



The Bishop of Lincoln

Christmas 2024

We will soon be celebrating Christmas!

I hope you will hear the Nativity Story, with the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and angels. At Christmas we might sing special songs, eat lovely food with the people we love, play games and pull Christmas crackers!

Christmas is a time for giving presents. What does a Christmas present look like? In your heads, think about a box, covered in colourful paper. The paper is stuck down with tape, and there's a ribbon tied around it. There's a little sticky star in the corner and a gift tag with a name – does it say 'Santa' on it?

How are you going to open your present? Will you tear the paper off because you are excited, or will you take it off very carefully?

I think that the Christmas Story is like this present. All the stories we read in the Bible are like layers of wrapping paper around a very special gift.

The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she is going to have a baby. Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem, and the baby is born in a stable because there's no room at the inn. Shepherds are looking after their sheep when they hear this wonderful news, and three wise men bring gifts for the newborn King.

Underneath all the wrapping paper, what is the gift that we open on Christmas Day?

One of my favourite Christmas poems is called: 'Love came down at Christmas.'

I think the best Christmas gift is the one that God gives us. He gives us his Son, Jesus Christ. It is a gift of Love. That Christmas poem says: 'Love be yours and love be mine.' I hope that you will open the gift of Love this Christmas. In the love you share with family and friends, I pray you will know that God loves you too.

May your Christmas be full of peace, happiness and love!

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Bishop of Lincoln