

# Meanings within Christmas and Divali

## What do Christians believe?

- 2000 years ago Mary and Joseph travelled for about seven days on a donkey, from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
- Angels were sent as a messenger to God. The shepherds, who were quite ordinary people, were shocked to be visited by an angel.
- In the book of Luke, the shepherds visit Jesus.
- In Matthew, the wise men visit Jesus and bring gifts.







## Bethlehem

- Bethlehem is an important place for Christians because it is the place where they believe Jesus was born.
- Some Christians make a pilgrimage (a sacred journey) to Bethlehem.

## Divali

- Divali is a Hindu 'festival of light' which celebrates the New Year and honours the goddess Lakshmi.
- Lamps are lit to help guide Lakshmi into people's homes.
- The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil and light over darkness.

## Comparing Christmas and Divali

	Christmas	Divali
<b>Decorations</b>	Christmas trees are put up and decorated, as well as other decorations around the house. 	The home is decorated with lights, and Rangoli patterns are often made in the house. 
<b>Food</b>	A Christmas dinner is prepared, usually turkey, to be eaten together as a family. 	A special meal is prepared to be eaten together as a family. 
<b>Gifts</b>	Presents are exchanged on Christmas morning. Santa visits children to bring gifts too.	New clothes are worn and gifts are exchanged.
<b>Beliefs</b>	Celebrates the birth of Jesus. 	Celebrates New Year and the goddess Lakshmi. 
<b>Rituals</b>	Some Christians attend midnight mass or a service on Christmas Day.	Doors and windows are left open for Lakshmi to enter the home.