

# Magic Lanterns



The activities in this Programme link to the new Squirrel Smile Award I'm Caring by learning something about the Christian faith, thinking about helping others and some recycling!

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive at the meeting place – colouring or simple puzzles can keep children occupied until all the Drey arrives or use a 'joining-in' style game, such as 'The farmer wants a wife' or 'Duck, duck, goose' or a circle format ball game.

Add snack time where necessary!

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	<p><b>ACTIVITY: Magic Lanterns</b>            Give each Squirrel a pre-cut container (if the Drey is large, perhaps the Squirrels could bring their own the week before so that Leaders can cut out a hole below the handle ready to use on the night!)            The Squirrels can scribble all over the plastic with crayons or permanent markers or (an easier but messier alternative) cover with glue and decorate with torn up pieces of brightly coloured tissue paper.            Name the lanterns on the base with permanent marker and insert a battery nightlight or small LED light into the base through the hole in the back of the container and secure with a sticky fixer!</p>	Empty clean plastic milk containers with lids Crayons/coloured permanent markers Coloured tissue/glue Battery nightlights or LED lights Sticky fixers
10	<p><b>GAME: 1,2,3 Lantern Bright</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Play this game in the same format as 1,2,3, Red Light</i></li> <li>○ <i>The Squirrels creep from one end of the hall to the other where a Leader stands with their back to the Squirrels</i></li> <li>○ <i>The Leader says at random '1,2,3 Lantern Bright!' and spins round, shining a torch – the Squirrels must freeze!</i></li> <li>○ <i>Anyone still moving is spotlighted by the torch and should return to the start and creep up again!</i></li> </ul>	None
10	<p><b>ACTIVITY: Lantern Parade</b>            On Saint Martin's Day, celebrated across Europe in November, children parade at night with brightly lit lanterns.            If the area around your meeting place is suitable - why not go outside for a lantern parade!            If not, turn the lights off and parade around inside in the dark!            Sing the song, 'Magic Lanterns' (below), as you parade around!            Why not listen to the special song children in Germany sing about the lantern parade – 'Laterne, laterne'            Search for 'Kinderlieder deutsch zum Mitsingen. Laterne, Laterne, Sonne, Mond und Sterne' on YouTube  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cV1o_JlgWY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cV1o_JlgWY</a></p>	Lanterns           Song words
10	<p><b>ACTIVITY: Saint Martin's Day Story</b>            Tell the Squirrels about Saint Martin – there is a short story below.</p>	Story



10	<p><b>ACTIVITY: Saint Martin's Day Goodies</b>  Tell the Squirrels about the Saint Martin's Day bag given to children in Malta to celebrate his feast day. Share some Saint Martin's Day goodies with the Squirrels – sliced apples, orange segments, selection of dried fruit and maybe a small portion of brioche roll to represent the Saint Martin's bread roll!  NB no nuts are included but be aware of any other allergies</p> <p>Discuss how the Squirrels could do something with their families to help those in need at Christmas time. Perhaps they could give toys to a Christmas toy appeal, often organised by the Salvation Army.</p>	Selection of fresh and dried fruits Brioche roll
5	Closing, Home	

## Saint Martin

A story tells that a long time ago, a Roman Soldier called Martin was riding along in a terrible snow storm. He had a long journey ahead but all he could think of was getting home for a hot drink beside a big, warm fire.

Suddenly he saw a poor beggar lying on the road, the weather was so bad that the man would freeze to death if he didn't get shelter. Martin quickly jumped down from his horse and cut his cloak in half with his sword. He wrapped the beggar up in the material and carried him to a nearby inn where the man would be looked after.

Later that night Martin had a strange dream – he dreamt that Jesus was wearing half of his cloak. Then Jesus turned to some angels and said, 'Here is Martin, the Roman soldier who is not baptised, he has clothed me.'

Martin became a Christian and refused to continue being a soldier, he didn't want to hurt anyone ever again. He was put in prison for this but when he was free again he became a monk so that he could help people and teach them about Jesus.



## Note for Leaders:

It is said that – *'an act of simple generosity transformed Martin's life into a selfless quest for holiness and compassion'* Chambers Encyclopaedia of Saints

Leaders might like to look in the Bible at Matthew 25 reading from v: 34 to the end of the chapter *'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'*

This has echoes of the story of Papa Panov's Special Christmas by Leo Tolstoy – a beautiful and inspiring Christmas tale.

After Martin's death at Tours, hundreds of villages and churches in France were dedicated to him and his shrine at Tours became a major centre for French pilgrimage. He is the patron saint of France, beggars, innkeepers and soldiers. His feast day is celebrated in many different countries with many different traditions, such as lantern parades - for Christians the lighted lantern has echoes of Psalm 119 v: 105 – *'Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path'* and could also be reflected in our 'Magic Lanterns' song!

On his feast day children in Malta receive Saint Martin's bags – small fabric bags filled with nuts, dried fruits, oranges, apples, pomegranates and a special Saint Martin's bread roll!



## Magic Lanterns



### **Magic Lanterns** *(sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, twinkle little star')*

Magic lanterns burning bright  
Shining in the darkest night!  
Light our path with your glow  
So we see the way to go!  
Magic lanterns burning bright  
Shining in the darkest night!

