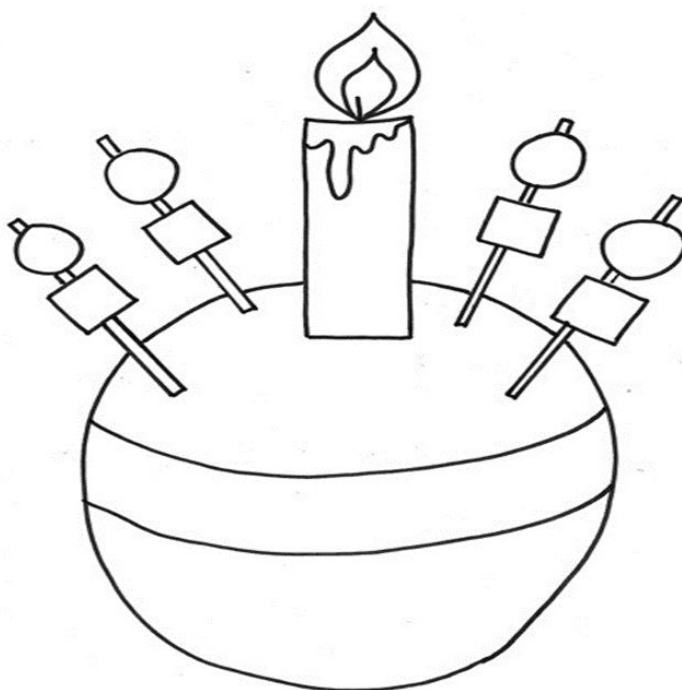
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTINGLES

Led by the Revd Phil Greig and pupils from St John's C of E Primary School, Canterbury

We are now ready to light our Christingles. So with your parents or your guardian, take a hold of your Christingle and light it with the first prayer. But if you don't have a Christingle that's okay. If you're colouring in the Christingle, then colour in the appropriate parts as we say each prayer. Or if you have done the scavenger hunt around your home, then reflect on those items you've found, as we say these prayers together.

Don't worry if you haven't got a ready-made Christingle to hand. You can join in by colouring in the Christingle below.



Lord Jesus,
Light of the world,
I hold this Christingle as a sign of your love.

All **May we share your light in the darkness.**

The candle, planted deep within the world,
as a sign that you made your home among us,
and lived with the poor and neglected.

All **May we share your light in the darkness.**

The ribbon, wrapped around the earth,
a sign of your love shown on the cross,
enfolding the whole world with your saving love.

All **May we share your light in the darkness.**

The fruits and sweets, signs of all the good things you have made,
given to us that we might share them fairly
so everyone can have enough.

All **May we share your light in the darkness.**

Lord Jesus,
Light of the World,
as I hold this Christingle
and think about your great love for me,
help me to take this light out into the world
and to share your love with others,
especially those who need it most.

All **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
St Martin's Singers

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
(Chorus)

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
(Chorus)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
(Chorus)

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
(Chorus)

Words: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)
Tune: Christ be our light

THE SENDING OUT

The Rt Revd Libby Lane

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go into the world
To walk in God's Light
To rejoice in God's love,
and to reflect God's glory.

All Amen.

CLOSING WORDS

Thank you so much for joining us today for our Christingle service. And just a reminder to visit christingle.org/2020, to record your own message of hope for a vulnerable young person or child, and to find out how you can support those young people and children who are most in need through the work of The Children's Society. Thank you.

Acknowledgments

Halina Johnson and Frances Morrison, Bishop of Derby's office

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Joanna Forest and Joel Goodman (accompanist and arranger)

The Revd Susannah Brasier with Mrs Penny Edwards and the Parish of St Laurence, Upminster

The Revd Phil Greig and All Saints Church, Canterbury

Jo Williamson (Headteacher) and staff and pupils of St John's Church of England Primary School, Canterbury

Emily Martin, Kensington Palace

Anna Drew and SJ Martin, Diocese of Canterbury

The Dean and Chapter and the staff of Gloucester Cathedral

Mark Ryan (Headteacher) with Jane Blaken and pupils of Bluecoat Church of England Primary School, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire

The Revd Fraser Dyer and the Parish of St Anne's and All Saints Church, Vauxhall, London

The Revd Jeremy Fletcher for help with the order of service

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Gill Behenna

Music performed by the St Martin's Singers, Directed by Andrew Earis, Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church Choir, conducted by David Ogden and Joanna Forest, accompanied by Joel Goodman

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