



Today in History

December 25, 2016

▲ **Singer George Michael died at the age of 53. He rose to fame with Wham! in the 1980s before going solo, and sold over 100 million records worldwide**

1223: The first known nativity scene was assembled by St Francis of Assisi

1492: The **Santa Maria**, flagship of Christopher Columbus, was lost after running aground off Haiti

1584: An Estonian Lutheran pastor described a decorated spruce tree in the market square, the earliest written reference to a Christmas tree

1818: The Christmas carol **Silent Night** was sung for the first time at a church in Oberndorf, Austria