

Christmas!

Have you ever wondered where Christmas comes from? Why do we give presents, cards, kiss under mistletoe? Read on!

A brief history

In short, Christmas is a Christian celebration on the 25th of December, to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God.

The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service (which is sometimes called Communion or Eucharist) is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life.

There are many theories as to why it is celebrated on the 25th of December, especially as it is thought that Jesus was not in fact born at this time. A very early Christian tradition said that the day when Mary was told that she would have a very special baby, Jesus (called the Annunciation) was on March 25th – and it's still celebrated today on the 25th March. Nine months after the 25th March is the 25th December!

Christmas is now celebrated by people around the world, whether they are Christians or not. It's a time when family and friends come together and remember the good things they have. People, and especially children, also like Christmas as it's a time when you give and receive presents!

There are a number of items and traditions that have become synonymous with Christmas but do you know why or where they came from...? Select the images below to find out their origins.

