

Christ In GLE?

You'll need a child planted near the front to ask the question at the beginning. Make sure that everyone will be able to see and hear them.

How do you pronounce GLE? Good question. I'd say it like the first part of Glenda, but your mileage may vary.

Christ In GLE?

Welcome to our Christingle service, and I'd like to start by ... (child from congregation puts hand up) Oh, umm, I'll take questions at the end, if that's OK.

As I was saying: Welcome to our Christingle service and ... (child waves hand insistently) ... The toilets are at the back on the left.

I'm sorry about that, everyone. Welcome to our Christingle ... (child jumps up and down waving hand in the air) ... Is there something you want to ask?

(Child) Yes there is! What's a GLE?

I'm sorry, I didn't catch that.

(Child) What's a GLE? You keep talking about a Christ In GLE, but what's a GLE?

Christ In GLE? What *are* you talking about? (realising) Oh, Christingle. I see what you mean. You're right, it does say that. Christingle, Christ in G-L-E. So what is a GLE? That's a very good question. Thank you (name).

I wonder what G-L-E could be?

Perhaps it's the **Gifts Left Enticingly** under the tree, Santa's **Grotto Left Empty**?

I wonder how many more you can spot. Keep a count.

Maybe the best part of Christmas is the food. Who doesn't like all the festive nosh, the **Giant Lunch 'Elpings**, washed down with **Generously Ladled Ethanol**, and **Glasses Long Emptied**? Christmas is the time when we all **Get Less 'Ealthy**, but **Generally Like Everything**.

Meanwhile the relatives are doing their thing. **Granddad Likes Eggnog** and has **Googly Lopsided Eyes**, while we're wondering if the dog has swallowed **Granny's Lost Earring**, because **Golden Labs Eat** all kinds of stuff. It can all get a bit much and we're quite relieved when **Guests Leave Early**.

We flop on the sofa afterwards like **Grumpy Little Elves** because we've **Got Little Energy**. Perhaps gazing at the **Glowing Log Embers** or watching TV, whether that's the sport, **Good Luck England** (or team of your choice), or the Christmas specials with their **Good-Looking Entertainers**.

The tree is a **Green Leafy Example** of a **Gorgeous Lighting Event**, covered in **Glittery, Lovely Embellishments**.

That's a lot of G-L-Es. How many have you got so far? (20)

Is Christ In all of those, like it says in Christingle: Christ In all of our G-L-Es? I'd say yes!

Substitute your own Christingle talk here if you like.

If we look at our Christingle, we can see the orange, round like the world, so this is for everyone in the world. Are you in the world? Yes, good, so am I.

We have the four sticks representing the seasons; spring, summer, autumn and winter, or the four directions; north, south, east and west, so this is for all time and all space. Pretty big, eh?

What do we have on the sticks? We have good things to eat, which remind us that God loves to give good gifts to us all.

What is around the orange? That's right, a red band. This tells us the world is broken, it's not as good as it should be, because we spoil God's wonderful world when we are mean or selfish or when we hurt the people God loves. It's sticky tape because the world needs mending.

But God had a plan to fix everything, and make us right in his eyes. That plan is Jesus, and the candle at the top reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, the one who shows us God's love and lights up our lives.

So is Jesus just for the bits of Christmas that we do in church? Is Christ only in the **Gentle Lullabying Evensong** as the choirs sing carols by candlelight? Is it only about a **Girl Looking Expectant** as she arrives in Bethlehem? The shepherds in the field, shocked **at Gabriel's Loud Entrance**? The **Gift-Laden Easterners** arriving on camels?

Sure, Christ is in all of these, but Christ is also in our everyday, our **Gravy Lumps Exploding** as the Christmas dinner goes terribly wrong, our **"Get Lost Everyone"** when we've really had enough, our **Greasy Leftovers Existing** in the fridge long after the festivities have finished. Christ In ... all of it.

Because the point of Christmas is **God Lives 'Ere**, right here with us, every day and every place. Christingle. Christ In **God Loves Everyone**.

Happy Christmas.

Oh, and how many GLEs did you spot? (29)

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Christingle

