

2018-12-02 ... 4pm Christingle Talk ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt
Isaiah 9: 2a and 6a

Now then – yet more candles!

Would someone like to come and help me to light them?

And now – I need 4 volunteers to come and sit on these choir benches ... each will have a little job to do ...

I'd like you to imagine that you are about 8 or 9 years old
And these candles represent ... are rather like your life

You are enjoying most days (*Lights lowered*)

But then things start to go wrong for you ... so let's have the lights down a bit

Your Mum becomes ill

Candle number 1 out front

You have to start helping her at home

– you're the one looking after her and not the other way round (*candle 1 blown out*)

Then your best friend moves away

Candle number 2 out front

None of your other friends really understand why you have to stay in so much

And soon they stop asking you to join in (*candle 2 blown out*)

Because your Mum is ill and can't work – there's less money for the family

Candle number 3 out front

You have to drop out of some of the clubs you'd joined

You feel even more lonely than before (*candle 3 blown out*)

Then you hear that your favourite teacher at school – the one you could talk to – has moved away too

Candle number 4 out front

You are feeling more and more tired with everything you have to do at home

You're struggling at school (*candle 4 blown out*)

You're not sure what to do; things have changed so much

But you do remember a Christingle service you went to

You remember that you heard that:

Jesus is the light of the world and that his light will never disappear

and you realise that there is still some light with you

You pray and ask Jesus for help

A few days after that – one of the teachers that you don't know very well - stops you and asks if you're OK

And all of a sudden – everything pours out.

The teacher listens well, talks with your Mum, and then gets in touch with the Children's Society ... who come along, listen and then act ...

PTO

And life starts to get better again
You have a different teacher you can talk to
Candle number 4 lit again

The Children's Society worker sorts some grants out so that you can re-join your clubs
Candle number 3 lit again

There's someone in two of those clubs who has just moved to Whitchurch and you make a new best friend – great for both of you
Candle number 2 lit again

And the Children's Society worker talks with various others – and your Mum gets more help so – although you still do some things for her – you're not as tired
Candle number 1 lit again

You can have a better life again – you can enjoy your childhood
Volunteers to sit down (*Lights turned up again*)

That story – and variations on it – is happening lots of times up and down the country. It's why we give money today to the Children's Society and it's why we are glad that Jesus came – and is our light

James is going to come now and read a Bible passage about this:

Isaiah 9:2a and 6a:

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

As we move through Advent and towards Christmas – this is why Christmas has such a happy, joy-filled message ... the child who was born – Jesus – is still with us today and will help us.