

<p>Year 3 Unit 2B: CHRISTMAS Week 5 Title: Advent</p>	
<p>Learning Intentions: AT1: To know that Advent means ‘coming’ - and that it is a time when Christians prepare for Jesus’ coming at Christmas time. AT2: To think about ways in which we prepare for Christmas at home (or school).</p>	
<p>Assessment: AT1 L2: I can use the word Advent correctly when I talk about Christmas. AT1 L3: I can describe ways in which Christians keep Advent. AT2 L2: I can join in discussions about how we prepare for Christmas in my house (or school). AT2 L3: I can discuss how all the preparations and waiting for Christmas to arrive make it more special.</p>	
<p>Key Words: Advent Advent calendar Advent candle Advent ring (or wreath)</p>	<p>Resources: Teacher’s Information on the Church’s Year Children’s Bible or Good News Bible Advent ring and candles Advent calendar with Nativity scene Advent candle Selection of used Christmas cards http://www.biblelands.org.uk/ http://www.vanpouilles.co.uk/ <i>Both sites sell Advent candles. Vanpouilles also sells Advent rings and small candles.</i></p>

NB: Advent begins on Advent Sunday, which is the nearest Sunday to St. Andrew’s Day on 30th November (either before, after, or on the same day if 30th November is a Sunday). Advent does not always start on 1st December!

Activities:

- Show pupils an Advent candle. Can they guess why there are numbers marked on it and what it might be used for? If there are Christmas pictures on the candle, or names of Jesus, relate these to the Christmas story. (AT1)
- Show pupils an Advent calendar (they will probably be more familiar with this). Explain that the candle and calendar do a similar job ie they count off the days to Christmas. Choose an Advent calendar that shows the Christmas story on it and use this to draw attention particularly to Joseph, Mary and Jesus. (AT1)

- Show pupils an Advent ring with its 4 candles for the 4 Sundays of Advent and the white candle in the centre for Jesus' birth on Christmas Day.
(This may be done in more detail in Collective Worship, explaining how it helps Christians to remember important figures in the Bible story. But the emphasis here is on Advent as a time of preparation.)

- Discuss the meaning of the word 'Advent' ie the 'coming' of Jesus. Advent is the period of about 4 weeks before Christmas, when Christians prepare themselves to celebrate his birth on Christmas Day. It is the beginning of the Church calendar. (AT1)

- Introduce the idea that colours help Christians to remember the Church seasons – purple is for preparation. Christians prepare for Christmas during Advent (and for Easter during Lent). (AT1)

- Purple is quite a sombre colour - discuss the serious side of Advent preparation ie a time to think of others and help others through charity work and fund raising. (AT1)

- Discuss with pupils how they and their families prepare for Christmas and how this makes them feel about Christmas (or, how we prepare for Christmas in school - for pupils from other faiths). Focus particularly on the question: Do we appreciate things more if we wait for them, look forward to them, and prepare for them? (AT2)

- Pupils could make a class Advent calendar: – each pupil should choose an old Christmas card (preferably one with a Christian picture/motif on) and draw round their hand on the reverse of the picture. Each 'hand' is cut out and the white side is named and numbered and put onto a display board in the shape of a Christmas tree. Each day in Advent, a pupil turns over his/her card, starting with No.1 ... and they will gradually put colour on the tree and create a collage of Christmas.

Teacher's Information for Year 3

ADVENT

Advent – purple

Advent is the beginning of the Church's year. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means 'visit' or 'coming' or 'arrival.' The season of Advent is a time when Christians remember the birth of Jesus Christ as Messiah, and look for the second coming of Christ as King. Advent Sunday is the nearest Sunday to St. Andrew's Day which is the 30th November. Churches may be decorated in purple e.g. the altar cloth, to signify royalty during this special season of preparation. Pink is a secondary Advent colour, representing the joy of the season. Special Advent calendars and Advent candles help Christians to count the days until December 24th.



The Advent ring: One candle is lit on each of the 4 Sundays in Advent, and the final, central one is lit on Christmas day. The candles can be 3 purple and 1 pink with white for Christmas day, or 4 red with white for Christmas day. The circle of the ring reminds Christians that God's love is never ending. Sometimes greenery is added to the ring to remember the hope of newness, or renewal in eternal life. The traditional Advent themes for the 4 Sundays in Advent are: hope, peace, love and joy - with the final candle being the Christ candle symbolising Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.'

- The first candle is for the Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are the fathers of the Christian faith and lived hundreds of years before Jesus. This candle is purple or red.
- The second candle is for the Prophets. They brought messages from God to his people. Some of the messages spoke about a king or a saviour who would come and save the people. This candle is purple or red.
- The third candle is for John the Baptist. He came to prepare the way for Jesus. He told everyone that the man who was coming after him was much greater - he was talking about God's Son. This candle is purple or red.

- The fourth candle is for Mary, Jesus' mother. Mary was a very ordinary girl who was afraid when God sent his angel to tell her that she was going to have a very special baby. But she trusted God. This candle is pink (to represent the 'nearly' between purple and white) or red.
- The fifth candle is for Jesus, the Light of the World, who was born a baby at Christmas time. Christians all over the world remember that Christmas day is Jesus' birthday. This candle is white and is in the centre of the ring to symbolise his centrality to the Christian faith.



Advent calendars traditionally have 24 windows and reveal a part of the Gospel story of Christmas with each day.

Advent Candles may have 24 of the many names of Jesus taken from the Bible, and Christians will light one part of the candle each day and remember that Jesus said he will come again one day.

Year 3

Unit 2B: CHRISTMAS

Week 6

Title: Epiphany

Learning Intentions:

AT1: To know that Epiphany comes after Christmas and is a time when Christians remember the visit and gifts from the Wise Men.

AT2: To think about what makes gifts precious.

Assessment:

AT1 L2: I can use the word Epiphany correctly when I talk about Christmas.

AT1 L3: I can make links between Christmas and Epiphany and the story of Jesus' birth.

AT2 L2: I can respond sensitively to the feelings of others as they talk about their gifts.

AT2 L3: I can describe how different gifts may be valuable to someone for different reasons.

Key Words:

Epiphany = *appearance of (a deity); sudden insight into the meaning of something*

Gold, frankincense and myrrh

Resources:

Key passage: Matthew 2:1-12

See Teacher's Information Page on The Wise Men

Used Christmas cards, including some of the Wise Men

Things to remember the Wise Men's gifts: fool's gold, (frank)incense, myrrh (or perfumed candles)

School Christmas Crib

Some precious gifts belonging to the teacher/TA

<http://www.vanpoules.co.uk/>

a church shop for special artefacts used in church

NB Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6th or Twelfth Night. Epiphany means 'to show' or 'to make known' ie when Christ was revealed to the world beyond the Jews – because the Wise men came from far away lands. The liturgical colours of Christmas and Epiphany are the celebration colours of white or gold.

Activities:

- Give each group of pupils some Christmas cards and ask them to find any with pictures of the Wise Men. Together, retell the story of the Wise Men. (AT1)
- Explain that this story is remembered at the Christian festival of Epiphany, which comes after Christmas on 6th January – just as the Wise Men took a long time to travel from the East to visit Jesus and arrived some time after he was born. So the sequence in the Church calendar is: Advent – Christmas – Epiphany. In churches, the Wise Men are added to the nativity scene on 6th January. You could make sure the school Christmas Crib is kept up until after Christmas and the Wise Men added when pupils come back after Christmas, the nearest day to 6th January. (AT1)
- Use artefacts to remind pupils of the gifts of the Wise Men. Explain that the gold, frankincense and myrrh all showed how special and important Jesus was. (AT1)
- The teacher should show pupils a selection of gifts that s/he values and talk about why they are so special (eg not just things that cost a lot of money, but things that have memories attached, were given with thought and love etc). (AT2)
- Ask pupils to think about the most precious or important gift they have been given. Can they explain why? (AT2)

Teacher's Information Page

THE WISE MEN

THE STORY

The story of the Wise Men only appears in Matthew's Gospel (Chapter 2). We are told that 'Magi' from the East saw a star and came to Jerusalem to worship the new King of the Jews. King Herod was naturally put out by this news. After taking advice, he sent them off to Bethlehem, asking that they keep him informed. The star then led them to where Jesus was living, and they offered their gifts to the child. They were warned in a dream not to report back to Herod and to return home another way. When Herod realised this, he gave orders to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were 2 years old and under. By this time, Joseph too had been warned in a dream to take Mary and Jesus to safety in Egypt. They didn't return until Herod had died, when they settled in Nazareth in Galilee, in the north of the country (Bethlehem and Jerusalem are in the south).

THE GIFTS

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were all expensive gifts, fit for a king. Myrrh was used to anoint new kings and frankincense was used in worship.

THE TIME FRAME

Our school Nativity plays have the shepherds and Wise Men all coming together to worship Jesus. But note that Herod allowed for Jesus to be up to 2 years old when the 'Massacre of the Innocents' took place. It would have taken time for the Wise Men to travel from the East (possibly Iran) after seeing the star. Epiphany is celebrated in the Church after Christmas, on 6th January, to separate the two events.

ADDED DETAILS

There are no 'three kings' in the Gospel narratives. Legend has given them the names of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The 'three' comes from the fact that there were three types of gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. I'm not sure why they have become 'kings', except that they brought rich gifts and went straight to the king of Jerusalem, so they must have been quite important people. They are called 'Magi' in the Gospels, which means wise men. They may well have been astrologers. Herod asked them exactly what time the star had appeared, perhaps to check astrological charts.