**2.2 MYSTERIES / THE MYSTERY OF GOD**

**CONCEPTS:** God (Trinity), Incarnation, Liturgical Year

**About this unit**

This unit is designed to develop the children’s knowledge and understanding of the term ‘mystery’ and of the Christian understanding of God as ‘Trinity’. The unit goes on to outline the story of Jesus’ birth and the role played by the Holy Spirit and angels through the characters of Mary and Joseph.

**Where the unit fits in**

This unit builds on previous learning in Year One during the unit 1.1 ‘God’s Great Plan’ which encouraged the children to wonder about creation. It builds on 1.2 Mary, Mother of God which introduced the story of the Annunciation. Finally, it builds on unit 1.3 ‘Families and Celebrations’ which introduced the children to God our Father in heaven.

**Prior learning**

Children have learned the sign of the cross and about its use in the sacrament of Baptism. They have heard the story of Jesus’ birth and Mary’s role in it.

**Key words**

Mystery, Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, glory, adore, praise, heavens, Advent, manger, angel, engaged, Christmas Carol, saviour, gold, frankincense, myrrh,

**Links to ‘God’s Story’ and ‘Church’s Story’**

*God’s Story 1,* pp. 24-27

*God’s Story 2*, pp. 54-55, 58-60

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1: 26-31, 38 (The Annunciation)

Matthew 1: 18-25(The virginal conception of Christ)

Luke 2: 1-20 (The birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds)

Matthew 2: 1-12 (The visit of the wise men)

**KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE**

• A mystery is something we can wonder about

• A mystery is something no one will fully understand

• We can wonder about some mysteries of nature and religious beliefs (heaven)

• God is a great big mystery, we will wonder about God for ever

• Christians believe in one God known in three ways: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity.

• God chose Mary to be the mother of his Son at the Annunciation

• Advent is a time Christians get ready for the birth of Jesus at Christmas

• Jesus, the Son of God, was born as a baby in Bethlehem

• Christians call this the (mystery of the) Incarnation – Jesus is God on earth

• Luke’s story of Jesus’ birth tells us of the visit of the shepherds

• The visit of the shepherds shows that Jesus comes to bring good news to the poor

• Matthew’s story of Jesus’ birth tells us of the visit of the wise men

• The visit of the wise men shows that Jesus is worshipped as a king, who came to help us

• Christians celebrate Jesus’ birth in Church and at home.

**WTL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

• Know what is meant by a mystery and reflect on some

• Know the Trinity is a great mystery – three persons in one God

• Reflect on ways we can think about the Trinity

• Know that God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus

• Reflect on what the angel said to Mary and Joseph

• Know about the birth of Jesus

• Think about why it is important for us

• *Know that in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus*

• *Think of ways to prepare for his birth*

• Know that the wise men came to worship Jesus

• Think of ways we can respond to the gift of Jesus and show our love for him

**Learning objectives in italics are from the revised book**

**BY THE END OF THIS UNIT PUPILS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO:**

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| Describe the mystery of God as Trinity, using religious words | **Talk, wonder and ask questions about the meaning of mystery some mysteries and God as three and one. Recognise that some questions are hard to answer.** | Retell, in any form, one of three stories: Annunciation, Visit of the Shepherds, Visit of the Wise Men | Suggest answers to questions like, ‘Is it better to be a shepherd or a wise man?’ ‘Why?’  |
| Describe what the stories of the Annunciation, Visit of Shepherds/Wise Men tells us about Jesus | Ask and answer questions about the feelings of the characters in the stories | Give four examples how the Christmas story is used at home and in church.  | **Explore a question like, ‘What’s the most important thing about Christmas?’ ‘Why?’**  |
| Describe some religious symbols of Advent and Christmas | Ask and answer questions about what Advent & the Christmas story can teach them about the virtues of patience (‘Why is waiting sometimes difficult?’), generosity (‘Why is it good to share my things with others?’) and kindness (‘Why is it important to be kind?) |