

## Vocabulary

**Nazareth** a city in Israel with a biblical history.

**Jerusalem** a city in the Middle East.

**Bethlehem** a Palestinian town south of Jerusalem. It is the biblical birthplace of Jesus.

**census** the census is a count of all the people in a country on one particular day and is taken every ten years.

**manger** a box or trough in a stable or barn from which horses or cattle feed.

**frankincense** a substance which is obtained from a tree and which smells pleasant when it is burned.

**myrrh** a natural substance extracted from a number of small trees which has been used throughout history as a perfume, incense, and medicine.

## Key Questions

What is the story of the first Christmas?

How do churches prepare to mark Christmas?

What are the key messages in our Christmas performance?



# Christianity

## RE Y3: Christmas



## The Christmas story

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. Mary was told by an angel that she would give birth to God's son. Soon after, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Mary travelled on a donkey. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a humble stable as all of the inns were full with people returning for the census. Near Bethlehem, Shepherds were watching their sheep when a bright light appeared. It was an angel and she told them that the Son of God had been born. They visited him. Far away, three wise men saw a star and knew that it meant a great new ruler had been born. It guided them to the stable where Jesus was. When they arrived, they worshipped Jesus and gave him gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh.



## Christmas church celebrations

Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways. The story of Jesus' birth, called the nativity, is often retold by children in nativity plays. Church services often hold a carol service and start Christmas Day with a midnight service, called Midnight Mass. Christians often celebrate Christmas by giving and receiving presents which reminds them of the gift of Jesus.

## The Christmas Carol Concert and visit to a church



## Links to prior learning and next steps:

The meaning and importance of Christmas (Y1/Y2)  
Christmas differences (Y5)

## Links to other subjects:

English: fronted adverbials  
English: poetry  
Personal Development: being part of a community