

CHRISTINGLE BY CANDLELIGHT

Bignor Church - Christmas Eve 5.00 pm

streets, or enough being done to prevent children running away. Thousands of children still find themselves homeless and alone, causing long-term repercussions and irreparable harm to young lives. The Children's Society helps with somewhere safe to go and someone sound to turn to.

The Snowdrop Trust helps families to cope with the day-to-day problems of caring for a very sick child by providing nursing, emotional and financial support, at home - surely the best place to be!

Giving gives as much pleasure as receiving at Christmas, and in a small way, we can contribute to such a worthy cause.

We look forward to seeing you at Bignor on Christmas Eve - when Christmas really starts.

Visit the Children's Society website at:

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>

And the Sussex Snowdrop Trust website at:

<http://www.thesussexsnowdroptrust.com>

The shops are closed, the presents wrapped, the tree decorated, the office closed, work over (!), so what better way than to start Christmas in an ancient, candle-lit church, singing and seeing the wonder of Christmas on the faces of children of whatever age, from 5 to 95.

Held in the light of over 500 candle flames, this special and moving service, which originated in the Moravian Church in 1747, will raise money for the vital work of the Children's Society, a voluntary organisation of the Church of England and the Sussex Snowdrop Trust, which provides care at home for children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses.

The Moravian Church established Christingle as a powerful and moving symbol of Christ's light and his love for all people. The Children's Society introduced it to the Church of England in 1968 and it is now a popular, much-loved family event.

No one knows for certain when the word "Christingle" was first used or from what it derived, but wherever the Moravians went in the great outreach of missionary evangelism in the 18th and 19th centuries they took with them the custom of the Christingle.

There is still nowhere near enough safe emergency accommodation to protect children at risk on the

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