

Living the Christian Life

Worship

Worship as '**reverence**' to God - "**Every knee shall bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.**" "**You shall revere your God; I am the Lord.**"

Worship as '**paying homage**' to God - "**Hallowed be your name**", "**How great thou art.**", "**How marvellous are your works oh Lord.**"

Liturgical Worship	Non-Liturgical
Clergy (ordained priests, vicars etc.) Play an important and central role in worship.	Ministers may play a less prominent role and may allow others to lead / preach as part of a rota.
Prayers are usually read from a book. E.g. Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship for Anglicans.	Extempore prayers are used (Made up on the spot rather than from a book.)
Looks the same in different churches that belong to the same congregation.	No set pattern or theme and varies from church to church.
Full of signs and symbols.	More Bible-centred / stripped back to the "basics".
Ordered, structured and follows same pattern as part of a tradition.	Reinvents itself to suit congregation. Someone decides readings / themes etc.

Liturgical Roman Catholic	Non- Liturgical Methodist	Non- Liturgical Charismatic	Non-Liturgical Quaker Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The altar is the focal point of the church as the Mass (Holy Communion) The Mass is the most important part of the service and takes place every week The church is decorated in liturgical colours – red for Saints Day Lots of statues and paintings of Jesus, Virgin Mary, Saints Crucifix - emphasis on the suffering of Jesus on the cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pulpit is the focal point of the Church as there is greater emphasis on the Bible as the inspired word of God The Bible Readings and Sermon (which is much longer) is the most important part of the service Simple building – no statues so as not to distract from listening to God's word Communion takes place once a month at a simple table Cross – emphasis on the risen Jesus who has conquered death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As well as Pentecostal churches, some Protestant and Roman Catholic churches that worship in a Charismatic way They believe Christians should be free to worship how the Holy Spirit leads them Services often include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glossolalia/ speaking in tongues – praying and speaking in an unknown language. It usually happens when someone is overcome by emotion during worship Prophecies Healing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> takes place in meeting houses, not churches - these are simple buildings or rooms. A meeting begins when two or more worshippers come together to be in the presence of God. They usually sit facing each other in a square or a circle Quakers together in silence They believe stillness gives them space and time to listen and reflect and seek a sense of connection with those around them, with their deepest selves and with God..

Worship and Prayer

Informal Worship

As well as worshipping formally in churches, Christians worship in many informal ways

- Messy Church
- Saying grace before a meal
- Lighting an Advent Candle to think of God coming down to earth as Jesus
- With their house group

Private Worship

As well as worshipping with others (**Public/ Communal/ Collective Worship**), Christians also worship on their own (**Private Worship**). This might be at home or anywhere. They might:

- Read the Bible
- Try to interpret what they are reading and think about how the passage applies to their own life
- Pray to God in silence:
- Thanking God for good things that have happened
- Ask God to help in particular situations (e.g. if someone is ill or needs support or comfort)

Christians believe it is important to worship God

- It is an expression of their faith in God
- It is a way of showing their respect to God (**reverence**)
- It is a way of acknowledging God's greatness (paying **homage**)
- It allows them to **receive forgiveness** from God for the things they have done wrong
- It is an opportunity to connect with God in a way that helps them **grow spiritually** and understand God's purpose for them as an individual
- It reminds Christians of **key beliefs** – e.g.: Jesus is the Son of God, Salvation through the cross

Prayer: Prayer is a way of communicating with God – it involves both **talking** to and **listening** to God. Essential to being a Christian as it develops their relationship with God and helps them grow spiritually.

P – Praise (Adoration)
R – Repent (Confession)
A – Ask (Supplication – For self)
I – Intercession (For others)
S – Say Thank You (Thanksgiving)
E – End (Amen)

A – Adoration
C – Confession
T – Thanksgiving
S – Supplication (For self and others)

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is the most used and best known Christian prayer, which is used in most acts of Christian worship.

Jesus taught this prayer to his **disciples**, not just a set prayer to be read but as the pattern of **HOW** to pray: "***This, then, is how you should pray***"

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil."
(For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever. Amen.)*

ADORATION

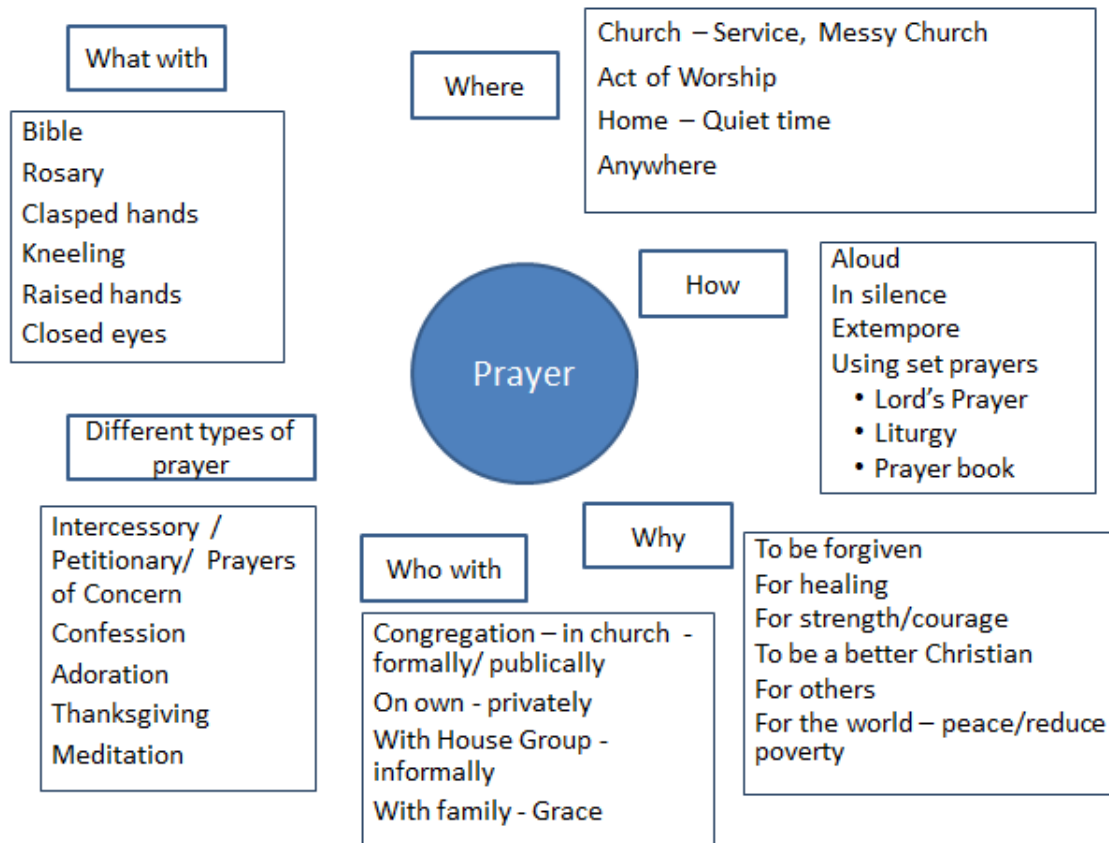
SUPPLICATION

CONFESSION

SUPPLICATION

ADORATION

Prayer



What does the Bible say about prayer??

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. ..When you pray, go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen". Matthew 6:5-8

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" Ephesians 6:8

"One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon". Acts 3:1

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" Philipians 4:6

"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven". James 5:15

Christian meditation is another form of prayer.

- It involved focusing on specific thoughts to do with God
 - Imagining you were at an event in Jesus life and thinking how you would have felt/reacted
 - Reading a Bible verse over and over
 - Singing a short chorus based on a Bible verse over and over
- Christians believe that the **Holy Spirit** helps the meditating Christian to understand God more deeply
- Meditative prayer can be used as part of **formal communal** worship like at **Taize**, a monastic community in France or more commonly as part of **informal private** worship

Sacraments

A sacrament is a **rite or ritual** through which the believer receives a special **gift of grace**. "***an outward and visible sign of an inward invisible grace***" **Council of Trent**

Protestant / Church of England	Catholic / Orthodox (believe these were instituted (introduced) by Christ himself)
Eucharist / Holy Communion	Eucharist / Holy Communion
Baptism	Baptism
In the 39 Articles Church of England only recognises the two evangelical sacraments.(one that allows a believer to grow in faith). The others, although they are means of grace, they are not necessary for all persons in the same way that Baptism and the Eucharist are	Confirmation
	Penance /Reconciliation
	Ordination
	Marriage
	Healing the sick

Some Protestant Christians don’t have any sacraments at all

Salvation Army	Quakers
<p>They do not celebrate the Eucharist because :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> they have always seen women as equal in ministry (and sacraments at the time were only distributable by men) throughout history the sacraments have had a divisive influence on the church 	<p>Quakers have never celebrated the Eucharist or any sacraments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are a tradition which is historically teetotal They find all ritual distracts and takes focus away from God. Ministry is not only equal between men and women, but that it belongs to all people, not just a few ministers.

Baptism

Infant Baptism: Roman Catholic and most Church of England Christians baptised as babies, with their parents and godparents makes promises on their behalf

Roman Catholic Baptism

	Meaning	Quotes
There are readings from the Bible about baptism and new life in Christ		
The parents and godparents mark the child with the sign of the cross		<i>Christ claims you for His own. Receive the sign of the cross</i>
The priest anoints the baby with oil and says a prayer to remove sin	Oil was used to anoint prophets and kings – symbol of holiness	
The parents and god parents make vows to bring the baby up as a Catholic		<i>Will you walk with them in the way of Christ? With the help of God, we will."</i>
Water is poured over the baby’s head	Sin being washed away	<i>"I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"</i>
The child is dressed in a white garment	Purity	<i>You have been clothed in Christ</i>
A candle is lit from the Pascal candle and given to the godparents	Jesus is the Light of the World	<i>In baptism, God call us out of darkness into his marvellous light</i>

Sacraments

Baptism is important to Roman Catholics because:

- It is necessary to receive salvation
- It welcomes the child into the church - they become a member of the church
- It washed away Original sin
- The Catechism teaches it is the basis of Christian life and without it a person cannot receive the other sacraments
- It copies the example of Jesus being baptised
- The sacrament gives the parents strength and help in bringing up the child as a Christian

Confirmation Christians who were baptised as babies are usually confirmed when they are older. Confirmation is a way of accepting the Christian faith for yourself and confirming the promises made by their parents and godparents

- The Anglican Church confirms teenagers and young adults
- Many in the Roman Catholic Church however, argue that you should be confirmed earlier at about the age of 7.
- Some Churches will not allow children to take Holy Communion unless they have been confirmed as they believe you are not a full member of the Church until this has happened

Believers Baptism

Some **Protestant** Christians, e.g **Baptists** and **Pentecostals** believe people need to be old enough to make the baptismal vows themselves when they have made their own decision to become a member of the Church. These churches usually have a service of dedication for babies

- Many Baptist churches have a **baptistry** or baptismal pool in the floor of the church, which is usually covered up
- Other churches hire a swimming pool or baptise in sea or rivers or in a large paddling pool

main features
• They have a sponsor , who stands next to them and has supported them in their decision to be baptised
• The person to be baptised is asked if they believe that Jesus is Lord and that he died for their sins
• They give a testimony (say a few words about how they became to believe in Christ as their Lord and Saviour)
• The minister lowers them completely under the water, saying "I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit"
• They are congratulated by the congregation and welcomed into the church

importance
• It marks the end of their old life outside the church and of being born again to new life in Christ
• They become a full member of the church
• It is a moment where they make a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord
• God's presence and blessing comes upon them and they receive God's Spirit for service in the Church and the world
• It copies the example of Jesus being baptised

Sacraments (cont)

The Eucharist

The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving” and was started by Jesus when he gave the bread and wine to his disciples “**Take eat this is my body, Eat this is remembrance of me, Drink this all of you, this is the blood of the new covenant**”

It is the earliest recorded act of Christian worship and is described by St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians.

Roman Catholic	Methodist Church
Main features	
Mass (meanings dismissal – the sacrament gives them strength to go out in the world and fulfil their Christian mission)	Holy Communion
Are expected to go to Mass every Sunday and on Holy days like Christmas Day and Saints days	Celebrated once a month Attendance is not compulsory
Wine is alcoholic and drunk from chalice (cup) Bread is unleavened wafers called the Host	Wine is non-alcoholic and drunk from individual glasses Bread is normal bread, which is broken by minister during prayer of thanksgiving
Penitential Rite: congregation confess their sins and receive absolution	Prayer of confession of sins and absolution
Liturgy of the Word – readings from the Bible and a sermon	Bible readings and sermon
Liturgy of the Eucharist – Last supper is re-enacted, priest repeats Jesus words and the bread and wine is changed into the body and blood of Jesus (transubstantiation)	Prayer of thanksgiving over the bread and wine
Rite of Holy Communion – congregation share the peace and receive the consecrated Host and (in most Catholic churches) the wine. Any remaining host are placed in the tabernacle to be used for the sacrament of healing the sick)	Sharing of peace Sharing of bread and wine.(in some churches congregation all drink the wine at the same time – symbolising unity)
Concluding Rite – priest blesses the congregation and sends them out in the world	Minister blesses the congregation and send them out into the world
Importance	
Through transubstantiation, Jesus is really present with them during Mass	The bread and wine do not change. They are symbols of the presence of Christ
As a sacrament it is a weekly gift of God’s grace	It gives spiritual nourishment, filling Methodists with God’s grace
It is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, reminding Catholics of the gift of eternal life	It brings unity to Methodists as they share the one body of Christ and share the peace
The Mass was instituted by Jesus “ Do this in memory of me ” so by attending Mass they are obeying the command of Jesus	It is a reminder if the Last Supper mad the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a religious journey to a shrine or sacred site. A person who goes on a pilgrimage is a pilgrim.

People go on a pilgrimage to:

- Strengthen their faith
- To become closer to God
- Show commitment to their faith as it takes time, planning and effort
- Hope that they will be healed
- Make up for something they have done wrong (Penance)
- It is part of their religious tradition
- So that some of the holiness of the place will rub off on them
- To be inspired by the faith and courage of the Christian connected with the site

History of Pilgrimage

- As a Jew, Jesus went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover: "**Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover**". Luke 2:41-43
- The early Christians wanted to visit places connected with Jesus – (Bethlehem – where he was born, Nazareth – where he grew up, Jerusalem – where he was crucified and resurrected)
- The tombs of Christians saints (especially those who were martyred(killed) for their faith , became places of pilgrimage. It was believed that as the saints were in heaven with God, they could intervene and answer prayer.

Opposition to pilgrimage

The Protestant reformers were against pilgrimage - "All **pilgrimages should be stopped. There is no good in them**" Martin Luther:

- Emphasizing special, holy places is wrong as God can be encountered anywhere
- It broke the commandment not to worship idols:
 - Worshipping and praying to Virgin Mary is idol worship
 - medieval pilgrimage sites often had relics – physical remains of Jesus or the saints which were believed to be holy and were worshiped by the pilgrims and only God should be worshipped
- The relics were false and so the pilgrims were being deceived
- Rich people paid others to go on pilgrimage for them to gain spiritual benefits without the effort of doing it themselves

The importance of pilgrimage today

even more important in today's hectic lifestyle	Not important
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can help people realise that material things won't make them happy• Can break a dependence on technology and using social media• Can set you free from the stresses and strains of everyday life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unnecessary to go to a particular place to feel close to God as God is omnipresent• It can take you away from the daily pilgrimage of Christian life, serving God and others• It is expensive and could either be a financial burden or the money used to help others

Pilgrimage (cont)

Place of Pilgrimage	Why this place is important for Pilgrims	What they do their
Jerusalem	Cenacle – the Upper Room where Jesus had his Last Supper and instituted the Eucharist	Worship as a group
	Church of all Nations - Mount of Olives – Jesus prayed before to God before his crucifixion	Pray silently and think about Jesus' suffering
	Via Dolorosa – the way Jesus carried his cross to Golgotha, place of crucifixion	Walk where Jesus walked and pray at each important place
	Church of the Holy Sepulchre – site of crucifixion and burial/ resurrection	Touch the place where the cross was in the rock
	Garden tomb – Protestants believe this to be the site of the resurrection	Praise God for the resurrection
Walsingham (Norfolk)	<p>Richeldis de Faverches had a vision of the Virgin Mary in 1061, where Mary showed her Jesus' home in Nazareth. Richeldis had a replica built - The Holy House, with a statue of Mary based on what she saw in her vision.</p> <p>The shrine was destroyed in the Reformation but rebuilt in 1921 by the vicar</p> <p>Many healings are meant to have taken place here</p> <p>There is both a Roman Catholic shrine and a High Church Anglican shrine</p>	<p>Pilgrims can feel close to the Virgin Mary when praying there</p> <p>Think about the Incarnation</p> <p>Jesus had a human family as well as being the Son of God</p> <p>Pray for healing</p> <p>It brings Catholics and Anglicans closer together</p>
Taize (France)	<p>Ecumenical monastic community founded in 1940 by Brother Roger (a Protestant who had helped Jews escaping the Nazis during Second World War) as a symbol of reconciliation between Christians in Europe</p> <p>Over Protestant and Roman Catholics monks from across the world live their</p> <p>Each year over 100,000 young people from different tradition stay there. T</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are encouraged to live and work together to overcome racial and religious differences • Worship together in candle lit services with Taize chants (repeated singing of short songs based on Bible verses) and times of silence) • Bible study and discussion
Iona (an island off west Scotland)	<p>Home of St Columba (521-597 CE), who trained missionaries and spread Christianity throughout Scotland</p> <p>Monastery rebuilt by George McCleod as an Ecumenical centre, where "people from different walks of life and different traditions engage together"</p> <p>It is described as a "thin place" where spiritual world and physical world meet, so that a person can sense the spiritual in powerful way.</p> <p>Every Tuesday pilgrimage walk around the island that stops at places of historical and religious significance.</p> <p>It's remote location gives a real sense of taking a journey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend time on retreat thinking about God • Helps Christians from different traditions to become more united by working, worshipping and praying together • Encourages clergy and ordinary clergy to spend time together and learn from each other • Members of the community don't spend all the time on Iona but follow community rules wherever they are

Christian Religious Celebrations

Christian festivals are celebrated throughout the Liturgical year which begins with Advent

Festival	When	What Christians think about	How Christians Celebrate it	Why it is important
Advent	Begins on fourth Sunday before Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Testament prophecies about the coming of Jesus Jesus' second coming and judgement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light a candle on the Advent wreath on each Sunday and the final candle on Christmas day Carol services eg, Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols 	Prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas
Christmas	25 th December until 6 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem The visit of the shepherds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crib service on Christmas Eve Midnight Mass Christmas Day services retelling gospel accounts of Jesus' birth 	Incarnation – God come to earth as a human Emmanuel – God with us
Epiphany	6 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The visit of the Wise Men to Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give presents to each other 	
Lent	40 days before Easter excluding Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' temptation in the wilderness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fasting – give up certain food/alcohol Bible study and prayer Charity e.g. 40 Acts 	Time of preparation for Easter
Holy Week	See below			
Easter				
Pentecost	40 days after Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples which enabled them to heal and speak in different languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many churches will be decorated in red and special banners will be hung up Open air services as an act of witness 	It is seen as the birth of the church and celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit

Holy Week and Easter

Day	What happened in Jesus life	How Christians Celebrate it today	Why it is important What does it remind Christians
Palm Sunday	Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a donkey. People welcomed him as the Messiah by waving palm branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians process to the church with palm leaves or branches. Palm crosses are given to the congregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus is the Messiah, who is worthy of praise and worship. Jesus was popular before being rejected and crucified. It inspires Christians to stand up for justice
Maundy Thursday	Jesus Last Supper with his disciples Jesus goes to the garden of Gethsemane and prays to God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a special Eucharist when the priest or minister washes people's feet In Catholic and Anglican churches the altar is stripped bare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is why Christians celebrate Eucharist/Mass. Jesus said - "Do this in memory of me" The foot washing reminds Christians of the need to serve one another

Christian Religious Celebrations (cont)

Day	What happened in Jesus life	How Christians Celebrate it today	Why it is important What does it remind Christians
Good Friday	Jesus is sent before Pilate. Jesus is crucified. Jesus' body is put in the tomb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A walk of witness in the local area carrying a cross. A 3 hour afternoon service marking the time Jesus was on the cross In Catholic churches, there are prayers at the stations of the cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fact that Jesus suffered gives Christians strength that they can cope with suffering "Christ died for our sins" 1 Corinthians 15:3 Jesus died on the cross for the salvation of the world from sin so that people can have a full relationship with God
Easter Sunday	Jesus' resurrection – the women go and find an empty tomb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some churches have an open air service at dawn Easter eggs are given Catholic churches have an Easter Vigil, which has a ceremony of light and people renew their baptismal vows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It celebrates Jesus victory over death Eternal life for all who follow Jesus Jesus is not dead but alive to help and guide his church and Christians The use of candles remembers the darkness of the tomb and the light of resurrection

Which is more important – Christmas or Easter?

Christmas	Easter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It celebrates the Incarnation, without the birth of Jesus there would be no Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which proves the identity of Jesus as the Son of God "He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" 1 Corinthians 15:5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Jesus hadn't been born as a human he couldn't have defeated sin by his death on the cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It celebrates his victory over death and evil. The power of sin has been cancelled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through celebrating the birth of Christ, Christians feel united with other Christians as a worldwide community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus resurrection is proof of eternal life for all who follow him and that Jesus is alive to guide Christians today
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It shows the importance of family. Jesus was born into a human family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' suffering gives Christians strength that they can cope with suffering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Christmas, Christians remember the humility and strength of Mary and Joseph and try to be like them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salvation is brought through Jesus death on the cross. This enables people to have a right relationship with God

The future of the Church

The word “**church**” can have refer to different things:

- The parish church is a **building** which looks after a certain area E.g. St Marys Wollaton Park
- The Church is also a **group of Christians** E.g. in the song it says “we are your church”
- The Church could also refer to the **Worldwide Church** which include all Christians

Evangelism is spreading the good news about Jesus: sharing the belief that salvation is possible through Jesus. The purpose of evangelism is to get people to accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. Once they have been converted they have a responsibility to help evangelise others by, for example,

- Inviting friends to church - Back to Church Sunday
- Living their lives in a way that shows the impact of God on their lives
- Speaking on radio, TV, the internet and social media
- Creating Christian pop/rock music (this is thought to be a very effective way of encouraging young people to find out more about Christianity)

Missionary work is a form of evangelism where Christians are sent to a particular area either in the UK or overseas. In the past this was to proselytise (convert people to Christianity), although today many missionary organisations are also involved with aid and development work

Christians carry out missionary and evangelism because this was the last commandment of Jesus “**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.**” **Mark 16:15.** This is known as the **Great Commission**

Local missionary and evangelism work – see notes on how the local church helps the local area (next page)

National missionary and evangelism work

Churches Together in England organises **Evangelism UK**, which is dedicated to evangelism and missionary work in the UK and co-ordinates the work of:

- **Alpha** – series of talk and discussions, run by churches, on the basics of the Christian faith for non-Christians “***an opportunity to explore the meaning of life***”
- **Scripture Union** – uses social media like YouTube and Facebook to bring the Christian message to those outside the church as well as working in schools, running youth camps
- **Urban Saints** – runs youth and children’s groups and organises mission trips and training courses
- **Youth for Christ (YFC)** – organises events to bring Christian message to young people outside the church

International missionary and evangelism work

Evangelical Protestants dedicated themselves to global evangelism at the **Lausanne International Congress on World Evangelisation** in Switzerland in 1974. Since then churches have been sending missionaries to every ethnic group in the world. These efforts have become far more sensitive to the cultures of the people to whom they are taking their message.

The global missionary work of the Roman Catholic church is organised by the Society for the Propagation of Faith, which is funded by offering from Catholics on World Mission Sunday.

The future of the Church (cont)

Different views on Missionary work and Evangelism

Evangelical Christians	Liberal Christians
<p>Missionary work and Evangelism are very important because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Great Commission of Jesus said it was a duty to preach the gospel to all nations• You should share your faith with others out of love for them• You are only going to heaven if you have accepted Christ as your personal saviour (Exclusivism)• They have a fundamentalist view of Scripture. Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples of all nations, so they have to obey this	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Missionary work and Evangelism are no longer important because we live in a multicultural society• Humans don't have the right to decide which religion is right. In Colonial times they knew very little about other religions• Treating people differently because of their faith and trying to convert them to Christianity is a form of discrimination• They believe that people from other faiths will go to heaven (pluralism) so there is no need to convert people• The most important commandment of Jesus was to "love God and love your neighbour", it is difficult to love your neighbour if you are telling them their religion is wrong

The Local Church

The local church is important as the focal point of Christian identity and worship:

- Where people go to worship on a Sunday
- Special services are held for Christian festivals, these are for the local community not just the congregation, e.g., Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance
- It provides discussion and prayer groups, as well as Bible readings and sermons in Sunday services, to help individual Christians grow in their faith
- It gives local Christians a sense of belonging, surrounded by people who share the same beliefs, who they love as brothers and sisters in Christ
- It offers the sacraments to people – Roman Catholic churches will provide, baptism, weekly Mass, confession and marriage. Most Protestant churches will provide Holy Communion and baptism.

The local church does this as it believes it is part of the body of Christ and that it must welcome, nurture and provide spiritual support for fellow members of Christ's body – ***"be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care"*** 1 Peter 5:2

The local church helps the local area by:

- Supporting local Christian schools
- Allowing the church and church buildings to be used as a cultural venue (especially important in rural areas) for arts, music, dance etc
- Having lunch clubs and groups for elderly people
- Helping local families by having Youth groups, Mother and toddler groups etc (**see Marriage and Family life notes on How the church supports families**)
- Providing support and counselling services for issues like drug and alcohol issue, finance and debt, mental health, relationship issues
- Providing support for homeless people. Many churches in Nottingham work with **Hope Nottingham**, which coordinates a food bank, has supplies of clothes and furniture and runs support services
- Many local churches work together to run a **Night Shelter** for homeless people during the winter
- **Street Pastors** who provide support for people when they are out at night

By this work the church shows its over for those in need as requested by Jesus in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats ***"When I was hungry, you fed me, when I was naked you clothed me"*** Matthew 28

Ecumenism

Local churches believe it is important to work together to promote Christian unity as Jesus taught ***"All people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"*** John

Churches Together in England (CTE) is an organisation that promotes Christian Unity and **receptive ecumenism** (being open to what other traditions can add to their own traditions Many areas have **Churches Together** groups which organise joint services and discussion groups so that different denominations can learn about and from each other as well as co-ordinating outreach work "

"In order to unite with one another, we must love one another; in order to love one another, we must know one another; in order to know one another, we must go and meet one another." Cardinal Mercier

The Worldwide Church

The **World Council of Churches (WCC)** was established in 1948 and represents the worldwide church. The Roman Catholic Church is not a member but sends an observer to all meetings. One of its aims is to ***“engage in Christian service by serving human need, breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace, and upholding the integrity of creation.”*** The WCC believes the worldwide church should:

- Demonstrate the essential unity of the Christian faith
- Promote the Christian faith
- Engage in Christian service (be helpful to those in needs as part of being a good steward)

Reconciliation

Church leaders continually work for peace and reconciliation by trying to bring people in conflict together e.g.

- Pope Francis visits to Turkey, Kenya, Uganda and Central African Republic in 2015
- Archbishop of Canterbury to the Middle East

Christians believe in reconciliation because:

- Humanity had split from God through sin, but the forgiveness of sins brought about through the death of Jesus has allowed reconciliation between God and humans ***“God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” 1 Corinthians 5:18*** so Christians should also work to break down barriers between people
- Jesus said that if people do not forgive those who have sinned against them, God will not forgive them ***“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us” Lords Prayer***
- St Paul taught that Christians should try and live in peace with everyone ***“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” Romans 12:18***
- The power of forgiveness and love can lead to reconciliation and the ending of conflict – ***“Love is the only power capable of turning an enemy into a friend” Martin Luther King***
- All are one in Jesus ***“there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28***

Persecuted Church

Religious persecution is the mistreatment of an individual or group because of their faith. Research in 2016 showed that persecution against Christians was increasing. Persecution of Christians might involve discrimination, destroying churches and holy sites.

There are several countries where it is no longer safe to be a Christian:

- **North Korea** – everyone in North Korea must worship the nation’s leader and belonging to another religion makes you an enemy of the state. Thousands of Christians are imprisoned and many have been tortured or executed. Believers meet secretly, risking arrest and death
- **Islamic State** – As Islamic State (ISIS) has taken control of parts of Iraq, Syria etc, Christians and other minorities have been forced to convert, pay a large tax or be killed. There have been public executions of Christians recorded for propaganda purposes and most churches in a mostly Christian region of northern Iraq have been destroyed

Organisations that work against persecution – **WCC, Open Doors**

There are also non-Christian organisations like **Amnesty International** who campaign for the right to freedom of belief as part of the **United Nations Declaration on Human Rights**

The Worldwide Church (cont)

Charity: Charity is important to Christians because:

- The word Jesus used for love was "**Agape**" – this means selfless, unconditional love
- St Paul taught that love is greater than any spiritual gift. It doesn't matter how religious you are, **"but the greatest of these is love" 1 Corinthians 13:13**
- Jesus said the greatest commandments were **"love God and to love your neighbour"**
- God created humans to be **stewards** of the earth – this means that riches must be used for helping others, especially the poor
- The Bible teaches that 10% of wealth should be given to the church/charity – this is called **tithing**
"A tithe of everything from the land... belongs to the Lord" Leviticus 27:30

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...whatever you have done to the least of these my brother and sisters, you have done to me (Matthew 25)

This parable is important for Christian beliefs about charity because:

- Christians need to show love to everyone, especially those in need
- By showing love for others you are showing love for God
- It explains that loving others means caring for those who are hungry, sick, thirsty, strangers, short of clothes, sick or in prison
- People will be judged by how they treat others – those who choose not to help others will be punished but those who have shown love to those in need will be rewarded with eternal life in heaven with God

Christian Aid

Works in nearly 60 countries with people in need **"regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality"**.

Development projects to help remove world poverty: Christian Aid works alongside partner organisations as it believes local groups are best placed to find their own solutions to the problems they face e.g.

- supporting farmers in the **Gaza Strip** as they cannot get their goods to market because Gaza's borders can be closed for long periods of time
- help create small businesses in **Burkina Faso** that make solar powered fridges, water heaters and water pumps
- promoting **Fairtrade** products to bring fair terms of trade and decent working conditions for workers in the developing world

Campaigning to raise awareness and to end world poverty: 15% of Christian Aid's spending is on education and campaigning, including organising marches, working with businesses and talking to governments about what they can do to make the world a fairer place.

Emergency Relief: Christian Aid has a fund to deal with natural disasters and refugee crises. Emergency Aid includes sending water, food, antibiotics and shelter. This has been sent to victims of flooding in India and Nepal and refugees fleeing Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They also run appeals when disasters occur to try and raise more funding

Types of Exam Questions

	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Skills</u>	<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Example Question</u>
A	3	AO1 - knowledge	3X one sentence answers	<u>Outline three</u> activities a Christina might do on a pilgrimage
B	4	AO1 - knowledge	2 reasons Development of each reason (Development could be a quote/example) Reason and development MUST link (PE)	<u>Explain two</u> reasons why the Lords Prayer is important to Christians
C	5	AO1 & 2 - knowledge and application	2 PEEL paragraphs in depth Evidence from Wisdom/Source of Authority Give examples.	<u>Explain two</u> reasons why worshippers in a church community should evangelise in the local area In your answer you must refer to a source of moral wisdom and authority.
D	12	AO2 - application	3 PEEL paragraphs Explain different views on this statement Para 1: Religious point of view Para 2: different religious view Para 3: Conclusion (which argument do you think is the most convincing and least convincing) - "I think..." - Quotes and examples needed. <u>Level 4:</u> - 2 PEEL paragraphs for the statement - 2 PEEL paragraphs against the statement - Discuss strengths and weaknesses of different viewpoints - Conclusion supported by what you have written	"All Christians should give money to charity". Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you should: - refer to religious teaching , - refer to divergent religious points of view - reach a justified conclusion.

Level 4 10-12	Accurate and in depth understanding of religion and belief,.	Different viewpoints are explored and evaluated in detail ,	Uses a wide range of evidence and examples	Critically deconstructs religious issues	Well-reasoned and supported conclusion
Level 3 7-9	Accurate understanding of religion and belief.	Includes different viewpoints	Good use of evidence and examples	Some evaluation using logical reasoning ,	Conclusion partly supported
Level 2 4-6	Some understanding of religion and belief.	Basic knowledge of one viewpoint	Limited use of evidence and examples	Some attempt to evaluate evidence	Conclusion present
Level 1 1-3	Weak understanding.	Information/ideas identified	Little use of evidence and example,	Judgements are generic ,	Conclusion is missing/poor