Year Group: 3 **Worldview:** Christianity

Enquiry Question: Has Christmas lost its true meaning?

Core Knowledge

God chose a Jewish young woman called Mary, who was engaged to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his earthly son.

He sent his angel, Gabriel, to ask this of her. Mary agreed to allow this to happen, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is the Christian concept of "incarnation": God becoming man or literally being "made flesh". Jesus was born in a stable and was visited by a variety of people from very different social classes. There is a significance to the people and places which appear in the Christmas story.

Key Vocabulary

Shepherds: first people to learn of the birth of Christ.

Star: The star led the wise men from a great distance to Jesus. It also portrays to Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

Wise men and their gifts: The wise men travelled a great distance because the star signified to them that a king had been born. They chose gifts fit for royalty and which signified Jesus' life to come.

Stable: Earthly royalty would be born in a palace, but Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room at the inn.

Impact on Believers

Shepherds were told first signifies to Christians that God loves the poor and outcast person.

Stable as a place of birth signifies to Christians that Jesus had no need of pomp or finery because he was not an earthly king. It is also an indication that there would be no room for Jesus in the lives of some people he would encounter in his life because they believed that he did not fit the traditional Jewish idea of the Messiah

Key Questions

Do I celebrate Christmas? What do I like about it if I do?

Can I see a difference between what Christmas might mean to a Christian and what the more commercial messages are?

What is important to me at this time of year?