



**Christmas  
in Great Britain**

- Christmas Day, December 25, is probably the most popular holiday in Great Britain.

- The word «Christmas» comes from «Christes masse», an early English phrase that means «Mass of Christ».



- It is a family holiday. People get prepared for this holiday very carefully. They decorate their houses in the traditional way.





- People decorate their homes with Christmas trees, wreaths and ornaments.

- City streets are filled with coloured lights; the sound of bells and Christmas carols can be heard everywhere.





- **Santa Claus got his name from a man known as St. Nicolas. Saint Nicholas was known in the early Christian legends as the savior of blown storm sailors, protector of children, and the giver of gifts to the poor.**



- Children write letters to Santa Claus and tell him what presents they would like to get.

- Many children believe that Santa Claus arrives on Christmas Eve in a sleigh pulled by a reindeer and brings presents.







- Some children hang up stockings so Santa Claus can fill them with candy, fruit and other small gifts.



- In Great Britain, the Christmas tree became popular while Queen Victoria ruled the country.

Besides the Christmas tree, holly and mistletoe are used to decorate the house.



- Branches of holly are put up behind pictures



and mistletoe is hung over doors.

- Many people attend church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. They listen to readings from Bible and singing Christmas carols.







- At some time on Christmas Day the family will sit down to a big turkey dinner followed by Christmas pudding.



• Everyone in Great Britain is waiting and enjoying this holiday very much!