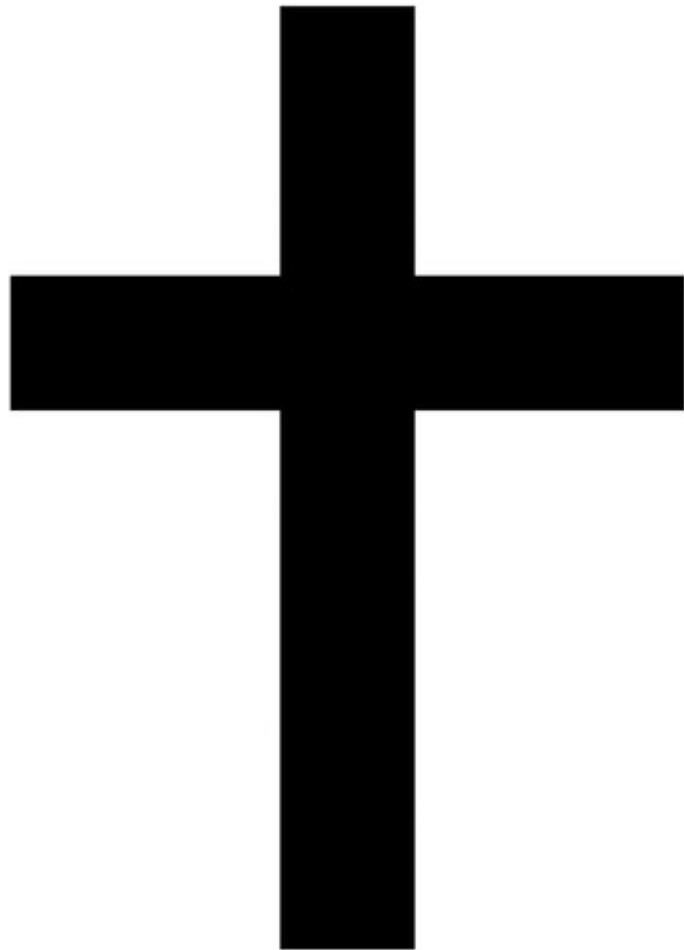


Christian

Beliefs



Key Topics Personalised Checklist

Topic	Revised	Things I still don't understand ... YET	Understand
1. The Nature of God			
2. Creation			
3. Stewardship			
4. Jesus Christ			
5. Salvation			

6. The Afterlife			
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1. Nature of God

Key terms:

Omnipotent

Omnibenevolent

Key Quotes:

And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it." Exodus 5

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

'In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth'. Genesis 1:1

' Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..." Genesis 1:26

' Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and all that night the Lord drove the sea back. Exodus 14:21

'But you Lord are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness' Psalm 86:15

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

- God is timeless and eternal - Christian Bible
- God created everything
- Humankind is made in the image of God

- Humans know about God through 'revelation' (God revealing himself to people)
- Transcendent (beyond human understanding) and at the same time, immanent (close to each person and acting in the world).
- Eternal, perfect, creator and father are also words that are used to describe God.
- Personal and can relate to people. Yet God is seen as impersonal, a power or force that humans cannot grasp.

God is **omnipotent**

The story of the 10 plagues and the flight of the Jews from Egypt shows God is all powerful.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plague of blood. • The plague of frogs. • The plague of gnats. • The plague of flies. • The plague on livestock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plague of boils. • The plague of hail. • The plague of locusts. • The plague of darkness. • The plague on the firstborn. • The parting of the Red Sea
--	--

His Omnipotence is also shown in the Creation story

God is **omnibenevolent**:

- God is all loving.
- He sent his only son, Jesus, to earth so that people could have eternal life

Why is there evil in the world?

The problem of believing in a God who allows evil and suffering in the world

Epicurus - 'Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?' Then he is not omnipotent.

'Is he able not willing?' Then he is not omnibenevolent

If he is neither able nor willing then why call him God?

The story of Job

- Wealthy but blameless and upright man
- Satan challenges God
- Satan torments Job to see if Job will turn from God (God agrees to let Satan do this)
- His flocks, servants and 10 children all die but Job still prays to God
- Satan asks God to allow him to test Job again
- Job is afflicted with terrible sores
- Job complains to his friends about the injustice of God but continues to believe in him showing that God's ways are beyond human understanding

The Trinity

God is made up of three persons although there is only one God. Each person is fully God:

- God the Father
- God the son
- God the Holy Spirit

Christians often bless themselves or are blessed by a minister by making the sign of the cross and saying:

'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

God the Father

Christians believe that the first person of the Trinity is God the Father. The Lord's Prayer, a prayer Jesus taught his disciples and which is commonly used in worship.

God the Father is believed to be the creator of the earth and all living things on it. As creator of life, he acts as a good father towards his children. He is believed to be all powerful (**omnipotent**), all loving (**omnibenevolent**) all knowing (**omniscient**) and present everywhere (**omnipresent**).

What message do you think Jesus wanted to portray with this prayer?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven;
hallowed be thy name,
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen

God the Son

The second person of the Trinity is often referred to as the Son of God and became incarnate on earth and in history through Jesus. Christians believe Jesus was both fully human whilst on earth and also fully God at all times.

Referred to as 'The Word' in John's Gospel and therefore present at the beginning of creation. John 1:1-5

God the Holy Spirit

Christians believe that once Jesus had left the earth, God sent the Holy Spirit to influence, guide and sustain earth and all life on it, strengthening faith. The Holy Spirit is believed to be the unseen power of God at work in the world in the past, present and future.



The Apostles Creed:

- The most important Christian beliefs about the nature of God are in the Apostle's Creed which is said in church on Sundays and other occasions eg Baptism. The longer version is the Nicene Creed. All Christians believe in this creed regardless of denomination which contains the following beliefs:
 - God is an all-powerful creator

- Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus was crucified, buried and rose from the dead and ascended to heaven
- There will be a day of Judgement when God will judge how each person has lived their life
- There is one universal Church
- God will forgive our sins
- There will be resurrection of the body and an eternal afterlife

Key Quotes:

'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.... Don't you believe that I am the Father and that the Father is in me'. John 14:6-11

2. Creation

Key terms:

Literalist

Non-literalist

Key quotes:

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters' Genesis 1:1-3

'this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man'. Genesis 2:22-23

Creation:

Some fundamentalist Christians believe the story is true in every detail.

Other Christians believe the story is more symbolic and myth-like therefore open to interpretation

Literal Christians believe that a 'day' in Genesis means 24 hours.

Non-literalist interpretations believe that a 'day' could represent a longer period of time eg millions of years. This allows for belief in the Big Bang theory and Evolution

- Created ex nihilo (from nothing).
- Created in 6 days, God rested on the 7th.
- God created light and darkness; sea and sky; land and plants; sun, moon and stars; all living creatures; and human beings created in the image of God.

- Regardless of the Big Bang theory and the exact process that created the universe, Christians believe that God is creator of it and the source of all life
- There are two versions of the creation story in *Genesis 1* and *2*

Genesis 1 shows how God created the universe over 7 days:

Day 1 - God created night and day

Day 2 - God created the heavens

Day 3 - God created land and plants

Day 4 - God created the sun, moon and stars

Day 5 - God created birds and fish

Day 6 - God created living creatures including humans

Day 7 - God rested



Genesis 2

- Adam lives in paradise in the Garden of Eden. God creates a companion for Adam from his rib - Eve
- God gives them one command - not to eat of the tree of knowledge
- Humankind is created in the image of God therefore it is unique among all creatures

Genesis 3

- Humans have dominion or power over the earth but it has to be used through stewardship on God's behalf
- Humans are made in the image of God but they are sinful and in need of God's forgiveness

The Fall:

- Adam and Eve are tempted by the Devil to eat from the tree of knowledge
- They are told that the only reason why God doesn't want them to eat from the tree is because they will become as knowledgeable as him
- Eve gives into the temptation, eats from the tree and offers the fruit to Adam
- They confess to God and are sent out of the Garden of Eden. They can no longer eat from the tree of life and therefore death enters the world
- Most Christians believe that humans are born with original sin which is why Jesus died as his death paid for human sin and restored the broken relationship with God. (See Section on Jesus)

3. Jesus Christ

Key terms:

Atonement

Sacraments

Key quotes:

'You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.' (Luke 1:28)

'the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us'. John 1

'He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering and familiar with pain... Was pierced for our transgressions He was le' Isaiah 53:3

'If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.' 1 Corinthians

4 most important events in Jesus' life:

- 1) **Incarnation** - God becomes man
- 2) **Crucifixion** and death
- 3) **Resurrection**
- 4) **Ascension** to heaven

Incarnation

Jesus is 'God made flesh'. Mary, his mother was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus. She was told she would give birth to a child named Jesus by an angel

Evidence of divinity

- Miracle of the Virgin birth
- God's voice heard at his Baptism by John
- His ability to perform miracles
- The transfiguration in front of some of his apostles where he shone with glorious light
- The resurrection

Crucifixion

Jewish authorities accused him of blasphemy because he claimed to be able to forgive sins and his followers believed he was the Messiah which was seen as a challenge to the authorities as this was seen as claiming to be a king which was treason.

Executed by crucifixion which was a common form of execution in the Roman Empire.

Suffered like any other human which shows he was both God and human and that God participates in the suffering of humanity therefore he understands it.

Crucifixion story

- Jesus sentenced to death on the cross by the Romans
- Mocked by the soldiers and had a crown of thorns placed on his head
- Occurred at Golgotha
- Two common criminals crucified with him
- Mocked by the crowd
- Prays on the cross
- Dies on the cross (Matthew 27:45)



Salvation and atonement

Jesus' death on the cross is an act of **atonement**. God sent Jesus to earth to repair the broken relationship and 'pay the price' for human sin. This offers humans salvation which means they can love forever in eternity after death. Instead of sacrificing a lamb, as was the Jewish practice, Jesus became the 'sacrificial lamb', therefore there was no more need to sacrifice animals.

Last Supper

- Jesus shared a last supper with his disciples celebrating the Jewish Passover
- He tells them the bread is his body and the wine is his blood
- He predicts his death on the cross and says that by sacrificing his body and blood, human sins will be forgiven
- Jesus' suffering and death was predicted by Isaiah in the Old Testament

Resurrection

- Belief in the resurrection is fundamental to the Christian faith as it is evidence that Jesus was God
- Accounts differ in the Gospels
- They agree that on the Sunday after his death some of his followers went to his tomb, they found the stone rolled away and no body
- Additionally in Corinthians, also seen by Paul, then the 11 disciples, then to a crowd of at least 500, then to James, then all the apostles

Ascension

- After appearing to a number of people, some time later, the Gospels record that Jesus ascended into heaven
- Some Christians believe he physically ascended (Literalists). Blessed his followers
- Others believe this symbolically - ie his time on earth was over
- It marks the end of Jesus on earth in a physical way and acceptance of Jesus' spirit at work in the world

4. Salvation

The Law

- The Bible is the sacred text or scripture for Christians. It is made up of 66 'books' written by many authors over a long period of time, inspired by their experience of God.
- Split into 2 sections -
 - Old testament - written before Jesus' birth
 - New testament - beginning with 4 Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- It is a book of revelation as God is revealed through the Bible
- It is a record of divine Law - the rules by which Christians choose to live therefore it is a source of authority for advice on how to live
- There is a reading from the Bible in every Christian service
- Many Christians read the Bible daily

However, there are differences on how biblical writing should be interpreted:

- Literalists believe the Bible is the directly inspired 'Word of God' and take the content as literally true because it is a divine revelation
- Others take the view that it is a book which requires interpretation therefore sometimes it needs to be adapted to modern society
- Others take a liberal view that not all events in the Bible actually happened - they are symbolic stories that show us how God wants us to live our lives

Other sources of wisdom and authority include, advice from a minister or other Christian, prayer, your conscience

Sin

An immoral act which goes against God's law.

Original Sin

- Came in to the world as a result of the Fall.
- Passed on to each generation
- It is the cause of humans going against God's law



What is the problem of the concept of original sin?

- It would be unfair for God to punish all humanity for the sins of one man
- Non-literalists don't believe the events of the Fall actually happened and the idea of it being passed on biologically can't be explained
- Many Christians believe it is a way of understanding that humans are prone to acting in a way that is against God's law

Sin and Salvation

See Salvation and atonement above

How do Christians achieve salvation?

Different denominations have different ideas about this.

- Catholics believe that by taking part in the **sacraments** they will be able to achieve salvation and go to heaven - Baptism washes away original sin and sacrament of penance absolves them of sins committed in their life.
- Protestants believe that they must have faith in Jesus and repent their sins

Grace and the Spirit

Key quote

'They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues.'
Acts 2:1-6

In order to live a good life, God sent the Holy Spirit to bring grace. This means that humans are able to pray for help to God. Evidence for this is in the Book of Acts.

Many Christians believe in special 'rites' called sacraments eg Baptism, Eucharist when the Holy Spirit comes down upon them.

Evangelism

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in Evangelical worship?

- The Holy Spirit is very important in Evangelical worship
- Worshippers are encouraged to be moved by the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is present and influences them to shout out and praise God
- Some are moved to speak in tongues (a gift from the Holy Spirit)
- Some believe in acts of 'Faith Healing'

5. The afterlife

Key terms:

Eschatology

Parable

Key quotes:

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11:25-26

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.' John 14:2-5

'I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.' Nicene Creed

- Belief in life after death is central to Christian belief.
- Life is a preparation for an afterlife with God in heaven.
- Referred to in the **Nicene Creed** which states that God shall judge the living and the dead.
- People will be bodily resurrected but changed into some glorified state
- The cross is symbolic of death and resurrection
- John's Gospel known as the 'eschatological gospel'
- There will be a day of Judgement when Jesus will return to earth in a 'second coming'. This is 'Parousia'
- Matthew describes how Jesus will separate those going to heaven and hell

Parable of the sheep and the goats Matthew 25:31-46

- Jesus will sit on his throne and separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats
- To those on his right will go to heaven as they are blessed by his Father. 'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'
- They will reply, 'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty ...'
- The King will reply 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'

- He will say to those on his left. 'Depart from me those who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for when I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat....'

Parable of The rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19- 31 also in John's Gospel)

- Beggar named Lazarus at the gates of a rich man's house
- Lazarus dies and goes to heaven
- Rich man dies and goes to Hell. He asks Abraham to allow Lazarus to come and dip the tip of his finger in water to relieve his suffering
- Abraham refused as 'those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us'.
- Rich man asks that Lazarus be allowed to warn his family
- Abraham replies that 'they have Moses and the Prophets, let them listen to them'. If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.

Resurrection

- The soul, the spiritual part of a person, will join God in heaven when you die
- At the end of time there will be a physical resurrection
'So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable'. (Corinthians 15:42)

Heaven, Hell and purgatory


God is just and fair, and so cannot let evil go unpunished. Most believe in the idea of judgement after death, and that God will treat people in the afterlife according to how they lived their life on earth.

Some believe that **heaven** is a physical place, where their body goes after death. **Others** believe that it is their soul that lives on, and that heaven is a more spiritual dimension or state of being united with God.

Some Christians believe that **hell** is a **place** of suffering, and of separation from God. Some believe that it is a place where people burn eternally. **Others** (perhaps most) believe that hell is a **spiritual** state of being separated from God for eternity.

Some Roman Catholics, believe in **purgatory**. This is an in-between state for people who cannot gain immediate entry to heaven because they are stained by their sins. These people go to a kind of waiting room where they undergo a process of cleansing from sin and preparing for heaven. All those who are in purgatory will go to heaven on the day of Judgement. They pray for the souls of those in purgatory.

Many Christians believe that there is a place in the Kingdom of God for members of other faiths, and for many who have not even believed in God on earth but have 'done the will of God' in many ways without knowing it

Traditional	Modern
<p>Church leaders of mediaeval times took Jesus' picture of wretchedness literally. They preached of a judgment after death in which the wicked were thrown by devils into flames, while obedient churchgoers were lifted by angels into bliss. Pictures of this divide can still be seen on the walls of ancient churches.</p>	<p>Today, those who seek to understand what the Bible means when it describes Hell are more likely to consider the complete misery of being separated from God once the reality of his plans for eternity have been made plain.</p>
<p>Traditionally, Christianity has taught Heaven as the location of the throne of God as well as the holy angels. In traditional Christianity, it is considered a state or condition of existence</p>	<p>In modern Christianity, Heaven can be seen as a metaphor for a place of bliss.</p> 

Exam practice:

- a) What do Christians mean by atonement. (2)
- b) Explain Christian teaching about the crucifixion of Jesus (5)
- c) Explain why Christians believe the Bible is important (8)
- d) 'Jesus was just an ordinary man'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer (15) + 6 for SPAG

TOP TIPS

- Learn your key words!
- Learn some quotes for each sub-topic
- Make sure you spend at least 2 minutes planning your 15 mark question
- If you get the 2 and 5 mark question done as quickly as possible, you will be able to have a little bit longer on the 8 and 15 mark questions.

Revision ideas:

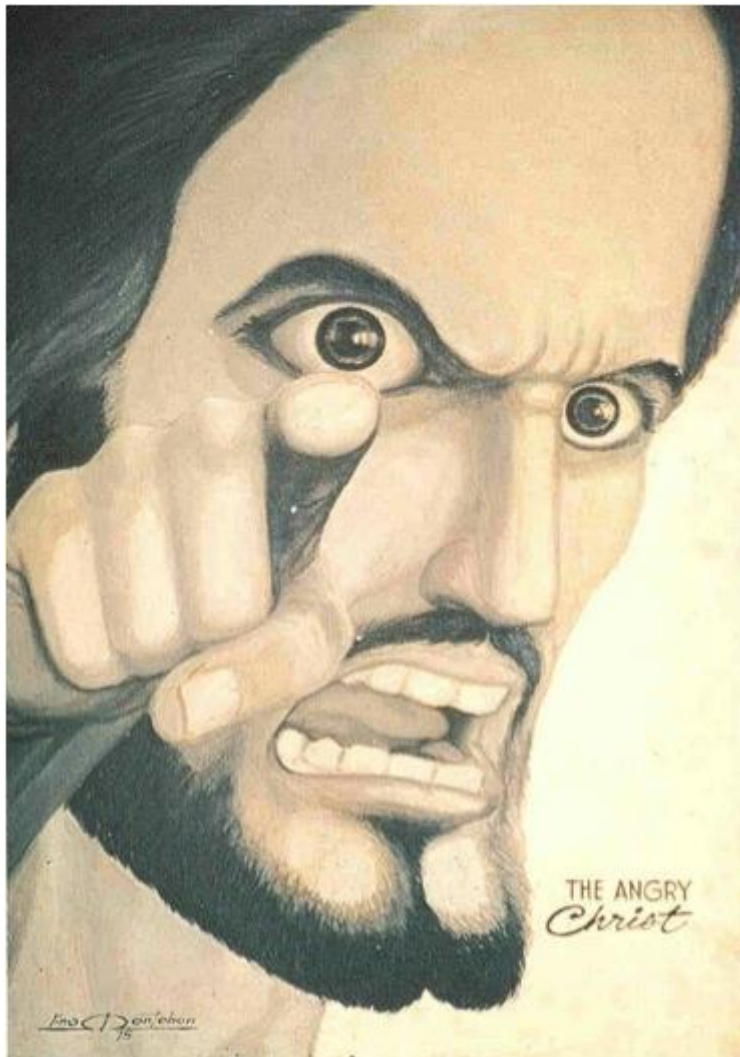
- Make revision cards / sheets on all the topics
- Use the Personalised topic check list at the front of this booklet.

Write down things you are not too sure on and then ask your teacher to explain them in class. Practice writing answers to exam question in timed condition



GCSE Religious Studies

Christian Practices



Lino Pontebon: The Angry Christ

Revision Booklet

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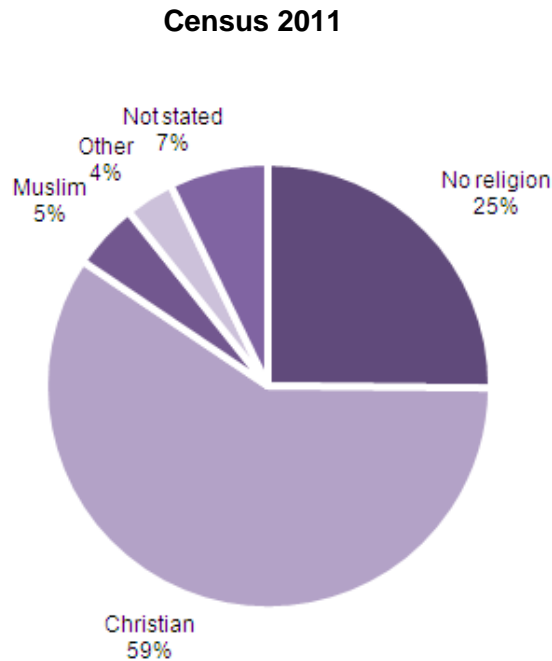
Key words

omnipotent	all-powerful; Christians believe that God can do anything, perhaps even the impossible.
omnibenevolent	all-good; Christians believe that God is all good, all kind, and all loving.
Trinity	the belief in one God who takes three forms: (1) The Father (2) The Son, and (3) The Holy Spirit.
incarnation	the belief that Jesus, the Son, was God in human flesh i.e. in a human body.
atonement	the belief that Jesus died to save human sins and thereby repair the relationship between humans and God. (The story of Adam and Eve shows how this relationship was damaged.)
resurrection	to die irreversibly and then to come back to life. Christians believe that Jesus died on Good Friday and then resurrected—arose again—on the Sunday.
sacrament	a religious ceremony or ritual that 'imparts divine grace' (=gives God's forgiving love), such as baptism.
evangelism	The spreading of the Christian gospel, or message, by public preaching.

1. Christianity in Britain and the Church in the local community

1.1. The 2011 census compared to the 2001 census

- A census is an **official count** of people.
- In the England and Wales, a census happens every **ten** years.



Religion in England and Wales (2011) Source: ONS (census data)

Christianity is the largest religion in England and Wales. Six in every ten people (60%) claim to be Christian. About 33 million.	Islam is the second largest religion. 5% of people - one in every twenty – claim to be Muslims. Almost 3 million.	Atheism: The proportion of people who don't identify with any religion—atheists—is now one in every four (25%). About 14 million.
About a million people claim to be Hindu (1.5%).	Almost half a million claim to be Sikh (1%).	About a quarter of a million identify as Jewish (0.5%).

Census 2001

The three main trends:

- an increase in atheists – from 15% in 2001 to 25% in 2011,
- a drop in Christians - from 72% in 2001 to 60% in 2011
- an increase in all other main religions. The number of Muslims increased the most from 3.0% in 2001 to 5% in 2011.

1.2. The UK: A multi-faith country with a Christian past

UK 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.

UK laws

Many UK laws have Christian origins. For example, ever noticed that, on a Sunday, big shops are open from, say, 10am to 4pm? This is because of Sunday trading laws. Sunday, for many Christians, is the holy day of rest: the Sabbath.

In the UK, there are laws against both theft and murder. These laws, one might argue, are derived from the Christian commandments, 'Thou shalt not kill' and 'Thou shalt not steal'.

By law, students in the UK should take part in a daily act of collective worship that is mainly Christian in nature.



OPENING HOURS	
Mon	8.30 - 5.30
Tues	8.30 - 5.30
Wed	8.30 - 5.30
Thur	8.30 - 5.30
Fri	8.30 - 7.00
Sat	8.30 - 5.00
Sun	Closed

UK festivals

In the UK, Christmas Day and Good Friday (at Easter) are bank holidays. Christmas and Easter are everywhere! Why Christmas and Good Friday? Because, historically, the UK is a Christian country.

UK traditions

Some UK traditions have their roots in Christianity, for example, harvest festival. Harvest festival is a celebration of the annual harvest, especially in Britain one held in schools and as a service in Christian churches, to which gifts of food are brought for the poor.

School assemblies can be seen as a legacy of the law which states that students in the UK should take part in a daily act of collective Christian worship.

Celebrating non-Christian festivals, beliefs and cultures

The UK has, arguably, always been a multi-faith country as well as a mainly Christian one.

Most schools, colleges and universities have prayer rooms that anyone—Christian, Muslim, Sikh, etc—can use, as do most public places, such as hotels, hospitals and airports. Many people in the UK choose to wear their items of religious dress every day (such as turbans, hijabs and kippahs) and to observe religious festivals, such as Christmas, Id, Diwali or Hanukkah. As a tolerant country people are free to choose exactly how they integrate their faith into their life¹.

¹ <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/living/religion>

1.3. The church and the Church

A church, with a little 'c' is a building. A church might look like this:



Christ Church in Lubbock Road, Chislehurst

The word Church, with a big 'C', means something different. It refers to a particular Christian group of people – with their own buildings, leaders, and particular beliefs. So, we talk about, say, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Church of England.

Place of worship

A church is mainly a **place of worship**. Lots of community activities take place:



Baptisms

Baptisms are usually held during the 10:45am Sunday service >



Debt Advice

For people struggling with personal debt >



Dementia Cafe

A friendly place for those with dementia to have a relaxing social time together | First Thursday every month >



Foodbank

A friend in need is a friend we feed! We collect in church for the Bromley Foodbank | First Sunday of every month >



Funerals

Funerals are a difficult time. We're here to help. >



Girlguiding

For girls aged 5 upwards | Meets Monday evenings in term time >

Local Partners

Girlguiding

Churches Together in Chislehurst

Pals Pre School

2gether Charity Shop

CTC Charity Shop

Welcare in Bromley >



Pals Pre-School

Pals Pre school at Christ Church >



Thursday Communion

Communion for the community | Every Thursday, followed by coffee, and, once a month, by lunch as well as well >

<https://www.christchurchchislehurst.org/community>

2. Forms of worship

2.1. The nature and significance of liturgical, informal and individual worship: Matthew 18:20

- Worship is an expression of adoration and praise for God.
- Acts of worship and their importance are referred to frequently in the Bible. E.g. the Commandment to 'keep holy the Sabbath day' has been interpreted as a command to worship God.

Liturgical Worship: Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians have a set form of worship. It is a formal ritual based around the sacraments. This type of worship is called liturgical worship. The Eucharist service is an example of liturgical worship.

Non-liturgical (informal) worship: Other Christian churches practise non-liturgical worship, eg Baptists and Quakers. This kind of worship has no set form and often does not involve Holy Communion. It is usually centred on Bible readings, a sermon, music and prayers. It can be structured or unstructured and spontaneous.

Individual Worship: Takes place in addition to worshipping together in a church. Christians believe that it is important to form a personal relationship with God and worshipping alone is often part of this.

Quotes:

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

"Go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is in Heaven." Matthew 6:6

2.2. The nature and importance of prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Keyword	Definition
Prayer	form of communication with God
Meditation	quiet form of prayer
Rosary	a string of beads with a crucifix used in prayer;
Icons	images that some Christians use to help focus on God during prayer.

Worship involves prayer. Some of the most important types of prayer are:

- Adoration- deep love and respect for God.
- Confessional- statement of faith through prayer.
- Contemplation- meditation
- Penitential- saying sorry.
- Praise- giving praise, which might include singing hymns.
- Thanksgiving- saying thank you.
- Supplication- asking for something.

The Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

What does the Lord's Prayer teach us?

- This is the prayer that Jesus taught his followers.
- It contains various elements:
- Respect to God
- Recognition of his holiness;
- Asking for God's help;
- Asking for God to provide
- Requesting forgiveness for doing wrong and for the ability to forgive other people;
- Asks for God's protection;
- Praise for God;
- Recognition of his power.
- It is a **set prayer** that helps some Christians to concentrate on God and communicate with him.

Set prayers are one form of praying. They allow Christians to learn and repeat prayers that have a significant meaning for them. They allow prayer to become collective.

Why do Christians pray?

- Asking for help;
- Give thanks for someone or something;
- Confess sins;
- Feel closer to God;
- Develop a relationship with God;
- Meditate in worship;
- Follow the example set by Jesus;
- Bring comfort in times of need.

How can prayer help to deepen faith?

- A method of communicating with God;
- Brings Christians closer to God;
- Makes Christians more aware of their beliefs;
- Allows time for reflection;
- Focuses the mind to deepen the connection with God.

What is the significance of prayers being answered?

- Prayer is evidence of faith;
- It demonstrates that their beliefs about God are true for them;
- Answered prayers help to deepen faith.

2.3. Set prayers and informal prayers: different forms of worship across the different Christian traditions with reference to Society of Friends and Evangelical worship

Set prayer- see above.

Extemporaneous Prayer: non-formulaic, spontaneous prayers.

How do the Society of Friends AKA Quakers worship?

- informal prayer.
- Tends to be private and involves more than just communicating with God.
- Worship can include meditation, contemplation, personal reflection and simply being in the presence of God.
- Services do not consist of any set prayers. Instead they sit in silence and stillness as they believe that this allows them the opportunity to listen, reflect and become closer to God.
- There is no official leader of worship.

How do Evangelical Christians worship?

- Worship is very informal.
- These Christians feel that they are moved by the Holy Spirit during worship. This can include speaking in tongues.
- Movement and participation are encouraged.
- There is often music, singing and dancing.

3. Sacraments

3.1. Diverse beliefs regarding Sacraments

SACRAMENTS

DEFINITION

An outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing by God

‘Visible sign of an invisible grace’ ~ Saint Augustine

So in simple terms, actions, objects and words are used to help believers understand that through this ritual they are receiving God’s blessing.

Different churches worship in different ways, some have very simple acts of worship others like elaborate ritual. The most complicated rituals and liturgies are found in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. They have recognised **7 sacraments:**

Baptism

Confirmation

Eucharist

Penance/Confession

Anointing of the sick and dying

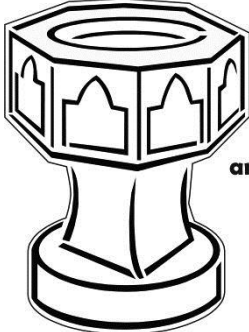
Ordination

Marriage

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

My name is _____

BAPTISM



Baptism takes away original sin, all personal sins and removes any punishment due to sin. It gives our souls the new life of grace and makes us children of God.

Color the Baptismal Font and write the name of the church and the date of your Baptism:

CONFIRMATION

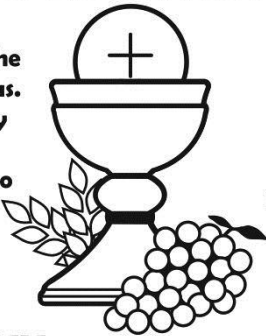


In Confirmation the Holy Spirit gives us His gifts and power to help us grow to be

strong Christians. The Bishop anoints us with "chrism" oil to serve God and others. Write the names of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the flames above.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus. When we receive Holy Communion we are united more closely to Jesus and we grow in love for God and others.



MATRIMONY

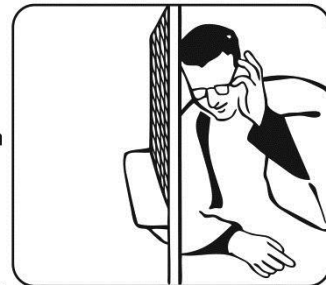
The sacrament of Matrimony unites a man and a woman together as husband and wife. It gives them a special grace to live for Jesus and to fulfill the duties and dignity of marriage.



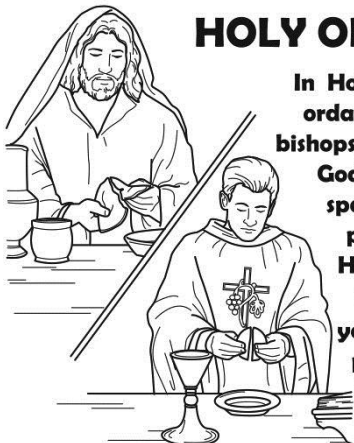
CONFESSION

In Confession we confess, or tell, our sins to a priest. God forgives our sins through the priest and fills us with grace and joy to help us obey Him and do what is right.

Draw yourself going to Confession and write down something for which you are truly sorry.



HOLY ORDERS



In Holy Orders, bishops ordain men to become bishops, priests, or deacons. God gives these men special graces and power to serve Him and others.

Write the name of your parish priest and pray one Hail Mary for him every day.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



In the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints the sick person with blessed oil and lays his hands on them for healing, strength, peace, and courage.

This Sacrament also forgives sins if the person is not able to go to Confession.

This is typically what you would see in a Roman Catholic church. Not all Christian worshippers think that you need

to have all of these performed in a particular way. Many think that it is good to keep things simple and not to be tied to liturgy (written words) and ceremonies. The Salvation Army and The Society of Friends think that you should reflect upon God inwardly, with your mind and heart, not having to perhaps become distracted with rituals and special ceremonies.

Most Christians acknowledge that Baptism and the Eucharist (Holy Communion) are very important, even though they celebrate them differently. They both remember events in the life of Jesus and have symbolic meaning for the worshipper.

3.2. The role, meaning and celebration of Baptism and Eucharist: John 3:3-6

BAPTISM

There are 2 different views on baptism, both ceremonies involve water as a symbol of cleansing and purity. Most Christian churches agree with **Infant Baptism**, celebrating the birth of a child and welcoming them in to the Christian family. People, Sometimes called Godparents and the congregation make promises on behalf of the child and when the babies have grown and are old enough, usually as young adults they confirm these baptismal promises = **confirmation**.

Ceremony of Infant Baptism



Some denominations think that is not helpful to baptise babies as they know nothing about what is happening and cannot decide for themselves. They think it is better to wait until a person is older and can declare their belief in Jesus. This is known as **Adult Baptism** or **Believers' Baptism**. They also suggest that this is what happened

to Jesus, he was baptised as an adult by John the Baptist, so they are following in his example.

Ceremony of Adult Baptism



Some churches have special small areas built often called a baptistery, actually in the church. So they can filled them with water and people can be gently lowered into the water. This is called **total immersion** as the water completely covers the body.

Some people prefer to have an outdoor ceremony, perhaps in a river, this replicates what Jesus actually did in the River Jordan. Special prayers are said, hymns are sung and there is a time when the believer will express to all those gathered just how important belief in Jesus Christ is to them.



Jesus made it clear that Baptism was important and that he wanted his disciples to baptise people- Jesus said to them that they should:

‘Make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’.

Baptism is also a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit, people are symbolically born again with water and the gift of the Holy Spirit and through this participate in the eternal life that the resurrection of Jesus has to offer all those who believe in him.

3.3. Diverse interpretations of Baptism and Eucharist with reference to the beliefs of the Catholic and Protestant Churches

EUCHARIST (Thanksgiving)



This is a very important ritual in the lives of most Christians and Christian denominations. It is also known as **Mass, Holy Communion, Lord's Supper** and **Breaking of Bread**.

Some have very elaborate ceremonies others are more simple but all involve the use of bread and wine or non-alcoholic grape juice.

It recalls the final night in the life of Jesus when he met with his disciples for a **Last Supper**. Many Christians believe that Jesus instituted (established this custom) as during the meal he shared bread and wine with his disciples and told them that they represented his body and blood. He told them to share bread and wine when they gather together after his death in memory of him. Christians think of his death whenever they eat the bread and drink the wine. Remembering that he was prepared to die for them and that through this generous act Christians can share in his **eternal life**. This process is known as **salvation**.

Clever stuff to try and remember!! (it's complicated)

1. *Most Roman Catholics believe that the bread and wine mysteriously actually become the body and blood of Jesus (of course they don't taste any different). This is known as **TRANSUBSTANTIATION**.*
2. *Some Protestant Christians think that the body and blood are actually somehow **present** in the communion the body and blood of Christ and the bread and wine **coexist** in union with each other. This was made popular by the **Lutheran church**, who followed the teachings of **Martin Luther** who was concerned that some of traditions of the Roman Catholic church needed to be changed. This is known as **CONSUBSTANTIATION**.*
3. *Others believe that Christ is present **spiritually** rather than being **literally** present.*
4. *Other Protestants, such as Baptists believe that Christ is not present in the bread or wine but that this is an act of **remembrance**, both of his death and the Last Supper.*

Worship

This ritual is important, some churches will celebrate the Eucharist every day, some weekly, some monthly, some never. Some Christians ask to celebrate Holy Communion during their wedding ceremony or during their funeral. Often Holy Communion is taken to members of the church who are ill, or very close to death and cannot attend church.



In Roman Catholic churches the First Holy Communion is a very special occasion, special outfits are bought and gifts are exchanged and parties are often held to mark such a special day.



Unlike other Christian churches the Salvation Army does not recognise any sacraments, such as baptism or Holy Communion as essential. The Army does not teach that sacraments are wrong, but it believes that they are unnecessary, and may be unhelpful to some.

Quakers neither practise baptism nor celebrate the Eucharist. They don't regard some activities as more sacred than others, nor do they believe that any particular ritual is needed to be in touch with God, so they do not believe in the sacraments practised in mainstream Christian churches.

John 3:3-6 New International Version (NIV)

3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

4. Pilgrimage and celebrations

4.1. The importance of pilgrimage: Walsingham, Taizé

- A journey to a sacred place, usually as an act of religious devotion
- A pilgrimage is faith in action – the journey represents a Christian's journey from earth to heaven.
- The experience is likely to deepen or develop spiritual faith
- Sometimes there is a specific reason for the pilgrimage eg healing, thanksgiving
- Pilgrimage to the 'Holy Land' has can be seen as 'travelling in the footsteps of Jesus.

Walsingham

- County of Norfolk (30 miles from Norwich)
- In 1061 the wife of the lord of the Manor had a dream that the Virgin Mary asked her to build a replica of the house in Nazareth where the birth of Jesus was announced. She did this and in 1150 a priory was also built. (Destroyed in the **Reformation**). An Anglican shrine was also built there.
- Services take place daily. The Rosary is said and daily Mass at midday. .
- A yearly pilgrimage on Spring Bank Holiday to the shrine. Some Catholics walk the last mile in bare feet as a penance and the 'Sprinkling of the well takes place.

Why do people go there?

It commemorates the announcement of the birth of Jesus and helps people to connect with the one they worship to gain salvation through him.

Taize

- Robert Schutz founded a community in France in 1940 with monks from different Christian traditions (Catholic and Protestant), focusing on reconciliation, the resolution of conflict and the promotion of understanding and cooperation.
- It is an important ecumenical monastic order
- There are over 100 brothers there
- Pilgrims join in the monastic life, offering private prayers, attending services 3 times a day, attending Bible study groups and share in communal work.
- It is famous for it's chants and music
- Pilgrims wear white robes during the services

Why do people go there?

Young people especially go there for curiosity, religious devotion, walking in the footsteps of people of faith, as an act of atonement and as an act of supplication (to ask God for something).

4.2. How Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter

Christian celebrations are religious festivals which remember important events in the life of Jesus or mark important events in the history of the Christian Church.

As a Christian country, they became the basis of public holidays

Celebration	Significance	Involves	Celebrated by
Christmas	Birth of Jesus – God's incarnation Jesus born to be the Saviour of the world and save people from their sins	Advent - a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas	Nativity plays Carol concerts Christingle Midnight Mass Giving and receiving presents
Lent	Remembers the time Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying. Starts on Ash Wednesday	A symbol of their own abstinence and spiritual preparation for Easter	Giving up something Ash Wednesday – ash cross made on the forehead of Catholics
Holy Week	Holy Week is the week leading up to the festival of Easter, beginning on Palm Sunday, including Maundy Thursday and ending on Holy Saturday	Preparation for Easter Sunday Maundy Thursday – commemorates the Last Supper	Mass including Ceremony to symbolise Jesus washing the disciples' feet Purple alter cloths
Good Friday	A Holy Day	Remembers the death of Jesus on the cross	Mass – the alter cloths are black
Easter Sunday	The most important day in the Christian calendar	Remembers the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and assurance of resurrection for believers into a new life with God for eternity	Mass – alter cloths are white/gold Easter eggs given as a symbol of new life Easter cards

5. The worldwide Church

5.1. The importance of mission, evangelism and church growth.

Evangelism:

- Evangelism is the way in which the gospel is spread – it means ‘preaching the good news’ and is one way in which the Church grows.
- Christians are keen to share their faith with others as they believe that Jesus’ message and salvation is meant for all people.
- Several different ways of ‘evangelising’:
 - Sharing the good news with people in everyday life
 - Standing up on a platform and preaching to listeners
 - Giving out leaflets with a clear Christian message
 - Living a life of faith

Mission:

- The mission of the Church is to:
 1. Evangelise (spread the Christian message of salvation)
 2. To help Christians to live a life of faith, and to grow in that faith.

Church Growth:

- There has been a decline in attendance at Church of England and Catholic Churches in the UK. Many churches are closing because of falling church attendance.
- However, Evangelical churches have grown in recent years which take on a non-liturgical form of worship. Some Evangelical churches have been engaging in the process of church planting (when groups from an existing church split off and go to a new area to establish a church there).
- *Fresh Expressions*: This is a movement in the Church of England to change the ways of some Churches. This is an attempt to attract more people to the church. Groups often meet in less traditional settings and are more informal EG a café church.
- *Worldwide Church growth*: Christianity is spreading and growing very successfully in other parts of the world, for example Asia, South America and particularly Africa.

5.2. The work of Tearfund: Christian beliefs in action

What is Tearfund?	It is a Christian charity that says it is passionate about ending poverty and works tirelessly to help communities around the world escape the very worst effects of poverty and disaster.
What does Tearfund do?	They work through local churches giving help to the poor in many countries across the world. They provide emergency aid after natural disasters, and long-term projects to support local communities in eradicating poverty. Tearfund works in about 50 countries across the world, mostly in Asia, Africa and South America. One example is Colombia, there are over 30 sports clubs where children can come for football training as a safe place away from the gang culture.
Why is Tearfund important?	It raises awareness of social issues such as poverty and discrimination in the world: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It campaigns against causes of poverty worldwide• It gives practical help in order to act out the teachings of Jesus to help others ('Love thy neighbour')• It encourages self-help for individuals and communities

5.3. Persecution of Christians past and present

- The persecution of Christians has always taken place, and there have been many 'martyrs' (someone killed for their religious beliefs) EG Jesus himself.
- Christians believe they should spread Jesus' word even if it means they are in danger.
- Where Christianity is a minority religion, Christians are often discriminated EG terrorist organisations such as IS specifically target Christians.
- Organisations such as Christian Freedom International or Open Doors, help persecuted Christians by providing Bibles, emergency support and by campaigning for human rights.

5.4. Working for reconciliation: World Council of Churches, The Ecumenical Movement

- The Ecumenical means relating to several different Christian churches.
- The Ecumenical Movement is an attempt to bring the Christian denominations closer together and promote Christian unity throughout the world.
- There are two organisations that have tried to help bring such reconciliation:

The Ecumenical Movement focuses on:

- Trying to unify Protestant Churches of the world
- Having various conferences and councils to promote Christian unity
- Bringing about greater cooperation between Christian churches e.g. shared buildings, joint services, supporting common projects
- Putting in place the World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches focuses on:

- Attempting to bring a common Christian witness and service across the world
- Holding a week of prayer for Christian Unity each year
- Working in over 110 countries across the world, among many different Christian traditions.