

The Christingle

The Sunday School children of St. Hilary's were so excited when their Sunday School teacher, Miss Esther, told them that she would teach them how to make a Christingle! They had always enjoyed the Christingle service where they would all receive their very own Christingle and then light the candle on it. Eating the dried fruit and sweets was VERY much enjoyed too when they took them home!

(The Christingle is a vehicle through which The Church of England Children's Society raises funds to continue their valuable work with vulnerable children and young people.)

Find out how they enjoyed their lesson on the Christingle here.....Miss Esther has asked some of the children to bring some of the items required to make the Christingles.

Adele has brought a bowl of dried fruit and sweets and is guarding it with her life. Robert Alexander has been



entrusted with the task of bringing some white candles.

Hasn't he done well as he hasn't dropped ONE on the floor!



Emily too, like Adele, has brought a bowl of dried fruit and sweets for the Christingles.



Adele comes over to show off the bowl of dried fruits and sweets she has brought to both Emily and Robert Alexander!

Georgie, Robert Alexander's pet dog, can only look at the sweets and dried fruit and drool as Robert Alexander has told them very firmly they are NOT for her! Poor, poor Georgie! Lets hope that Robert Alexander gives her a specially big bone as a treat when he takes her home because she has been such a good girl today.

Who have we here? It is none other than young Tom!

Tom was asked to bring a jar of sweets along. He decided to go and buy LOADS and LOADS of dolly mixtures! As you can see he has not only brought a big jar, but also a little glass dish of them too!

Adele is VERY jealous! She too loves dolly mixtures.

Let's hope that there will be enough dolly mixtures to put on the Christingles as the children may well be tempted to eat many of them!

Phoebe has brought along some red ribbon!



Magnifi-Cat, the church cat, thinks it is for him and is staying around to see if Pheobe lets him play with it!

Ambrose and Ben have both brought some oranges. Miss Esther has brought some cocktail sticks too so we now have every ingredient necessary in order to make some Christingles!

Find out what all these different items mean that make up the ChristingleThe Sunday School children of St. Hilary's were so excited when their Sunday School teacher, Miss Esther, told them that she would teach them how to make a Christingle! They had always enjoyed the Christingle service

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Miss Esther has decided to use the blackboard to pin up some overhead material from the Church of England Children Society in order to explain all about the Christingle.

Here she is showing the children a drawing of an orange.

Miss Esther explains that the orange represents the world.



Alice has been asked by Miss Esther to explain what the red ribbon means.

Alice tells the children that the red ribbon represents the blood of Jesus Christ who died to save everyone's sins. Megan is quite fascinated with this as you can see.

Miss Esther explains to the children that the four cocktail sticks represents the four corners of the world and the four seasons of the year, Spring, Summer, Autumn (or "The Fall") and Winter.



The fruits and sweets represent all the good things God gives to us all. Ah.....Tom just HAD to come up to examine this drawing of sweets more closely. However he wanted to know why they did not look like his favourite sweets, dolly mixtures!

Alice tells the children that the candle on the Christingle represents Christ, the light of the world.

In the Christingle service, this candle is actually lit as part of the ceremony.

The children all listened intently and were immediately keen to have a go at making these Christingles themselves!



Each child is given one orange to begin with by Miss Esther.

Adele is in quite a quandary! She has had to have both a bowl of dried fruits AND dolly mixtures close at hand as she tries to choose which ones to put on her four cocktail sticks.



Tom has been very good and has managed to put his four cocktail sticks in the right places on the orange!

Megan is very impressed! However - who else is also impressed? It is Syd, the pigeon. He is SO impressed he is in danger of jumping down to the little table Tom is working on in order to take a few sweets and dried fruit.....watch out Tom!

As if that isn't enough for poor Tom to cope with Tinker, the cat is trying to get his attention too. Does Tinker want some sweets and dried fruit as well?!



Adele is doing well here! She has chosen to have a go at putting the red ribbon around the orange after becoming a little frustrated deciding whether or not to have some dolly mixtures as well as dried fruit and sweets on her cocktail sticks.

Magnifi-Cat is having a little chat to Georgie. They both agree that the children are MOST unfair in not letting them have even ONE sweet or piece of dried fruit? They know that they are all meant for the Christingles but surely the children, Miss Esther and Alice could have spared just one small sweet or piece of dried fruit for them each?

The children have now spent quite some time, or so they feel, making Christingles for the Christingle service.



As you can see they have done really well. Tom is proudly showing his first completely one off to you all! Well done Tom!



PrayerTime in St. Hilary's.

The Sunday School children always remember to spend some time praying.

They have especially learnt to pray at their bedside before going to sleep. When they pray they always like to ask God to bless their Mum and Dad, their brothers and sisters and, indeed, any other family and friends that are dear to them. Of course they NEVER forget to ask God to bless themselves too and keep them safe as they sleep.

Poppy loves her teddy bear, Big Ted, so she always likes to remember him when she prays too. She prays that she will never forget to take him home when he comes with her to church. She would be so lost without him in bed beside her at night. He always makes her feel safe and secure.

The children often wonder if Magnifi-Cat prays too. Indeed he does!! He would be SO lost without the children visiting him in church. He must pray that they are safe when they go home so that they will be able to return to church on the following Sunday. Of course the children don't come to church JUST to visit Magnifi-Cat but he really believes that they do. He is a very vain cat.

The children have been taught to pray what is called "The Lord's Prayer".

This is a prayer that Jesus himself taught his disciples to use when praying to God:



**Our Father
Who art in heaven
Hallowed by 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**

Who's Who

The Clergy

The Reverend Gyles Ponsenby-Smyth is the resident vicar of St. Hilary's! He was originally living and working in Australia but has come to England in his retirement to take up the post of vicar of St. Hilary's!



Rev Ken is actually the father of both Poppy and baby Clarissa. They are SO pleased that their daddy was asked to become the curate at St Hilary's. Poor mummy, however, is often at home on a Sunday cooking lunch!



Bishop Cuthbert is actually a cousin to the vicar. He returns home after a long time travelling around the world. His pet dog, Bardsley, is delighted to have him back at home again!

Bishop Cuthbert normally only comes to St. Hilary's on special occasions as he is SO busy working for his diocese.



The Congregation

Esther is St Hilary's Sunday School teacher.



Alice enjoys looking after the younger children in the Sunday School and, when away from church, enjoys her dancing classes. She hopes to be a ballerina when she grows up.



Ambrose is Alice's boyfriend. He is the son of a local farmer. Although his father, who is bringing him up on his own, is not very well off, they pride themselves on working hard and keeping clean and tidy.



Rita is a "lady of the road" who has travelled from Australia and has found refuge in St Hilary's



Homer is a man of the street who has found temporary refuge in St Hilary's. The children are kind to him and love to put pennies in his hat. He arrived with his pet pigeon and rat.



Mr. Stephen Sebastian George Davies is the VERY lucky husband to Esther, the Sunday School teacher.



Miss Enid is the resident church organist.



The Sunday School Children

Amelia is the intellectual of the group. She is a very demure young lady who's intelligence means she gets bored easily.



Benedict is a bit of a show off and loves to perform to the Sunday School girls.



Clara is the lady of the Sunday School.



Emily is the tomboy. When not obliged to wear a dress and come to church you would probably find her up a tree.



Megan is a little girl who is easily fascinated by everything around her. She always enjoys her time in St. Hilary's and NEVER gets bored.....even during a long sermon from the vicar!



Phoebe is very shy and lacks confidence. However her dolly helps make her feel more secure when she visits St Hilary's and joins in the Sunday School activities.



Priscilla Jane always loves to pray on her knees with her hands together - she looks so angelic doesn't she?



Baby Clarissa is such a good baby. She just loves to watch the older children play and perform in church.



Thomas is a little monkey but always charms his way out of troubles with his appealing little face.



Poppy is the prim one.



Robert Alexander is a rather nonchalant young lad who is rather lazy in his manner. He refuses to come to church at all if he can't bring his dog, Georgie, with him.



Adele is a very helpful young "Miss" who is very proud of her long plaits!



Grace or "Gracie", as her friends like to call her, loves to stand and sing whilst playing her tambourine in church!



The Church Wildlife and Pets!

Magnifi-Cat the church cat is very cunning. However he keeps letting the children and their antics distract him so he has yet to catch Nunc Dimittis the church mouse.



Nunc Dimittis the church mouse is a very courageous mouse because he enjoys teasing poor Magnifi-Cat terribly and has always got away with it.....so far.....



Homer's pet rat, Sepp, loves her master and loves to guard his hat so that nobody steals the pennies the children put in it.



Syd, the pigeon, travelled with Homer from Germany. He is devoted to Homer and would never leave him.



Georgie is Robert Alexander's pet dog, a King Charles Spaniel. She loves to go with her master to church despite the vicar not being too pleased to see her week by week! She gets up to quite a few antics of her own too!



Esme and Ernest are a pair of Mallard ducks who live in the local pond near the church. They particularly love young Ambrose and are prone to following him into the church when he attends!



Belle lives locally with VERY caring people. That is why she looks so well groomed!

However she does love to escape when they aren't looking to join her friend, Tinker, the black and white cat. They love to get up to mischief together. Belle often sneaks food from her dog bowl to feed Tinker if she has not had enough to eat - isn't that kind of her?



Tinker is a local feral cat who fends for himself as nobody has time to look after him. That is why he is so small and thin! He loves to come in to church and play with the bell ropes. He sometimes manages to ring the smallest bell and wake the vicar up who lives in the vicarage next to the church!



Tinker's best friend is Belle, the poodle, with whom he goes everywhere.

Bardsley is Bishop Cuthbert's dog.



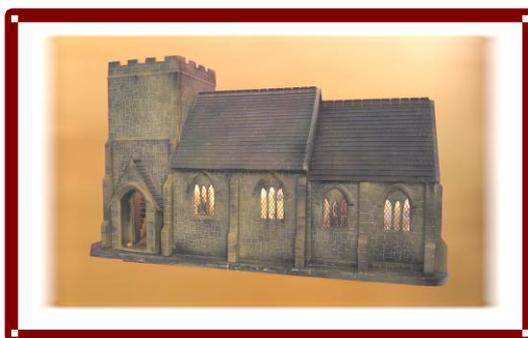
St. Hilary's Credits!

St Hilary's would simply never have happened at all if it weren't for all of our friends and contributors. Many thanks to them all and you can find out who they all are below.....

- **Vic Newey** for putting this church together from a kit by Dollshouse Direct AND for modifying it as well as adding his own special effects to the decor too. Vic is also responsible for the bells in the belfry on our Easter Sunday pages. Thanks Vic. Vic used to work for the BBC doing special effects on such famous television series as "All Creatures Great and Small".
- **Jane Davies** for many of the porcelain dolls seen here including all the children, bride and bridegroom. We particularly thank her for providing Priscilla Jane, our praying doll, "Robert Alexander", our "lazy boy", and "Ambrose" as three special commissions. They are all true works of art and we are thoroughly delighted with them all!
- **Catherine Davies**, my sister, for knitting an exquisite silk bridal gown (*designed by Lesley Roberts*) for my bridal doll, for knitting the dress for the baby doll and tea cosy. (*coffee and cake events*). Catherine is also responsible for virtually all of the synthetic clay food (*cakes and vegetables seen on our harvest and coffee and cake event pages*), and all the frogs, tadpoles and crayons seen in this book too. Catherine also made the fimo flowers for our Mothering Sunday and the sunflower for our Trinity Flower Festival. **Catherine** now has her own website: www.dollshouseheaven.co.uk Visit her site to see more of her exquisite work both in miniature fimo food and her miniature knitting!
- **Petit Fleur** for providing the beautiful bridal bouquet seen on our Wedding page.
- **Stockton Miniatures** for providing the most beautiful church furniture made out of black walnut.
- **Lorna Webb**, for providing all of our teaching material for the Sunday School. See Appendices for all lesson plans and templates. The clothes peg story line for the organ blessing was adapted from a true event Lorna related to us – thanks Lorna!
- **Pocket People - Sarah Schiff**, for providing our church cat, Magnifi-Cat and Georgie, Robert Alexander's pet dog.
- **Daniela Kiefhaber** of **Microdolls** for providing Homer our resident tramp, and our curate, the Rev Ken! Thanks Daniela!
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- **A J Miniatures** for providing us with the flower arrangements on our Coffee Afternoon.
- **Simply Silver** for the two silver candlesticks on the altar and pair of silver scissors.
- **Rachel Fritz**, sister of Lorna Webb, for our vicar, The Reverend Gyles Ponsenby-Smyth, and Rita, the "lady of the road". . We visited Australia in August 2004 and were able to collect them from Rachel who lives in South Australia. Thanks Rachel for all of your hard work - our new vicar and a "lady of the road" are nothing short of "perfectionate"!!
- **Irmgard Gritzan** for our rat, Sepp, and all of our mice infestations together with our new white furry mouse too!
- **John Cheal** of "Saved in Time" for the hand carved brass **eagle lectern**, (*modelled on the one in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford upon Avon where he is a parishioner*), **paschal candle**, **processional cross** (*made for us on behalf of a friend and also modelled on the one in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford upon Avon*), **two manual pipe organ**, **altar rail**, and the **tea trolley** . John is an expert model maker who works in both wood and non-precious metal. He is pleased to receive commissions and particularly enjoys doing "one off" commissions. .
- **Stephanie Lee**, Sarah's first cousin, for making our vicar's surplice from a pattern by Sue Harrington and also making our Bishop Cuthbert a purple shirt. Thanks "cous"!

- **Miniatuur Boekbinden** for the score of Mozart's "*Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*" and music stand seen on our Wedding page.
- **Nicola Mascal** for her kneeler/hassock designs that Catherine Davies has hand stitched for us from kits put together by Nicola.
- **Dave Taylor** for the miniature SLR camera and the presentation unit under the bell tower.
- **Tiny Tails Miniatures** for the beautiful pair of mallards, Esme and Ernest, the butterfly and for Percy the spider.
- **Ursula Stürmer** for the miniature pearl choker worn by our bride and Sunday School teacher, Miss Esther, on her wedding day.
- **Mike Sparrow**, silversmith, for our chalice, paten and bone handled knife used on our Wedding page.
- **Frances of Buttercup Miniatures** for the crochet angel on top of our Christmas tree, Tinker and Belle who both arrived as casualties with broken tales – now mended of course, Valentine's Day cards to name but a few and also the Victorian coffin cover which I, Sarah, crocheted for Ernie's Thanksgiving Service!
- **Dateman Books** for our visitors' book and new hymn books.
- **Danny Shotton** for our quill pen and ink pot which is teamed up with our visitors' book.
- **Oak Tree Dolls House Miniatures** for the muddy wellington boots on newspaper seen on Ernie's Thanksgiving Service.
- **McQueenie's Miniatures** for the coffin which Catherine Davies made up for us from the kit.

CAVEAT: *We have tried to include as many of our contributors as possible. However, due to the volume of items we buy from various suppliers/retailers, it is impossible to list everyone. If you recognise your work do let us know and we will gladly add your name to our list of credits.*



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