

HOT TOPICS – DECEMBER 2022

CHRISTMAS

This month's Hot Topic looks at Christmas, an annual festival that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ

“Christmas, the holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, is celebrated by a majority of Christians on December 25 in the Gregorian calendar. But early Christians did not celebrate his birth, and no one knows on which date Jesus was actually born (some scholars believe that the actual date was in the early spring, placing it closer to Easter, the holiday commemorating his Resurrection)” [Source: [Why Is Christmas in December? | Britannica](#)]

What is the story of Christmas?

“Jesus was born to a woman called Mary who was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter in the town of Nazareth in Galilee.

Mary was visited by an angel who told her that she would give birth to a baby called Jesus. Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Joseph and Mary had travelled there to take part in a census which the Roman rulers had ordered.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem the local inn was full with people returning for the census. The innkeeper let them stay in the rock cave below his house which was used as a stable for animals. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus.” [Source: [What is Christmas? - BBC Bitesize](#)]



Now, let's look at some of the key themes associated with Christmas:

Traditional cuisine - A special Christmas family

meal is traditionally an important part of the holiday's celebration, and the food that is served varies greatly from country to country. Some regions have special meals for Christmas Eve, such as Sicily, where 12 kinds of fish are served. In the United Kingdom and countries influenced by its traditions, a standard Christmas meal includes turkey, goose or other large bird, gravy, potatoes, vegetables

Cards - Christmas cards are illustrated messages of greeting exchanged between friends and family members during the weeks preceding Christmas Day. The traditional greeting reads "wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Gift giving - The exchanging of gifts is one of the core aspects of the modern Christmas celebration, making it

the most profitable time of year for retailers and businesses throughout the world.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Nearly 60 million Christmas Trees are grown in Europe each year

In 1647, after the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell banned festivities. The law wasn't lifted until 1660

The first commercial Christmas cards were commissioned by civil servant Sir Henry Cole in London in 1843

In Britain, the best-selling festive single is Band Aid's 1984 track 'Do they know it's Christmas?' which sold 3.5 million copies

Since 1947, Oslo has sent a Christmas tree to London to thank the UK for its help in the Second World War

[Source: [52 Christmas facts you never knew about the festive period - Mirror Online](#)]



Building on your knowledge and understanding of fundamental British Values, what issues might you encounter when policing Christmas related events and how could you deal with those challenges? What other policing issues may present themselves in the build up to Christmas? Having considered these challenges, how could some of these impact on the protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010?

THINK ABOUT!



The following sources have been used and may provide you with further information about Christmas.

[Why Is Christmas in December? | Britannica](#)

[What is Christmas? - BBC Bitesize](#) (includes a short video)