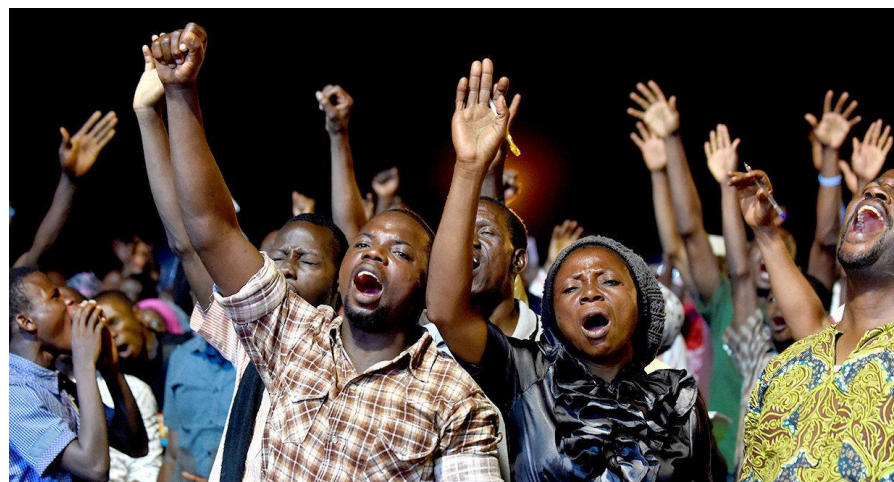


# GCSE RS

## Paper 2: Christianity



## Christian practices



Stella Wood

Paper 2

GCSE RS

# The specification

This is the second half of the 1 hour Christianity paper. In it you will be asked:

- a) A 2 mark definition question
- b) A 5 mark 'describe' question
- c) An 8 mark 'explain' question
- d) A 15 mark evaluation question.

## Practices

Areas of Study	Specific Content
Forms of worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The nature and significance of liturgical, informal and individual worship: Matthew 18:20</li> <li>➤ The nature and importance of prayer: The Lord's Prayer</li> <li>➤ Set prayers and informal prayers: different forms of worship across the different Christian traditions with reference to Society of Friends and Evangelical worship</li> </ul>
Sacraments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Diverse beliefs regarding Sacraments</li> <li>➤ The role, meaning and celebration of Baptism and Eucharist: John 3:3-6</li> <li>➤ Diverse interpretations of Baptism and Eucharist with reference to the beliefs of the Catholic and Protestant Churches</li> </ul>
Pilgrimage and Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The importance of pilgrimage: Walsingham, Taizé</li> <li>➤ How Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter</li> </ul>
Christianity in Britain and the Church in the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Christianity in Britain; results of the 2011 census compared to the 2001 census, showing an increase in diverse religious and non-religious beliefs and practices (including those of Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Humanism and Atheism), whilst also showing that over half of those who responded considered themselves Christian</li> <li>➤ U.K. laws, festivals and traditions are rooted in the Christian tradition whilst also celebrating the festivals, beliefs and cultures of other religious and non-religious traditions.</li> <li>➤ The role of the Church in the local community; a place of worship, social and community functions</li> </ul>
The worldwide Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The importance of mission, evangelism and church growth.</li> <li>➤ The work of Tearfund: Christian beliefs in action</li> <li>➤ Persecution of Christians past and present</li> <li>➤ Working for reconciliation: World Council of Churches, The Ecumenical Movement</li> </ul>

From the study of the areas above learners will gain an understanding of the following concepts:

- omnipotent
- omnibenevolent
- Trinity
- incarnation
- atonement
- resurrection
- sacraments
- evangelism

Learners should be able to explain and apply these concepts in relation to the theme.

## Definitions

<b>Omnibenevolent</b>	the state of being all-loving and infinitely good- a characteristic often attributed to God
<b>Omnipotent</b>	the all-powerful, almighty and unlimited nature of God.
<b>Trinity</b>	the three persons of God; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
<b>Incarnation</b>	God becoming human in the form of Jesus
<b>Atonement</b>	the belief that Jesus' death on the cross healed the rift between humans and God
<b>Resurrection</b>	the belief that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death
<b>Sacraments</b>	an outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing by God. For example; Baptism, Eucharist.
<b>Evangelism</b>	preaching of the gospel to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith

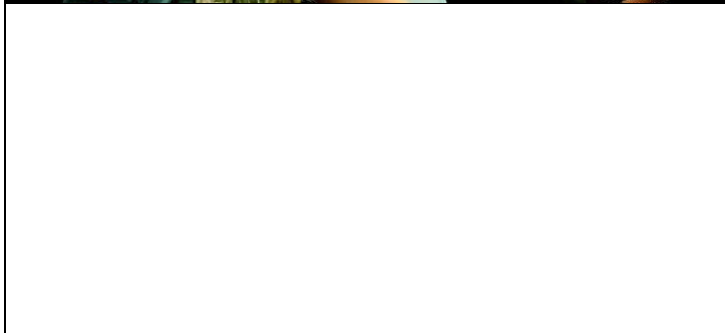
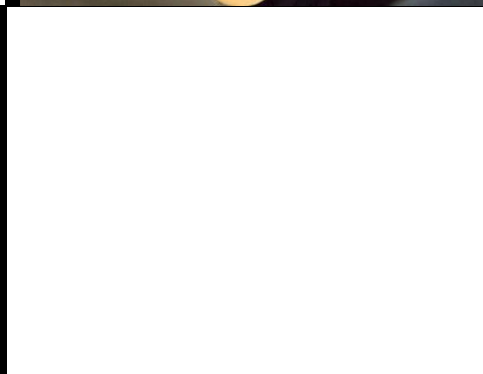
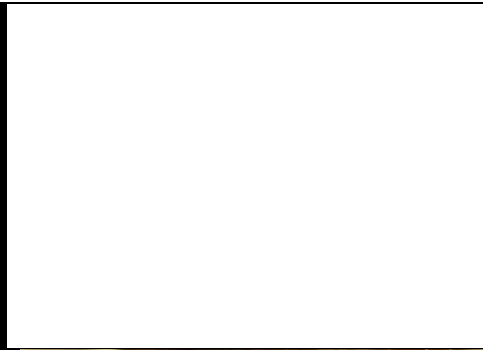
## Forms of worship

Definitions	
Worship	An act that shows love and devotion to God For Christians, the main act of worship is on a Sunday, since this was the day of rest at Creation and the day that they believe Jesus rose from the dead. In Cathedrals, worship happens every day, with Morning Prayer and sung (Choral) Evensong everyday.
Liturgical worship	A form of worship which follows a set structure (a liturgy), often from a printed book, and where the words are set by the Church. Liturgical worship is found in Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Church of England churches. Liturgical worship will include set elements like Bible readings, confession, prayers, a sermon and often hymns. The congregation get to know the order of the service and it helps them to feel comfortable in it because it is so familiar.
Informal worship	A form of worship which will have some familiar elements – prayers, readings and a sermon, but which change for each service. The leader will use their own words for the prayers and may speak spontaneously without notes. Songs with a band might replace hymns from a hymn book. There is emphasis on worship coming from ‘the heart’
Charismatic worship	A form of informal worship often used in Evangelical Churches. Charismatic worship is often very free flowing and puts a heavy emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Worshippers may feel inspired to speak ‘in tongues’
Individual worship	Also known as private worship, this is also important for Christians. It can be liturgical and follow a set form (eg Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer in the Church of England or the Angelus for Roman Catholics. It can also be informal and a time of meditation, Bible reading or saying the Rosary. It can include silent prayer or thinking through the events of the day in peace and calm at the end of a busy day.
Prayer	Christians pray to speak to God and ask for his care and blessing on the world and the sick and their own lives. They also pray to listen for God’s will for their lives. Jesus told his followers to pray and to use the Lord’s Prayer. Prayer will include thanksgiving and confession of things that have gone wrong, as the person praying asks for God’s forgiveness.






## Checking your understanding.....

*Which of the terms above would you use for these images of worship?*



**Taking it further.....** Watch the videos from the powerpoint and jot down the features of each:

<p><b>Worshipping together</b> (communal worship) <i>List 5 reasons Christians in this video find it important to worship together.</i></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Informal worship</b> <i>Describe 5 characteristics of informal worship from this video.</i></p> 
<p><b>Individual worship</b> <i>List 5 different ways in the video that Christians pray when they are on their own.</i></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>

Describe in 100 words what Quaker worship and prayer is like.



***'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'*** What sort of worship might this quotation from Matthew's Gospel (18:20) suggest is important for Christians?

***'But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you'.*** What sort of worship might this quotation from Matthew's Gospel (chapter 6) suggest is important for Christians?

## Set prayers and informal prayers:

The most important set prayer for Christians is the **Lord's Prayer**. Remind yourself of what it says and pick out why Christians might think it is important to say everyday:

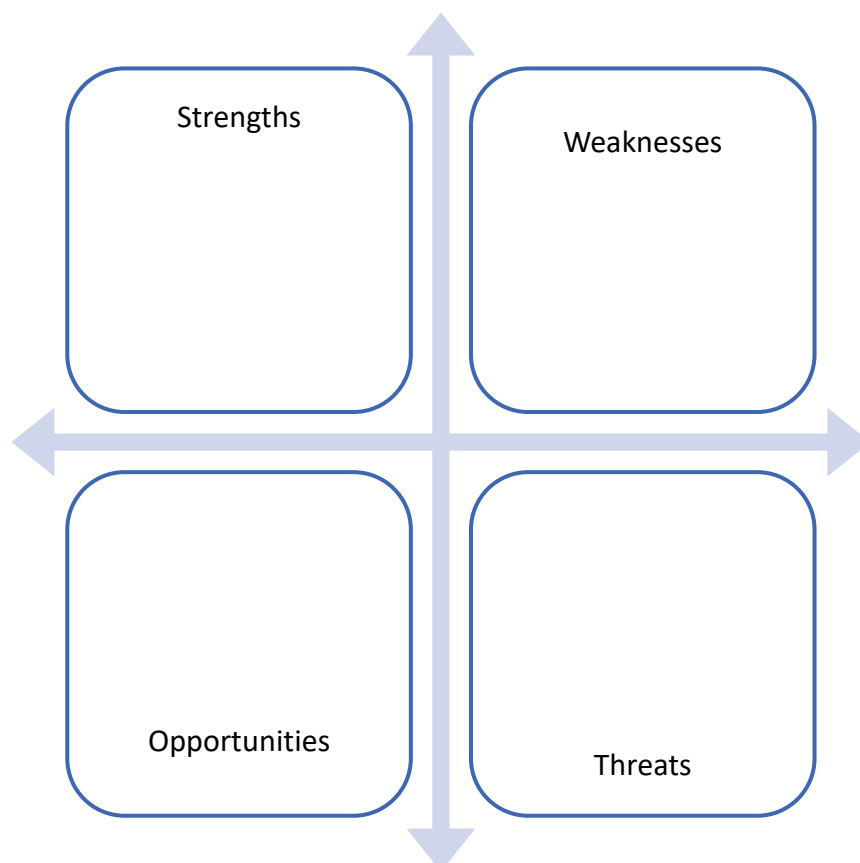
Pray then in this way:  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.\*  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against  
us.  
And do not bring us to temptation,\*  
but deliver us from evil.\*

(from Matthew's Gospel, chapter 6)

3 reasons why this is an important prayer for Christians:-

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now do a SWOT analysis on Christians saying set prayers like the Lord's Prayer everyday.





**In Evangelical worship, Christians are encouraged to use their own words to say the prayers that they feel they need to. The advantages of this might include:**

- If Christians use everyday language, they will understand what they are praying about.
- If they use their own words, their prayers will be more honest and personal.
- If they use their own words, they have to really think about what they are praying about.

**Finally, create a mind-map for this 15 mark question.**

**Remember you MUST include:**

- Specific groups of Christians not 'some Christians'.
- Sources of wisdom and authority – Bible passages and/ or what Churches say.

***“Christians should pray their own prayers, not learn prayers off-by-heart.”***

Discuss the statement showing that you have considered about more than one point of view.

# Sacraments

## What is a sacrament?

Sacraments are often described as ‘an outward visible sign of an inward, invisible grace’. They are Christian rites or ceremonies, celebrated in a Church, by a priest, according to set forms. They often mark a turning point in life and can act as a rite of passage – for example baptism and marriage. When a person receives a sacrament, they believe that they receive a special blessing from God that strengthens them and brings them more closely into His presence.


Sacraments are particularly important in the Roman Catholic, Church of England and Orthodox Churches. Nearly all Christians recognise 2 sacraments:

- Baptism
- The Eucharist (also called Holy Communion or The Mass).

These date back directly to Jesus and are accepted as being ‘biblical’:

- Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, and he told his disciples to ‘go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit’ at the end of Matthew’s Gospel.
- At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples to ‘do this in remembrance of me’, as he broke the bread and called it his body and shared the wine, saying it was his blood.

Roman Catholics believe that there are 7 sacraments

						
<b>Baptism</b> Initiates people into the Christian Church	<b>Confirmation</b> Committing to the Church for yourself	<b>Eucharist</b> Bread and wine to remember Jesus’ death	<b>Penance or Confession</b> Frees a Christian of sins	<b>Marriage</b> Spiritual union of the couple and God	<b>Ordination</b> Joining the priesthood of the Church	<b>Anointing of the Sick</b> Priests anoints the ill

Our specification wants us to study Baptism and the Eucharist, so we will explore the ways those are celebrated by different Christians and what they mean to them. Two denominations reject all sacraments - **the Society of Friends (Quakers)** and the **Salvation Army**. They do not believe that Jesus intended them to become formal liturgical rituals and prefer informal worship.

## The sacrament of baptism

### Why do Christians baptise?

#### a) To remove sin and start a new life

John the Baptist baptised Jesus and many others in the River Jordan. The water was seen as a ritual washing and cleansing, representing for

- Repentance - a desire to turn to God by the person being baptised.
- The beginning of a new life with God
- Removal of sin - it was washed away

The word baptism comes from the word *bapto*, which literally means 'to drown'. Across the centuries Christians have seen baptism as drowning the life of sin and dying to that way of life before coming up out of the water to a new way of life. Baptism is closely linked to the belief in **Resurrection**.

Through history, churches have baptised babies to remove **original sin**. This is the sin that came into the world when Adam and Eve ate the fruit that they were forbidden from eating and brought sin into the world. That sin has been passed down to every person that is born, and baptism washes it away. This explains why babies who are born very poorly are baptised as soon as possible so that, should they die, they are without sin and can be with God.

"We were buried with him through baptism into death in order than, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

St. Paul: Romans chapter 6

#### b) To enter into the family of the Church

In churches which practise **infant baptism**, the font, where the baby is baptised, is near the door of the Church. This symbolises:

- The entrance to a new way of life
- The beginning of the journey of life.

#### c) To be faithful to Jesus' teaching:

Christians are also baptised because Jesus told his disciples that they should be:

*"No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."*  
(John's Gospel)

*"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."* (Matthew's Gospel)

#### d) To declare faith

In churches which practise adult baptism (believers' baptism), baptism is the time when a person can declare their faith in public and put it into their own words.

They will give their **testimony** about how they came to faith, and repent of things in their life that they have got wrong.

## How are Christians baptised?

### 1) Infant baptism:

In the Church of England, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, babies are baptised in a font by the priest. This is called **infant baptism**.



- The priest will baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, with water being poured on their head three times to represent the Trinity.
- The sign of the Cross will be made on the baby's forehead.
- They might be anointed with holy oil.
- The parents and godparents will make vows on their behalf to fight evil and turn to Christ.
- A baptism candle will be lit from the *Paschal candle* (*blessed at Easter*) to represent the light of Christ coming into the person's life.
- From the time they are baptised, the baby is seen as a member of the Church and the congregation promise to support them in their Christian life.

### Analyse and evaluate:

Try to think of 3 reasons for each side.

Strengths of baptising infants	Weaknesses of baptising babies

## 2) Believers' baptism

In the Baptist Church and some charismatic churches, baptism does not take place until the person can make their own choice and commitment to Christian faith. Believers cannot be baptised until they can explain their faith in their own words.

They try to baptise in the same way as Jesus was baptised, baptising people as adults and baptising by **total immersion**. A large baptistry, pool, is in the church, with steps that go into the pool at both ends.

What happens?

- The believer steps down into the pool, leaving one way of life behind.
- The minister plunges the person under the water so that they drown their former lives.
- The believer is plunged under the water three times, to represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- They leave the pool by the other set of steps, symbolising that they begin a new life in a new direction.



Sometimes, adult baptism can take place in a river or even in the sea, to represent how Jesus was baptised outside and to represent 'living' water:





**Analyse and evaluate:**

Try to think of 3 reasons for each side:.

Strengths of baptising adults	Weaknesses of baptising adults.

**Practice questions:**

c) Explain why baptism is important to many Christians. *(8 marks)*

d) "Baptism is the most important sacrament."

Discuss the statement showing that you have considered about more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer)

*(15 marks)*

## The Eucharist

The Eucharist is celebrated in very different ways in different denominations. Some Roman Catholics may choose to receive the bread and wine every day, showing that they are as dependent on their spiritual food as they are on their everyday food.

In other Protestant churches, Communion might only be celebrated three or four times a year, to keep it special.

There are a number of different names for the Eucharist:

- Protestants call it the Lord's Supper and will celebrate it at a simple table.
- Roman Catholics call it the Mass and will celebrate it at an altar.
- Church of England call it the Eucharist, meaning thanksgiving.



### Why do Christians celebrate the Eucharist?

1) When Christians take Communion they are trying to be faithful to Jesus' teaching and following his command.

- The night before he died, Jesus had supper with his disciples.
- During the supper, he took the bread, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, telling them that it was his body, that was given for them. They were told to 'do this in remembrance of me'.
- Jesus then took the wine, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, telling his disciples that this was his blood, that was shed for the forgiveness of sins.

2) Roman Catholics, Church of England and Orthodox Christians believe that when the priest celebrates Communion, Jesus is present. The bread and the wine changes into the body and blood of Jesus and so believers come as close as they possibly can to Jesus.

Exactly what happens as the bread and wine is blessed is disagreed about by different churches:

- Roman Catholics believe in **transubstantiation**. The *substance* of the bread and wine *transforms* into Jesus' body and blood. Jesus is literally present.
- Some members of the Church of England believes in **transignification**. The significance of the bread and wine changes as they are blessed and there is a *spiritual change* rather than a *physical change* in them and for the believer.
- Protestants (e.g Baptists) believe in **consubstantiation**. The bread and wine are *like* Jesus' body and blood. They represent it, but don't change.

## How do Christians celebrate Holy Communion?

- Holy Communion is **liturgical worship**. There are set prayers and the service can only be led by a priest or minister.
- They may wear special robes - a white robe called an alb and a top robe called a chasuble, to make this service stand out.
- A Gospel reading will be read and a special prayer, the Eucharistic Prayer, is said.
- In the Roman Catholic Church and Church of England, wafers are used. This is because the Last Supper was a Passover meal, which would have had unleavened bread – bread without yeast which would not have risen.
- These Churches will share one cup - a chalice – to be as close to the Last Supper as possible.
- In Protestant Churches, for example the Baptist church, little glasses may be given to each believer rather than sharing one cup. Leavened bread might be used rather than wafers.
- The priest will place the bread and wine in the hands of the Christian and say ‘this is my body which is given for you’ or ‘the body of Christ’.
- In the Orthodox Church, children receive Communion from when they are baptised. In the Catholic Church they may have a special service for their first Communion when they are 7 or 8 years old. In the Church of England, some Christians do not receive Communion until they are confirmed.

Label what is going on in these pictures:



# Pilgrimage

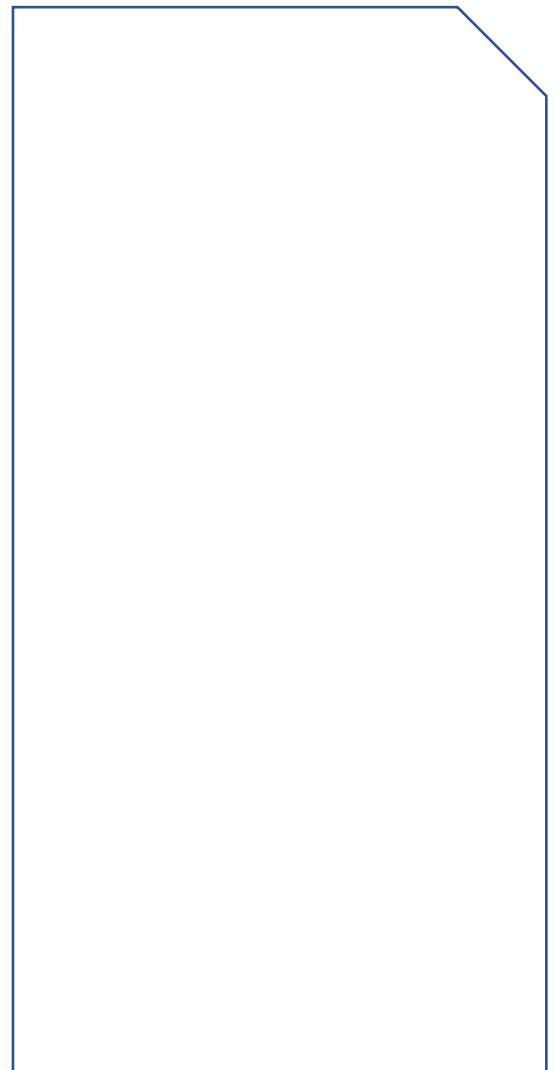
Pilgrimage is a really deep-rooted experience across humanity and history.

- The desire to set out, to explore, to push yourself and place yourself in potential danger as you travel goes deep into the human psyche whether you are religious or not. As you travel and push yourself you discover more about who you are and you make strong bonds with those who you travel with.
- Within most world faiths there is a strong element of pilgrimage.
  - ★ Millions of Muslims will take the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca;
  - ★ Up to 40 million Hindus flock to the River Ganges for the Kumbh Mela pilgrimage.
  - ★ Jews are told in their holy books to make pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

So as we look at Christian pilgrimage, we look at something that is broader than just Christianity, but important to Christians across the world.

## Get thinking....

Look at these images of pilgrimages. What do they seem to have in common? Why would people want to go?



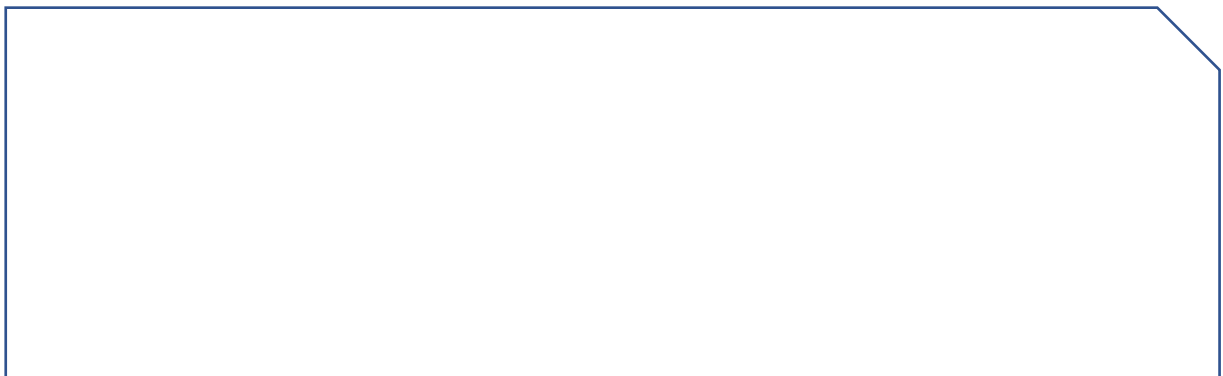
For Christians, there are particular places to go on pilgrimage and particular reasons why they might want to go:

1) To go to the places where Jesus lived and walked. This can be a desire to come as close to Jesus as they possibly can and to imagine the places in the Bible they read about. Christians might visit:

- The Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem
- Jerusalem to see where Jesus died and perhaps where he was buried.
- The River Jordan to see where Jesus was baptised. Some may bring back water from the River Jordan and perhaps have it used in a baptism at a Church in England.
- The Sea of Galilee to see where Jesus taught.

2) To visit places where special things have happened, where Christians have seen visions of saints or the Virgin Mary.

- In England, pilgrims might visit the **Shrine of the Virgin Mary at Walsingham**. This is a **named place of pilgrimage to know from the syllabus**. At Walsingham, there are Roman Catholic and Church of England shrines and it is sometimes known as England's Nazareth because the shrine is built to be a replica of the house where Jesus grew up in Nazareth. There are three major pilgrimages a year and thousands go, either as individuals or as part of a parish or Church group. It has a particular focus on the Virgin Mary. There is also a well in Walsingham with pure water which is used for healing. Every year there is a pilgrimage of healing and restoration on the August Bank Holiday. Watch this on the Simon Reeve documentary and add some more detail here:



- In France, Christians may travel to **Lourdes**, which is again connected to the Virgin Mary and healing.
- Near the border of Bosnia and Croatia, is the shrine of **Medjugorje**, again connected with the Virgin Mary and healing, but based on sightings of the Virgin Mary much more recently.
- Christians may choose to go on a pilgrimage which involves a long and hard walk which may take several weeks. One example of this is a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, in north-West Spain, to the shrine of St. James. There are pilgrim routes across Europe to reach Santiago and the routes are known as Camino de Santiago. The most popular route, which becomes very crowded in summer is 500 miles long and there are hostels for the pilgrims as they travel. A BBC 2 documentary followed Christians and non-Christians on it if you are interested.



As well as visiting particular places, Christians may go on a pilgrimage:

- As a spiritual retreat when there are big decisions to be made in life. It is a chance to get away from distractions and everyday life and focus on what God wants them to do. You might call this focusing on their vocation.
- To reflect their belief that life is like a pilgrimage or a journey from birth to death and beyond. As they face hardships and challenges, this is like life and it helps them to concentrate on bigger questions of human existence.
- To seek healing. Sometimes, as at Lourdes, this is physical healing, but it can also be spiritual or mental healing as they come to terms with something or find peace with themselves and other people.
- In the past, Christians sometimes went on pilgrimage to make up for something they had done wrong in life, as a **penance**. They did something hard to acknowledge they had done something wrong and to focus their minds on living better in the future.

### Taize:

**this is named in the specification for pilgrimage– you must know about it!**

Taizé is a small village in France that is home to an ecumenical community of more than 100 Roman Catholic and Protestant monks from about 30 different countries. It was set up in 1940 by Brother



Roger, just as Europe was plunged into war. They are devoted to the idea of peace through meditation, silence and prayer. This ecumenical spirit attracts many thousands of pilgrims to Taizé every year.

Brother Roger, who founded the community, died in 2005 after being attacked during a prayer service. However, his mission lives on and pilgrims:

- are encouraged to find unity with other Christians from across the world.
- experience Taizé's unique meditative music and chants as part of candlelit worship
- gather with the monks for prayer three times a day.

Watch the Taize promotional video (10 minutes) and then write a summary of what Taize is like in no more than 300 words:

My summary of what Taize is like:

# Celebrations

## How do Christians celebrate Christmas?

### Why do Christians celebrate Christmas?

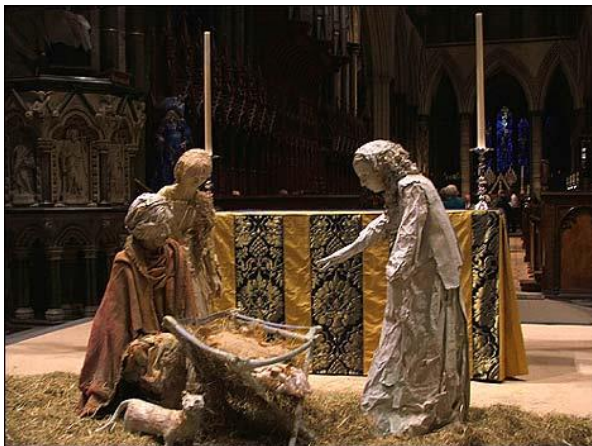
While in Britain, Christmas is a secular (non-religious) holiday, for Christians it represents a celebration of the **Incarnation**

Quick check? What do Christians believe about the Incarnation? List 3 things:-

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Spot the difference....

Salisbury Cathedral used to have this Crib scene. Now they have this one: Both dominate the Cathedral at Christmas



For Christians, the key story and symbolism of Christmas is the **Nativity story** which is found in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

### Spot the difference!

Matthew's Gospel	Luke's Gospel
<p>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:</p> <p>'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.</p> <p>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:</p> <p>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'</p> <p>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.</p>	<p>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.</p> <p>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,</p> <p>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'</p> <p>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.</p>

List the differences you can find here....



## How do Christians celebrate Christmas?

Christians celebrate Christmas like anyone else, enjoying time with family. But they might focus their celebrations on the birth of Jesus by:

### At home

- Marking the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas as Advent, when they prepare for Jesus' birth. They may have an Advent Candle which they burn every day to symbolise their belief in Jesus as the Light of the World.
- reading the sections of the Old Testament – the *prophecies* which they believe predicted Jesus' birth
- Sending Christmas cards with a nativity scene on them.
- Having a crib scene in their home.



### Other celebrations may focus on their Church:

- They might go to special services leading up to Christmas such as Carol services, where hymns celebrating the birth of Jesus are sung and the stories of his Incarnation read.
- They might take their children to services designed especially for them – eg a Christingle service or a crib service where the story of Jesus' birth is retold
- In the Church of England, confirmed Christians are expected to receive Communion at Christmas and Easter, so they may attend a Communion service. This might be Midnight Mass, marking the beginning of the day Jesus was born, or a service on Christmas morning.

### Because Jesus was born in poverty, in a stable in Bethlehem, Christians may donate to charity at Christmas.

- One Church in London, St. Martin in the Fields, has a crypt (an area under the church) dedicated to working with the homeless. Every year they have a Christmas appeal to help those who are experiencing poverty.
- Christians might donate to Crisis at Christmas or the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal. They might buy a gift for a relative which helps people in developing countries. Cafod, the Catholic aid charity, have a programme called 'World Gifts'. They might prefer to give gifts which are in the 'spirit' of the nativity story rather than make Christmas too commercialised.

Look up Cafod's page here: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Find one gift you can give that would support health:

Find one gift you can give that would support education:

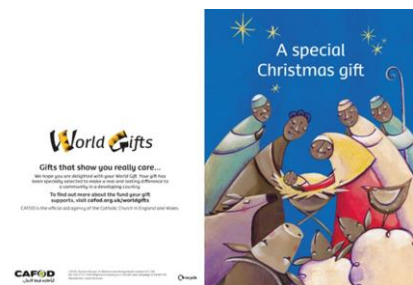
Find one gift you can give that would support agriculture:

### Put it into practice.....

Think about this 5 mark question. Jot down some bullet points \

Describe why Christians believe that the Incarnation is important

- 
- 
- 



Now think about these two 8 mark questions and jot down 3 points you might make for each:

c) Explain why Christians believe that Christmas is important [8 marks]

- 1
- 2
- 3.

c) Explain how Christians might celebrate Christmas as a religious festival [8 marks]

- 1
- 2
- 3.



# Easter



## Why do Christians celebrate Easter?

Easter celebrates two central Christian beliefs which we looked at in Christian beliefs, revolving around Jesus' death and Resurrection. These stories take up a lot of the Gospels – for example Mark's Gospel spends more than a third on them. They are really important to Christians.

- **Good Friday** remembers the day of Jesus' Crucifixion and death. Christians focus on the sacrifice that Jesus made for humanity on the cross. Many of the Easter hymns focus on the idea of **Atonement**, that Jesus' death removed the barrier of sin that separated God and humanity.
- **Easter Sunday** celebrates the day of Jesus' raising from the dead 3 days after Jesus' death. For Jews, a day began at sunset so Sunday was the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. The key belief here is **Resurrection**, not only for Jesus, but also for the Christian belief in the afterlife.

## Check your understanding.

Look at these verses from Easter hymns. Pick out ideas of Atonement and Resurrection.

*Remember you could use these as sources of wisdom and authority in your answers...*

### 1. When I survey the wondrous cross

On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all

### 2. From heav'n You came, helpless Babe,

Entered our world, Your glory veiled;  
Not to be served but to serve,  
And give Your life that we might live.

There in the garden of tears,  
My heavy load He chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but Yours,' He said.

Come see His hands and His feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice;  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.

### 3. There is a green hill far away,

without a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
what pains he had to bear;  
but we believe it was for us  
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,  
he died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heav'n,  
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
he only could unlock the gate  
of heav'n, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
and we must love him too,  
and trust in his redeeming blood,  
and try his works to do.



**4. Thine be the glory,**  
 Risen, conquering Son,  
 Endless is the victory  
 Thou o'er death hast won;  
 Angels in bright raiment  
 Rolled the stone away,  
 Kept the folded grave-clothes  
 Where thy body lay.  
*Thine be the glory,*  
*Risen, conquering Son;*  
*Endless is the victory*  
*Thou o'er death hast won!*

Lo, Jesus meets us,  
 Risen from the tomb;  
 Lovingly he greets us,  
 Scatters fear and gloom;  
 Let the Church with gladness  
 Hymns of triumph sing,  
 For her Lord now liveth,  
 Death hath lost its sting

**5. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!**  
 our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
 who did once upon the cross Alleluia!  
 suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!  
 unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!  
 who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
 sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!



But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
 our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
 now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
 where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!





### How do Christians celebrate Easter?

Easter Sunday (Easter Day) celebrates Jesus resurrection. But Easter is a longer festival than Christmas for Christians. Easter Sunday comes at the end of an 8 day period called **Holy Week** when Christians remember the stories of Jesus' life that led up to his Crucifixion.

Fill in this table as we discuss the different parts of Easter:

The day	What Christians remember	How they mark this out in worship	What these symbolise
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christians might have a Palm Sunday procession, with a donkey.</li> <li>Palm crosses are blessed in Churches and taken home.</li> </ul>	
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A special Communion service is held.</li> <li>The priest might wash the feet of some of the congregation.</li> <li>A silent 'watch' or 'vigil' service might be held in the evening</li> </ul>	

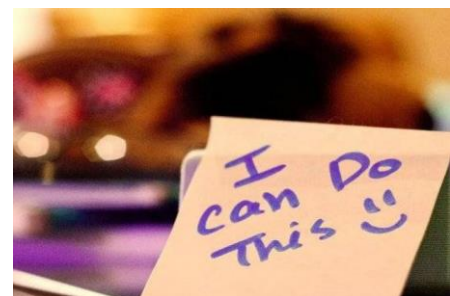
<p><b>Good Friday</b></p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians might attend a 3 hour service with music, readings and sermons.</li> <li>• Christians might spend the day very quietly.</li> <li>• Christians might go on a walk of witness, carrying a large Cross and telling the Easter story. This could be seen as a type of <b>evangelism</b>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Easter Sunday</b></p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians will attend a special service and take Communion.</li> <li>• There might be an early morning service (eg 5.30 am in Salisbury Cathedral) which starts in darkness. Candles are lit and a special candle.</li> <li>• the Paschal candle is blessed. This is always lit at baptisms and Confirmations.</li> <li>• Traditionally this was the day Christians were confirmed.</li> </ul>	

**Exam focus....**

The exam board likes to use Easter and Christmas for 15 mark questions. How would you answer this one?

***'Easter is the most important Christmas festival'***

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. 15 marks



## Christianity in Britain

In Britain, the Church of England is the **Established Church**. The Queen is the Head of the Church of England as well as being Head of State, prayers are said in Parliament every day and 26 Church of England Bishops are members of the House of Lords. All Kings and Queens are crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Every part of England is part of a Church of England parish and anyone who lives in that parish has a right to be baptised, married or have their funeral there. They don't have to join the Church as a member, they just belong because they live there.

As we saw last term, there are, by law, Chaplains in prisons and there are Chaplains in hospitals too. Many schools are Church of England schools and many other are Roman Catholic. In Salisbury for example, St. Edmunds, Wyvern and Bishop Wordsworths schools are all Church of England and St. Josephs is Roman Catholic. Godolphin and the Cathedral School are also Christian schools.

So Christianity runs deep in British culture. Our major Bank Holidays and celebrations – Christmas and Easter are Christian festivals, even if not everyone celebrates them as religious occasions. Many of our laws are based on the Ten Commandments and Christian beliefs.

You could build a good argument here that Britain is a Christian country. But others – humanists and atheists who do not believe in God, argue that British people are not religious and we live in a non-religious society. **Richard Dawkins**, who is an Evolutionary Biologist argues that Britain should not have Church schools or be Christian.



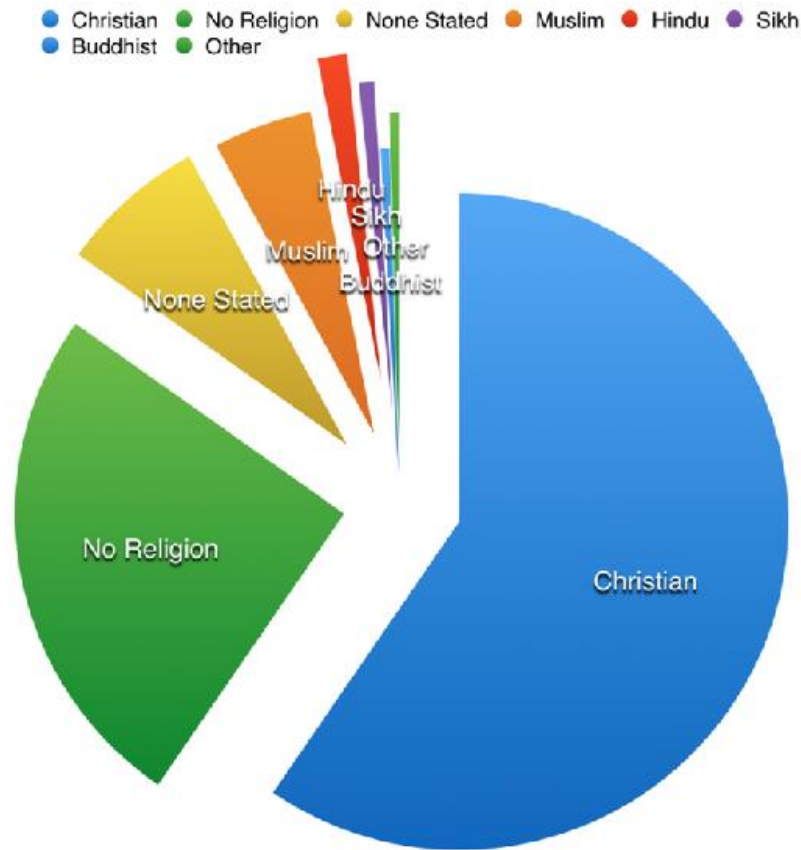
According to Dawkins, most people in Britain do not know their way around the Bible, so they cannot count themselves as Christian.

**So, over to you. See if you can devise a 5 question test to see whether Britain is a Christian country. What questions would you need to ask?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**Change them, if you like after the class discussion. Do you still think the same?**

One way of working out whether Britain is Christian or not has been from national surveys – censuses - which happen every 10 years. One was in 2001 and one in 2011, one in 2021. The Exam Board expect you to know about what they said about religion. Here is a graph showing the result of the **2011 census**.



## Census Poll Results 2011

- Despite falling numbers, Christianity remains the largest religion in England and Wales, with 59.3% of the population declaring Christianity as their religion
- In the 2001 census, 71.7% of people declared Christianity as their religion. This is a significant decrease in 10 years
- Islam is the next biggest religious group
- The proportion of the population who reported they have no religion reached 25%. This was 14.1 million people
- 7.2% of people who answered the poll did not answer the religion question as it was a voluntary question. These people are 'unknown' in their religious preference, however this suggests that some people think it is not appropriate to talk about religion or religious beliefs
- London is the most diverse region, with the highest proportion of people identifying themselves as Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Jewish. The North East and North West had the highest proportion of people reporting no religion.

**BUT** other statistics and reports seem to point in other directions: read these two articles...

### 1) April 2020: Tear Fund (Christian charity) report

ONE in 20 adults have started to pray during the lockdown, despite not praying before, a new survey of 2101 adults published by the charity Tearfund suggests.

Five per cent of respondents said that they had started to pray during the lockdown, having not prayed before. The survey also found that five per cent of respondents who said that they had watched or listened to a religious service since the lockdown began had never attended a church service before.

Just over one quarter (26 per cent) of respondents said that they prayed at least once a month. Of these, 45 per cent said that they were praying during the lockdown because they believed in God; 33 per cent said that they prayed because they believed that prayer made a difference; 26 per cent said that they prayed in times of tragedy or personal crisis; and 24 per cent said that they used prayer as a source of personal comfort as well as to ease feelings of loneliness.

34 per cent of the respondents aged 18 to 24 said that they had watched or listened to a religious service since the lockdown, whether via TV, radio, or online, compared with only 19 per cent of those aged 55 or over. Men were more likely than women to say they had watched or listened to a religious service since the start of the lockdown: 28 per cent said they had, compared with 21 per cent of female respondents.

### 2) Record numbers of visitors and worshippers flock to England's cathedrals. 26/11/2019

England's cathedrals have witnessed their highest Easter congregation numbers in recent years, while visitor numbers increased by a million on the previous year, statistics published today show.

Cathedrals reported nearly ten million visitors in 2018, an increase of over 10 per cent on the previous year. There were additionally over a million visitors to Westminster Abbey.

The major Christian festivals remain at the heart of congregational growth, with 58,000 people attending a cathedral at Easter and 95,000 during Holy Week – the highest numbers recorded for a decade, with Easter attendance up nearly 10,000 since 2008. Meanwhile numbers at Christmas and Advent services rose five per cent on the previous year to reach 750,000 in 2018.



There were 133,000 people worshipping in cathedrals on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – second only to the previous year's record high. Cathedrals reported a total of 37,000 people worshipping each week in the year 2018, marking an increase of around 14 per cent over the past ten years. Around one in five cathedral worshippers was under the age of 16, also an increase on the previous year. Attendance at midweek services, including choral evensong, grew 34 per cent in the ten years to 2018, with nearly 19,000 attending each week. More people attended midweek services than on Sunday for only the second time since records began.



### Another way is by looking at British traditions:

- **Shopping:** On Sundays, the hours shop can open are limited to 6 hours, usually 10 am to 4pm. This law was made to allow people who were working to go to Church and to rest.
- **Courts:** in a trial, witnesses swear an oath on the Bible that they are telling the truth. If they are not Christian they can ask to swear on their own religious book or make a witness affirmation without reference to a holy book at all. But the normal thing is still the Bible.
- At big national occasions – eg Remembrance Sunday, at the Cenotaph in London, there is a Christian ceremony with prayers and readings from the Bible when the nation remembers those who died in war.

### So, where does all this get us?

Find 3 facts that suggest that Britain is still a Christian country

1.

2.

3.

And 3 that suggest Britain is now a secular (non-religious) country.

1.

2.

3,

**Practice question**

**“Great Britain is a Christian country.” Discuss the statement showing that you have considered about more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer) (15 marks)**

One line of argument is..... (rephrase the quotation in the question).

Those who suggest this (NAME THEM!) believe this because....

This is a strong / weak argument because.....

If it is strong, add a reason why

If it is weak, add a reason why

In evaluation, I think the argument is .....

Another line of argument is....

Those who suggest this (NAME THEM!) believe this because

This is a strong/weak argument because

In conclusion, I think.....

## The Church in the local community

Churches are primarily places of worship for Christians. But in England, everybody lives in a parish and is served by a Church whether they choose to worship or not. In many villages, the Church is a hub in the community, especially if the local pub and shop are closed. They do much more than worship.

For example, in some small villages, the village shop operates from the Church.

This is an example in Gloucestershire, where the village shop and post office had to close, so the Church stepped in to keep it open. On Sundays, its opening hours fit around the Church services.



In other places, post offices have opened in churches, so that those who live in remote places without much public transport can still access them. This picture is from Whitstable in Kent.

Churches aim to serve the whole community they live in, not just those who worship. So, Churches may host

- Parent and toddler groups
- Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scout meetings
- Coffee mornings for the elderly and lonely
- Many have Church halls which can be hired by people in the community for birthday parties or meetings by the community.

Churches may organise Christmas lunches for people who are on their own. Many who are homeless will turn to the Church for food and support and Salisbury Cathedral hosts the annual Alabare sleepout for the homeless in its cloisters. The Cathedral has been used for Covid 19 vaccinations.

Some churches are opened for clinics when people come to donate blood – a Church near Basingstoke does this.

### Churches in the city

Churches can also take on an important role in the community when there is an emergency. When the Grenfell Tower fire broke out in London, Churches and mosques became places where people could go when they were homeless and in the weeks after when they were shocked and scared. In the first 3 days after the fire, local faith groups fed 6000 people who had been affected by the fire. The local community left clothes and supplies at the churches so that they could be given out – Churches became **community hubs**. This is a picture of a Church entrance in Kensington.





# The worldwide Church

## Opening task

Look at these maps of world religions across the ages. What does each one tell you about happening at that time with Christianity?



What is happening with Christianity?





What is happening with Christianity?



While in Europe and Britain it can feel that Christianity is becoming less important, in other parts of the world, especially in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and South America, the Church is still growing fast. Evangelical Christianity is very strong in America.

Read this extract from a study in 2018 reported in the Guardian newspaper,

## How many believers are there around the world?

If you think religion belongs to the past and we live in a new age of reason, you need to check out the facts: 84% of the world's population identifies with a religious group. Members of this demographic are generally younger and produce more children than those who have no religious affiliation, so the world is getting more religious, not less - although there are significant geographical variations.

According to [2015 figures](#), Christians form the biggest religious group by some margin, with 2.3 billion adherents or 31.2% of the total world population of 7.3 billion. Next come Muslims (1.8 billion, or 24.1%), Hindus (1.1 billion, or 15.1%) and Buddhists (500 million, or 6.9%).

The median age of the global population is 28. Two religions have a median age below that: Muslims (23) and Hindus (26). Other main religions have an older median age: Christians, 30; Buddhists, 34 and Jews, 36. The religiously unaffiliated come in at 34.

What does this report tell us?

**Check your understanding:**

**Name 3 parts of the world where Christianity is particularly strong:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Name 3 parts of the world where Christianity is not strong**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Where is Christianity growing?

Where is it shrinking?

## Persecution

Persecution has always taken place and the word 'martyr' is used for someone who dies or is killed for their religious beliefs. Jesus himself was a martyr and he warned the disciples that they would be persecuted for their faith; each one of them was eventually martyred.

Christians believe they were given a commission or mission from Jesus to spread the good news of the Gospel and this may be in the face of personal danger. Christian persecution continues into 21st Century throughout the world. In some parts of the world, Christians are treated unjustly in societies where Christian faith is a minority religion. For example, terrorist organisations like Islamic State in the Middle East have targeted Christians, forcing them from their homes and subjecting them to violent attacks. Evangelical Christian organisations such as Christian Freedom International and Open Doors seek to help persecuted Christians. These organisations provide practical help to persecuted Christians, provide Bibles and work actively for the human rights of Christians suffering persecution

### EACH MONTH

**322** CHRISTIANS ARE  
**KILLED** FOR THEIR FAITH



**214** CHURCHES AND  
CHRISTIAN **PROPERTIES**  
**ARE DESTROYED**



**772** FORMS OF **VIOLENCE**  
ARE COMMITTED AGAINST  
CHRISTIANS (SUCH AS BEATINGS, ABDUCTIONS,  
RAPES, ARRESTS AND FORCED MARRIAGES)



An example is from France in 2016:

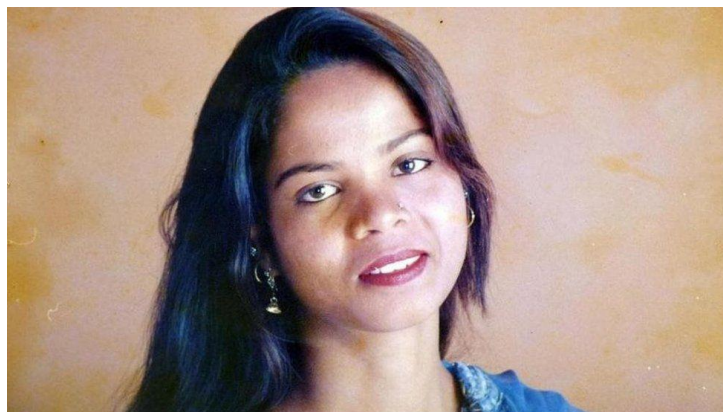


An 84-year-old priest was killed and four other people taken hostage by two armed men who stormed his church in a suburb of Rouen in northern France.

The two attackers, who said they were from the so-called Islamic State (IS), slit Fr Jacques Hamel's throat during a morning Mass,

A 2019 report showed how Christians are now the most persecuted religious group in the world. In some parts of the Middle East it is almost at genocidal levels and Christianity is in danger of being wiped out in some parts of the world.

### Case-study: Asia Bibi



Use the BBC website to research what happened to Asia Bibi and write a summary in no more than 100 words

## Case-study: Sri Lankan Church, Easter Sunday, 2019

Use the BBC website to research what happened in Sri Lanka and write a summary in no more than 100 words

### A Christian charity that helps: Open Doors

Open Doors was established in 1955 when Brother Andrew, a Dutch missionary, smuggled Bibles into the Soviet Union – when Christians were persecuted. Today, Open Doors still supports persecuted Christians across the world in different ways:

- Distributes Bibles to support Christians' faith
- Trains Christians and church leaders to work with the trauma people might be suffering.
- Provides practical support for Christians who have been victims of disasters
- Speaks on behalf of persecuted Christians to raise awareness of their situation and gather support. For example, they might lobby MPs in the UK government

People in UK and Ireland support their work both practically and financially.

## Mission and Evangelism

### Opening exercise

Read these actions a Christian might take and label each one. What is acceptable or unacceptable when Christians try to share their faith? Put the numbers in the appropriate column.

See if you can work out what the rules are you are using to decide.

1. Inviting a friend to a Carol service in your Church
2. A Christian sending donating regularly to Tear Fund or Christian Aid
3. A Chaplain praying with a person in hospital
4. A Christian priest leading worship in a school
5. A Christian charity telling people about Jesus when they are giving out medicines or food.
6. A Christian wearing a cross and chain when they go to work.
7. A Christian with strong views about sexuality criticising someone with different views.
8. A Christian sending a Christmas card with a Bible verse in it to a non-Christian friend.
9. A Christian giving out leaflets about a local Church (in non-Covid times)
10. A Christian writing to a non-Christian friend when a relative dies and telling them about their beliefs about God and Heaven to try to comfort them
11. A Christian parent trying to get their grandchild baptised when the parents aren't sure what they think about God.

Acceptable	Not sure	Not acceptable

How do you think you have made your judgements? What does it depend on?

We need to get hold of the vocabulary here before we can discuss:

**Evangelism** is preaching the gospel to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith. It is the way the Gospel is spread and means, 'preaching the good news.' Evangelism can be demonstrated through the way Christians live their lives rather as well as when they are talking about religion. So Evangelism can be doing as well as saying. This is what the Tear Fund try to do.

**Mission** is what Christians believe they are called to do to help make the world as God intended. Think about the Lord's Prayer:

- Mission is about making God's will done on earth as it is in Heaven.
- Mission is about making God's Kingdom come, so that people live and treat each other as God intended.

In the past, mission and evangelism have included the idea that Christians have a duty to show other people the way to salvation in Jesus. This includes a responsibility to convert other people to Christianity, whether they have no faith at all or belong to another religion. Missionary work, in the past, had the clear intention of bringing people to the Christian faith. Though missionaries also brought education and health support to poor and disadvantaged people around the world.

**So why is there a big debate? Because there are (at least) 3 different views:**

### **1. Mission means converting people**

**For Christians in the past – for example in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Christian missionaries went out throughout the British Empire, to convert them to Christianity and for Christians today who take a Biblicist perspective**

mission has to involve converting other people. They will turn to Bible passages such as

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit'. (Matthew's Gospel, chapter 28)

These are Jesus' last words – his commission – to his disciples in Matthew's Gospel. They stand for Christians at every time of history. Christian mission includes bringing people to faith in Jesus and baptising them.



'I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father, except through me'.

John's Gospel/

'God so loved the world, that he gave his Son so that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life'

John's Gospel, chapter 3

These two passages both suggest that the way to God – to Heaven – to life after death and salvation can only be by believing in Jesus. If Christians love other people and want to help them and find truth and peace, they have a duty to help them to believe in Christianity.

## 2) Mission means bringing God's plan for the universe: Tear Fund

The Tear Fund is a Christian charity which hopes it can improve the lives of thousands of people in poverty by starting with Christian principles of love and generosity and sharing. Their work is part of Christian mission too. They want to live out Jesus' command to **love your neighbour** and show **agapeic love**.



### Tearfund's mission

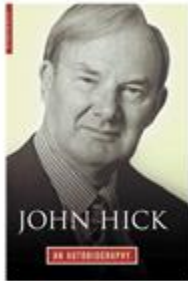
Our mission is to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crisis and partnering with local churches to bring restoration to those living in poverty.

You can see the words **mission and evangelism** are used in the Tear Fund's Statement of Faith: *As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we bear witness to the one living God, revealed through the Bible as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God's plan for the universe is to bring about, through Jesus Christ, a transformed creation wholly governed by God, from which all evil and suffering will be banished and in which God will live with redeemed humanity for ever. The presence and hope of the kingdom of God shape and motivate our mission through evangelism, compassionate service, active pursuit of justice and peace, and care for creation.*

### Check your understanding.

- Pick out a phrase from the statement of faith which shows that Tear Fund is a Christian charity.
- In no more than 15 words, what is their idea of mission?

### 3. Mission is shared with all people of every faith. John Hick and pluralists.



We have met John Hick before, when we were looking at the problem of suffering and Irenaeus' idea that suffering helps us to grow as humans. This was for the Ethics and Philosophy paper, theme 3

John Hick was also a **pluralist** philosopher who believed that although Jesus was a great teacher of wisdom, he was not the only possible way to God. Hick was a very **liberal** Christian. When he was working in Birmingham on civil rights issues in the late 1960s, Hick worked with people from other religions. He came to believe that their faiths could be paths to God, as well as Christians. He said

that the religions were like rivers that flowed into one sea, God.

Hick also used the parable of the elephant:

*Three blind men were touching an elephant. The first blind man was holding the elephant's leg. He said, "I think an elephant is like the trunk of a great tree." The second blind man disagreed. While holding the elephant's trunk he said, "I believe an elephant is like a large snake," The third blind man believed they were both wrong. "An elephant is like a great wall," he exclaimed. He was touching the elephant's side. Each blind man was convinced he was right and others were wrong without ever realizing they were all touching the same elephant. Some believe the blind men in this parable represent the major religions of the world, each in contact with the same "elephant" without knowing it*

The different religions might be like the blind men, because none of them, however great they were, could completely understand what God is like. If God is truly beyond understanding, no one religion could, in Hick's way of thinking, have all the answers.

Some Christians are part of the **Scriptural reasoning movement** where they read their Bibles in a group with people from other faiths who are bringing their holy books. They share the things they have in common and how they might help people to live good lives.

### Practice question

**'Christians should not try to convert non-Christians'. Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered more than one point of view.**

**15 marks**

## Tear Fund

Make brief notes about each of these video by Tear Fund. Use them in your answers so you are making specific points and not waffling! Look out for how Tear Fund links with Christian beliefs about mission and evangelism – doing God’s work.

### We won’t stop until poverty stops campaign



### Annual report 2019-20



### Tear Fund’s work in Ethiopia



Notes on these projects.....

### Practice questions

- a) What is mission [2 marks]
- b) Describe the work of Tear Fund [5 marks]
- c) Explain why Tear Fund works to relieve poverty [8 marks]

## Working for Reconciliation in the worldwide Church

### The Ecumenical movement

'Ecumenical' comes from the word 'oikumene' which means whole inhabited world. It is the attempt to draw Christians together across all countries and all denominations. This can either be

- Finding ways to work together on social projects
- Finding ways to worship together – eg the Week of prayer for Christian Unity that happens every January.
- Finding ways to re-unite Churches. For example the Methodist and Church of England churches now work much more closely together.

The Ecumenical movement began in 1910 when there were was a worldwide conference in Edinburgh. Examples of ecumenism you could refer to in your answers could include:

- March 2020. Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury worked together to invite all Christians, of whatever denomination to pray together as Covid began to spread across the world. They used social media and the hashtag: . [#PrayTogether#PrayForTheWorld.](#)"



**Near Southampton, the Waterside Food Bank was set up by the different Christian Churches.  
Check out its website**

List 5 things it does:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## Why do Christians support the ecumenical movement?

- Because Jesus in John's Gospel, chapter 17, said that he wanted his disciples to 'be one'.
- Because Christians are taught to show agapeic love not rivalry
- Because St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians said that Christians should be 'one body'.
- Because for social projects like the foodbank working together means you can help people more effectively.

## The World Council of Churches

The **World Council of Churches** is a fellowship of churches that works towards ecumenism. It aims to be a

*'visible sign, deepening communion, sharing the Gospel together and making connections.'*

Each year the World Council of Churches (WCC) holds a special week of prayer for Christian unity. It brings together churches in more than 110 countries.

## Ecumenical communities

Remember you can use Taize, one of the places of pilgrimage as an example here.

### Corrymeela

Corrymeela is a residential centre on the north coast of Northern Ireland. It is open to everyone and receives 11,000 visitors each year. The centre was established in 1965 by Ray Davey, a former chaplain who witnessed the bombing of the German city of Dresden when he was held there as a prisoner of war during World War Two. Returning to Belfast, he was concerned about increasing tensions between Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland and so, with the help of students at Queen's University, founded Corrymeela.

### Other ecumenical communities you could mention include:

#### Corrymeela

The centre promotes reconciliation through:

- offering a safe space where people from different communities can meet and build relationships
- working with schools, churches and community groups
- delivering personal development training, team-building and community
- running residential courses with outdoor activities and group discussions
- volunteering in schools to prevent or deal with conflict and tension
- running international youth conferences, designed by young people from all over the world



## Iona

Iona is a Scottish island that has been an important site for Christian pilgrimage for over a thousand years. Its ecumenical community was founded in 1938 by George MacLeod with the aim of working



for peace, social justice and rebuilding communities that have been damaged by conflict. MacLeod oversaw the project to rebuild the ruined ancient monastery, which is a symbol of hope for worldwide peace.

Around 300 people live in the Iona community. They welcome pilgrims from all over the world, and they pray and engage in social action. The community publishes reconciliation resources, including a magazine. It also hosts the Iona Prayer Circle, an international prayer group that prays for peace.

## Be study savvy!

You can use Taize, Iona and Corrymeela for **both** pilgrimage AND Ecumenism questions!

