

RE Knowledge Organiser - Year 2 - Christianity

1.3 Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Key Vocabulary

Incarnation	God in the flesh
Nativity	The birth of Jesus Christ: the occasion of a person's birth.
Gospel	Any of the four books or the Bible that contain details of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The first four books of The New Testament in the Bible - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
Christmas	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December in the Western Church. Literally means Christian Mass or Christ's Mass . Mass is the central act of worship culminating in the Eucharist (the sharing of Bread and Wine).
advent	The period of four weeks before Christmas; the beginning of an event.



The Angel Gabriel visits Mary and tells her that she will have a baby who she will name Jesus, and he will be God's son.

Mary visits her relatives Elizabeth and Zechariah. Elizabeth is pregnant, despite being very old.

An angel visits Joseph and says: "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem. When they arrive, they have no where to sleep, until an Innkeeper offers them his stable.

Mary gives birth to Jesus in the stable, wrapped him in white cloth and lay him to sleep in a manger filled with hay.

Whilst Mary and Joseph, and the newborn Jesus, slept in the stable, some shepherds on a hillside that overlooked the city of Bethlehem saw a bright star in the sky. As they watched the bright star shining over the city, an angel came down from the sky and told the shepherds that the Son of God had been born in the city, and they should go to him.

The shepherds left their herds and came down from the hillside to find the newborn baby. They visited Mary, Joseph, and Jesus at the stable and knelt before them to pledge their love to the Son of God.

Far away in the East, three wise men also saw a bright light in the sky. These wise men were kings from the countries far to the East of Bethlehem. They took the bright star as a sign that a new king had been born, and they began to follow it.

The three wise men followed the star to Jerusalem, where King Herod ruled. They assumed that the new king had been born to Herod. They spoke to Herod and asked to see the child that would be the King of the Jews. This news troubled Herod, who believed himself to be the King of Kings. The wise men left Jerusalem to continue their search.

Eventually, the three kings reached Bethlehem, knelt before the baby and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. That night, they all shared a dream from an angel. They were warned not to tell King Herod where Jesus was.

