

Key Vocabulary

Christmas	A Christian festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.
gratitude	Being thankful.
tradition	The passing on of ways of thinking, acting and/or believing. There are lots of different traditions, ranging from those which impact a society (for example The Queen’s speech in the United Kingdom on Christmas day) to traditions within a family or group of friends (for example going out for a meal on Christmas Eve).
love	There is more than one type of love . There is romantic love , love for a friend, love within a family, the love you have for yourself and the love you show to strangers.
associate	To link or connect.

Love

Christians celebrate **Christmas** every year and believe it is a time focused on **love**. They believe this as it celebrates the arrival of their Saviour, Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus went on to die for their sins by sacrificing his life on the cross. Christians feel this shows God’s **love** for people and the world. They spend the **Christmas** period reflecting on God’s **love** and their **love** for each other. It is important to Christians to demonstrate acts of **love** at this time of year to show their **gratitude** to God.

Jesus’ arrival on earth is important to Christians. They recognise Jesus as the Son of God and believe he was sent to earth to save humans from sin.



Associations and Traditions

There are lots of different words, acts and ideas that are **associated** with **Christmas**. These might be objects such as hats and decorations or they might be acts such as wrapping presents.



Christians believe that all acts of God **associated** with **Christmas** are connected to **love** and God’s **love** for people.



Christmas traditions may include:

- Sending cards
- Giving gifts
- Singing **carols**
- Eating **Christmas** dinner
- Decorating a tree

Key Vocabulary

incarnation	To become flesh.
paradox	A contradictory idea.
carol	A type of religious song particularly associated with Christmastime.
commercialism	A focus on making money.
charity	Giving help to those who need it (often by raising or donating money or by volunteering).
vulnerable	Those who are in need of additional support, care or protection because of their age or a disability, or due to a risk of harm.
secular	Not connected with religion.

Incarnation and Paradoxes

Incarnation is an important idea in Christianity. It is all about how God became human in the form of Jesus and suffered as a human can do. Christians believe that God is an all-powerful creator and a pain bearer and that through his **incarnation** as Jesus, he was not a 'big giant in the sky', but a regular human with qualities found in all of us. God being an all-powerful creator and a vulnerable human is a **paradox**.

One of the ideas behind the 'true meaning of **Christmas**' is helping others. As a **vulnerable** baby, Jesus was forced to flee to Egypt to escape King Herod. This made him a refugee. At **Christmas**, people often do charitable acts to help the **vulnerable**, including refugees.

The 'True Meaning of Christmas'

Christians celebrate **Christmas** each year. They believe that the 'True Meaning of **Christmas**' involves showing **gratitude** to God for what he did and remembering the birth of Jesus Christ, by worshipping him, giving gifts and thinking of the poor and less fortunate.

Christmas cards can be **secular** or Christian. Christian cards show the true meaning of **Christmas** by displaying important images from the **Christmas** story to remind Christians about why they celebrate **Christmas**.

Christmas carols often celebrate different parts of the birth story of Jesus. However, some are more focused on traditions associated with **Christmas** and are sung as general celebrations of the **Christmas** festival.

Some people argue that the 'true meaning of **Christmas**' is now lost and that **Christmas** has instead become victim to **commercialism**.

Other people disagree with this and say that the important messages of **Christmas** are still remembered.

