Heene Church of England (Aided) Primary School
'Learning together, loving others, guided by God'

Subject: RE Topic: Incarnation / What is the Trinity? Year Group: 4

What I should already know.

Creation story in Genesis – story of the beginning of the world.
Salvation at Easter, Jesus suffered, died and rose again – **Resurrection**
Nativity Story /Christmas – Jesus birth -the main events and people involved in the story and the sequence that they happened in. What it is like to welcome and prepare for a new baby.
Jesus is a servant king as opposed to a warrior king. Jesus'/ Gods' love is for everybody. God seen as a Father figure in **Gospels**- eg Lost Son.
Bible contains the Incarnation story in the **New Testament**.
Advent is a time for preparation for Jesus birth.
That the **Holy Trinity** is Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Three in One
Baptism – John the Baptist baptised Jesus and all who came to him in reparation for Jesus.

Vocabulary:

Incarnation - central Christian doctrine that God became flesh, that God assumed a human nature and became a man in the form of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the second person of the Trinity. Christ was truly God and truly man.
Holy Trinity - The idea that God can be experienced as three person in one – Godhead. God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, God the Holy Spirit (see Below).
Gospel - good story
Baptism - The Christian life is based on baptism. It is "the gateway to life in the Spirit" and "signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit"
Salvation - (also called deliverance or redemption) is the "saving [of] human beings from sin and its consequences, which include death and separation from God" by Christ's death and resurrection, and the justification following this **salvation.**
Resurrection - dead coming back to life**.** Christians believe life has triumphed over death, good over evil, hope over despair through Jesus resurrection.

What I will know by the end of the unit:

Identify John 1 as part of a 'Gospel', noting some differences between John and the other Gospels.
Offer suggestions for what texts about God might mean
Give examples of what the texts studied mean to some Christians
Describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in the way they live
Make links between some of the texts and teachings about God in the Bible and what people believe about God in the world today, expressing some ideas of their own clearly.

Video resource:
The Miracle Maker DVD (2000)
Key Events available on You Tube

Incarnation

Bible texts: **Matthew- Baptism** 3:11–17 **Romans** ch 6 **John Ch 1-15** **Nativity Luke ch2:1-20 Matthew ch1 v18 – Ch " v23**

Key Information for this unit- Christian Concepts **This is taken from Understanding Christianity teacher information – look at the Unit and do read the Bible references. Use Bible Gateway NIV on Google as easier to follow and these will not be detailed in our Children's Bibles.**	Christian Symbolism
WHAT IS THE TRINITY? Christians believe that God is Trinity: God as three in one. This links to the concept of Incarnation, God coming to earth in Jesus, and the concept of Gospel — the good news of God's rescue plan for humanity. In the context of the 'big story' of the Bible, God is the same throughout, Christians argue, but in broad terms, the role of God the Creator and Father, Jesus the Son and Saviour and the Spirit — Comforter and power of God — come to the fore at different parts of the story (i.e. Old Testament, Gospels, early Church). Many religions believe in one God: Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and Bahá'í also say, with Christians, that God is one. Belief in the Trinity, however, is distinctive to Christianity. The belief is accepted as a mystery of faith, but there is much theological reflection on what it means and why it matters. Don't worry if your pupils find it a hard concept — or if you do. So do archbishops! For Christians, God in Trinity is not a 'high and mighty' or 'selfish' God, demanding that humans all bow and scrape. In Christian understanding, the invisible God is right here now, by the Spirit, they say, and is also revealed in human form through the life and teaching of Jesus. So the belief in Trinity is practical: Christians too try to make God's presence real in any situation — to make words into actions, and look for the Holy Spirit in all situations. Another aspect of this belief in God in Trinity is that God can be seen in what God does. Many children in the 7–9 age range might ask what God looks like. Christians reply that they can see God in Jesus, but that God is invisible, so they know God through what God does. The Holy Spirit — like the wind — has invisible power. The Bible does not use the word Trinity, but the belief that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit arises from passages like the ones studied here. Christians use the Bible to try to understand what it says about God **THE STORY OF JESUS' BAPTISM: MATTHEW 3:11–17** The concept of baptism was not new when Christians began the practice: it was used in Jewish groups before the time of Jesus. It represented a new start in life, washing oneself clean spiritually. Christians began to use it as a metaphor of death, burial and resurrection: the person being baptised goes into and under the water of death, and up into the resurrection life (this is explored in Romans Chapter 6). John the Baptist, seen as a pre-Christian prophet in the New Testament, called people to lives of justice, and to repentance. Being baptised by John in the River Jordan was about humbly submitting to God and turning your life around. The story of Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his public life and is symbolically sealed in the narrative by the Trinitarian symbols of the voice of God from above and the dove. It is immediately followed by temptation narratives, in which Jesus — the human — faces decisions about what kind of life he will lead, and how he will use the power of God's Spirit. From the earliest days of Christianity, baptism 'in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit' has marked the 'entry point' into the Christian faith, by rituals that vary, but share a similar core. From the early days of the Church after the New Testament, some Christians developed the practice of infant baptism: a Christian family brings a new baby to God and into the Christian community via baptism. This is common Anglican practice. Some other Protestant traditions, like the Baptists and Pentecostals, have often asserted the importance of personal choice. In their case, 'believers' baptism' or 'adult baptism', often by full immersion, has been practised widely, by Baptists, for example. Today among some growing Evangelical, Pentecostal and other new church communities, believers'/ adult baptism has become more common. Some Anglican churches use adult baptism today as well. The symbolism should be handled carefully. Baptism always represents a new start in life. The idea that it 'washes away original sin', however, is a bit too simple for the significance of the ritual. Romans Chapter 6 describes the symbolism of solidarity with Christ in his death and resurrection: a new life in which old and sinful ways are set aside. In baptism by immersion, some Christians make this link with Jesus: going into the water symbolises death to the old way of life, going under represents burial, and emerging represents resurrection into a new way of living. This idea connects baptism to the 'big story' of the Bible: it is a key ritual that enables anyone to participate in the story of God's rescue for humanity from the Fall and from sin. It creates membership of the family of all people who are 'in Christ'. **Birth of Christ** – see the Bible References and compare: John's Gospel opens with his interpretation of both Creation and Jesus birth. John is using words to symbolise how Jesus is God on Earth – part of the Trinity.	**In John's Gospel** **Light** Jesus is the Light in the darkness of a World of people who are doing things wrong- sinful – going against God's purpose for His world. **The Word** "The word" is the Word of God. ... It refers to scripture as a whole, which is the word of God, because it is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Finally, in the Christian scripture (Gospels / New Testament) it refers to Jesus Christ, who is the ""Word made flesh". When God speaks, his word is creative **The Dove** – Holy Spirit **Water** – cleansing from old to new (see Baptism above.) **The Empty Cross** – Resurrection (see Resurrection above). **Traditional Christmas symbols** **Nativity** – Stable Scene Most simple – Joseph, Mary and Jesus**.** Extended, Shepherds, donkey, angels,Three Wisemen.