Year Group: 5 **Worldview:** Christianity

Enquiry Question: Is the Christmas story true?

Core Knowledge

The Bible records the important events in the life of Jesus in the Gospels.

The Gospels were probably not written as events happened. They would have been told and retold before recording, therefore specific dates and times may have become unknown (or irrelevant)

The fixing of a festival date to commemorate an event does not necessarily have to happen on the actual date of the event (e.g. The Scouting/Guiding movement chose the birthday of the founders, not the actual date they first started the movement).

The Gospels which retell the birth of Jesus agree on the main points and disagree on nothing.

Key Vocabulary

Gospels:
literally means "good news", books of the New Testament recounting Jesus' life.

Gospel 'writers':
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – four of Jesus' disciples.

Disciples:
Jesus' special friends

Truth:
historic fact, scientific truth, personal truth i.e. belief/faith?

Impact on Believers

The Christmas story is a basis for belief for millions of Christians across the world and has been widely believed by the Christian Church for millennia. Having four biblical accounts of Jesus' life, including two of his birth, is seen as being incredibly enriching to a Christian's understanding of what happened and what it means. People notice different elements of a scene and recount it in their own way. Therefore, the definition of "true" would depend on the writer, and the understanding of the person reading the account, as well as on a person's definition of 'truth'.

Key Questions

What do I believe about Christmas? Do I need to believe the story is true to celebrate at Christmas time if I want to?

Are there other stories I have learnt about that may or may not be true? Does it matter or is it more important that I understand the message in the story?