Christingle

The Children's Society

# How Christingle helps

# Thank you

**By bringing your community together to Christingle, you are creating hope for children across the UK. Thank you so much.**

It's true that our children are facing many challenges. But it's also true that, together, we can write a very different story for childhood in the UK. As a Christingler, you're part of a nationwide community of people determined to change children's futures for the better. Your compassion will change lives, and I really can't thank you enough for being with us.

**Mark Russell, Chief Executive of The Children's Society**

# About The Children's Society

Across the country, young people's needs are being ignored, with those facing abuse, exploitation, or mental health struggles only receiving help at crisis point.

At The Children's Society, we know a brighter future is possible. We provide complete support that's specific to every child and challenge the government to deliver policies that will protect children. A future of hope and happiness belongs to every child. Together, we can make sure that no child has to face life alone.

# The difference you make

**Thanks to you,** we delivered **77 crisis support services** across the UK last year ...

helping more than **57,652 young people directly ...**

and almost **3,547 parents and carers.**

**And more than 77,307 amazing supporters** like you got involved through volunteering, donating, fundraising, and campaigning.

You're making a brighter future possible for young people across the country.

**Thank you so much.**

"I felt like I was free for the first time."

**Callum**

Callum found school stressful and lonely. He was bullied, physically and verbally, and never felt able to be himself. He felt terrified about how people would react if they found out he was gay.

Eventually the bullying became too much. **"There were multiple times when I was being hit, taunted, being pushed away by people, just for being who I was,"** Callum says. He ended up moving schools to try and find safety.

Callum found solace in connecting with people online. But some of those people were not who they pretended to be, and Callum was groomed online. Thankfully the adults in his life became aware of this, and Callum was referred to one of our exploitation services before the situation escalated. It proved a turning point.

After a few months of one-to-one support, Callum joined one of our youth groups. He found acceptance and the space to be himself. **"It felt empowering to just be myself around other people, be who I wanted to be and show people who I am,"** he says.

Callum began using his experiences and his voice to advocate for other young people, speaking at panel discussions and creating positive change in his community. **"The Children's Society had a very big impact on me,"** he says today. **"I felt happier, more interested and motivated."**

This is the kind of transformation your Christingle can make. **Thank you for your support.**

*"If we help young people out earlier, they may become a better version of themselves."*

**Callum**

*To protect this young person, their name and identity has been changed. Photos posed by actors.

**Thanks to amazing Christingle organisers like you, we're able to be here for young people when they need us most – and we love hearing about your joyous celebrations.**

"It's a local tradition and a great way of getting children and families into church."

**Christensen**

"We hold a Christingle service every year and it is a tradition in the village on Christmas Eve. It is a wonderful way of telling the Christmas story and a great way to reach out to the community."

**Jane**

"It is the best attended church service all year, so we welcome having our church full and raising some funds for The Children's Society."

**Mike**

## Are there other ways I can support The Children's Society?

Yes – lots! Here are some ideas.

**Campaign and help bring about change.**

**Donate at one of our shops.**

**Volunteer as a speaker and inspire others.**

**Get your community involved in a fundraising event.**

For more inspiration, speak to our Supporter Care team or visit **childrenssociety.org.uk/support**.

You can also sign up to our free monthly prayer email subscription. Find out more at **childrenssociety.org.uk/support-in-church**.

**The donations raised at Christingle services can make a big difference for children and young people. Here's how:**

**£20** could pay for art supplies for a young person who's feeling low, giving them a creative outlet and a way to express what they're feeling.

**£45** could enable a child to have an intensive half-hour cognitive behaviour therapy session with one of our trained practitioners to help them self-manage their emotions.

**£90** could provide vital hygiene and health kits for three young people living in poverty or in unsafe housing.

**£180** could fund regular vital check-ins between a project worker and three children who are depressed or expressing suicidal tendencies to make sure they're safe.

**Share your celebrations with us!**

You can let us know about your Christingle experience by contacting:

**facebook.com/childrenssociety**

**@childrensociety**

**@thechildrenssociety**

**Share your story #Christingle.**

# Thank you

Every day, we see the incredible difference the right support can make for young people when they're struggling. Your generosity is making it possible for us to be here for them when they need us most — so that no child has to wait for support. Thank you.

**christingle.org.uk**

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