

Christingle at Christ Church



Report by: Alan Byrom

The Christingle service is held each year at Christ Church on the Sunday nearest to Candlemas. That is the day when we remember Jesus the baby being brought to the Temple in Jerusalem. The elderly Jewish man Simeon proclaims the child to be ‘a light for revelation’ to all people. Christingle means Christ-light and we celebrate by means of christingles which were made this year by the Brownies and the parents in the Tots and Toddlers group.

The christingles are oranges, to represent the world, with red ribbon tied round them, to represent the blood of Christ who died for the world. The orange has cocktail sticks stuck into



it, with fruits and sweets on them, to show God’s provision for the world. On top of the orange is placed a candle which stands for the light of Christ over the world. This year, we welcomed the Music Group from the Solway

Plain Team of churches, organised and led by Rev Sharon Swain, the Team Rector, based at Langrigg. They played the music for the songs in the service. Mothers from the Tots and Toddlers group led the prayers and read from the Bible.

At the end of the service, the christingles were presented to the Brownies, Rainbows and the other children and the candles lit from a central candle that had been lit at the start of the service. It was an informal family service that was much enjoyed and was followed by refreshments.

State Bitter in Parliament



Carlisle State Bitter, which is brewed in Silloth at Derwent Brewery was on sale in the Strangers’ Bar in the House of Commons recently. This is the second time the beer has been welcomed in Westminster, it was previously a guest beer in 2003. Normally guest beers last for a couple of weeks but our ever popular pint usually only lasts a few days with discerning MP’s and their guests. Carlisle State Bitter was promoted by our MP, Tony Cunningham, who has always appreciated it’s high quality.



Parachute Bee
by Kieran Brooks aged 8 from Holm Cultram Abbey School

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