

The Study of Religion: Paper 1

Christianity Practices

Revision Cards



Worship

Why do Christians Worship?

- To **praise** and **thank God**.
- To ask for **forgiveness**.
- To seek **God's help** for themselves or for others.
- To **deepen their relationship** with God and **strengthen their faith**.



Type	What are the features of this?	Why is this important?	Examples
Liturgical Worship	• Church service that follows a set structure with set responses. • E.g. Eucharist service in the Catholic Church or Church of England	• Familiar • Traditional • Universal- some in all Churches	• Catholic • Orthodox • Anglican Churches
Non-liturgical worship	• No set order- can change from week to week. • Hymns, Bible readings and sermon may be included.	• Suits certain themes. • Emphasis on word of God (i.e. the Bible)	• Methodist • Baptist • United reformed
Informal worship: Charismatic	• Free-flowing worship, may include dance, clapping, calling out. • Singing and music is more modern with relaxed feelings.	• Less formal and more modern • More relevant to people today.	• Pentecostal Church • Evangelical movements
Informal worship: Waiting	• No leader and no set structure. • Sit in a circle in silent reflection. • People may speak when they feel moved by God/ holy spirit.	• Less formal • More personal • God speaks to individuals.	• Quakers
Private worship	• Personal worship- may include prayer and Bible readings. • Worship aids (e.g rosary, icons) may be used.	• Personal time with God. • Time out from stress and everyday pressures.	• All Christians

Prayer

Set Prayers	Prayers that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person (e.g. Lord's prayer)
Informal Prayers	Prayer that is made up by an individual using his or her own words .

Importance of prayer

- Enables Christians to **talk and listen to God**.
- Help Christians to keep a **close relationship with God**.
- Helps Christians to **accept God's will** even if it means suffering.
- Gives a **sense of peace**.
- Gives **strength in times of trouble**.
- Encourages **reflection** in the middle of a busy life.



STOP- Reasons why Christians might pray:

- To say **Sorry** for what they have done wrong.
- To **Thank God** for something or someone in their life.
- For **Other** people, family, friends or other people in need.
- To say **Please**, to ask for something they need.

The Lord's Prayer

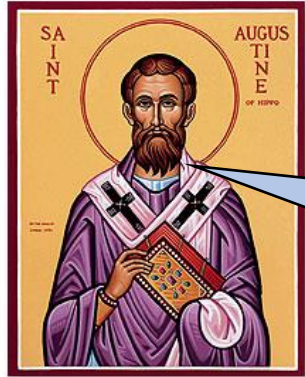
- This is how **Jesus taught his disciples to prayer**.
- It is a **model of a good prayer**- combining **praise** of God and **asking for what you need**.
- It shows the **importance of forgiveness**, you need to **forgive others in order to be forgiven yourself**.
- It is often said **during worship** and at Holy Communion, baptisms, marriages and funerals.
- It is said **regularly in Church schools**.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

The Sacraments: Baptism



St Augustine of Hippo described Sacraments as:

"An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace."

Importance of Baptism

- Becoming a **member of the Christian Church**.
- Becomes a **child of God**.
- Receives **God's saving grace** and the **Holy Spirit**.
- A person is **cleansed of sin**.
- Enters **new life with Christ** in the Christian community.
- It **imitates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist**.

Different Christian beliefs about sacraments

- **Catholic and Orthodox** Christians recognise the **7 sacraments**: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Marriage, Holy orders, reconciliation (confession) and anointing the sick.
- **Many Protestant** Christians only accept **2 sacraments**: Baptism and Holy Communion.
- Other Christians such as **Salvation Army** and **Quakers** accept **no sacraments**.

Type	Practiced by	Reasons why	What happens
Infant baptism 	• Catholic • Orthodox • Anglican • Methodist	• Removes original sin. • Always the child to be welcomed into the Church as soon as possible. • Parents can thank God for their new baby.	• Priest or minister pours blessed water onto the baby's head in the name of the Trinity. • Godparents and parents make promises to God.
Believer's baptism 	• Baptist • Pentecostal	• People should be old enough to make a decision about their faith. • The decision to live a life dedicated to Jesus is what saves not being baptised.	• The person is fully immersed in a pool which symbolises cleansing from sin. • They are blessed in the name of the Trinity. • They give a brief testimony

The Sacraments: Holy Communion

The Meaning of the Holy Communion

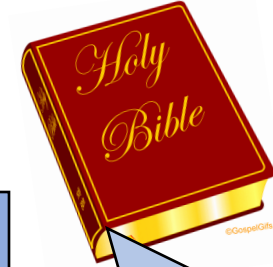


Catholics and Orthodox

- They believe the **bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus**.
- This means **Jesus is fully present in bread and wine**.
- This is a **divine mystery** and is known as **transubstantiation**.

Protestant Christians

- They celebrate Holy Communion as a **reminder of the Last Supper** with Jesus.
- They **do not believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus**, they are **symbolic**.



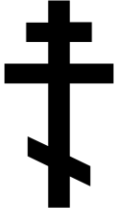
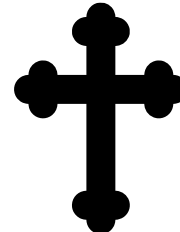
"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."
1 Corinthians 11:26

The importance of the Holy Communion

<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Communities</u>	<u>Wider society</u>
• Christians receive God's grace by joining in the sacrifice of Jesus. • It helps to strengthen their faith. • They believe they become closer to God.	• Holy communion brings believers together by sharing the bread and wine. • This can provide support and encouragement for those going through a difficult time.	• It acts as a call to love others in a practical way. • It encourages Christians to work for equality and justice. • Many Churches collect money to support those in need.

The Sacraments: Celebrating Holy Communion

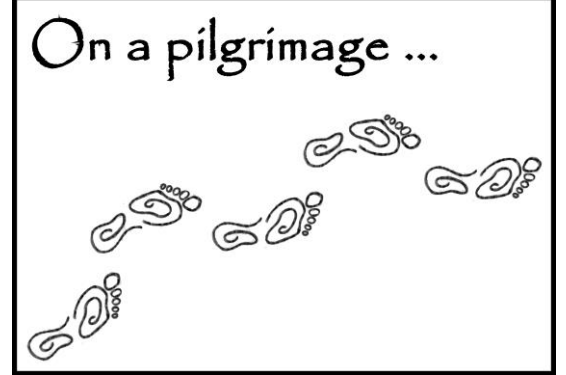
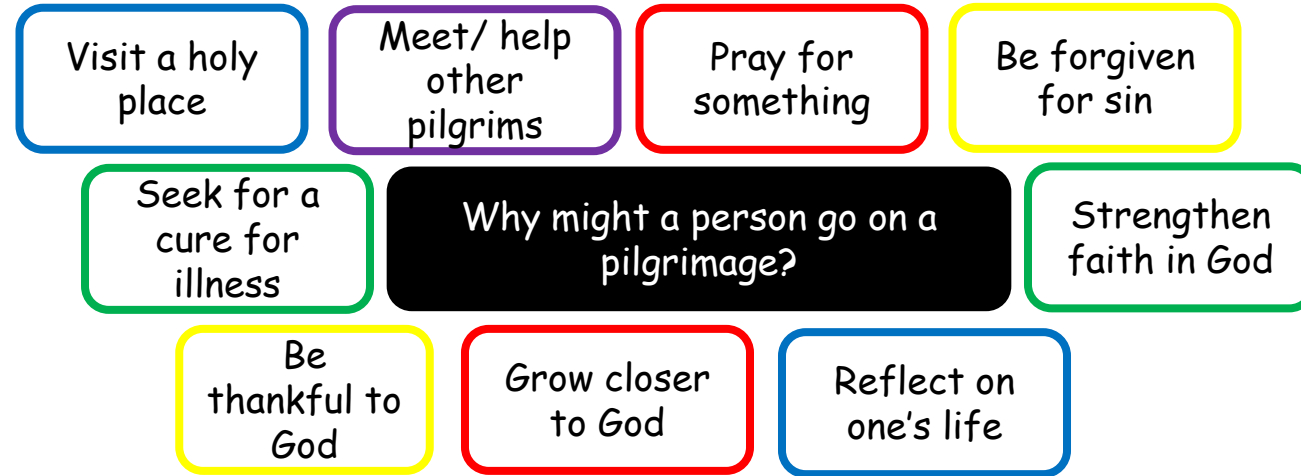
How Denominations Celebrate the Holy Communion differently:

<u>Orthodox</u>	<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Methodist</u>
		 The Methodist Church
• Holy Communion is known as the Divine Liturgy • Much of the service is held behind the iconostasis. • Priest receives break baked by the members. • Prayers are said for the local community and those in need. • Behind the iconostasis, the priest says the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. • Bread and wine is distributed on a spoon. • Prayers or thanksgiving are said. • Unconsecrated bread is given out to members of the Church	• There are Bible reading and prayers. • The Creed is said. • Prayers are said for the Church and for those in need. • The sign of the peace (shaking hands) is shared. • Bread and wine are brought to the altar. • The priests repeats the words of Jesus at the Last supper. • Wine is distributed in a chalice (shared cup). • Wafers might be used instead of bread. • The priest blesses people and sends them out to live the gospel.	• Service begins with a hymn and prayer of praise and thanks. • Bible readings and sermon are given. • Prayers for the world and those in need. • The minister repeats the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper. • There is an 'open table' anyone who wishes may receive Holy Communion. • Wine is non-alcoholic and distributed in small cups. • Service ends with a blessing and instruction to go and serve God.

Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage:

A pilgrimage is a **journey made by a believe to a holy site for religious reasons**. It is a spiritual journey as well as a physical journey



Type	Significance	Activities
Lourdes (town in France)	- The Virgin Mary is said to have appeared in a number of visions to a young girl called Bernadette. - Many told Bernadette to dig in the ground and when she did a spring of water appeared. - This water is believed to have healing powers.	Pilgrims go to Lourdes to bathe in the water of the spring, or help other pilgrims who are ill or disabled to bathe in the waters. - Pilgrims also pray for healing or forgiveness. - They may recite the rosary together.
Iona (Island of Scotland)	- Where St Columba established a monastic (monks) community in the 6th century. - The community now has a centre where pilgrims can stay	- It is quiet and peaceful, a place of natural beauty. Pilgrims can spend time praying, reading the Bible, reflecting and meditating. - Pilgrims also attend services in the abbey Church, take part in workshops and visit the island's holy or historical sites.

Other pilgrimages:

Other popular paces of Christian pilgrimages include: Holy Land (Jerusalem), Rome and the Vatican City.

Celebrating Festivals

CHRISTMAS

Christmas commemorate the incarnation of Jesus, when God became human and dwelt on earth.

How is Christmas celebrated?

- Lights represent Jesus coming into the world of darkness.
- Nativity scenes show baby Jesus being born.
- Carol services with Bible readings remind Christians about God's promise of a saviour and the events of Jesus' birth.
- Midnight Mass reflects the holiness of the night and joy Christians feel at Jesus' birth.
- Cards and gifts recall the wisemen's gifts to Jesus.
- Christians give to charity in this time of peace and goodwill.

Holy Week



How Is Holy Week and Easter Celebrated?

Day	Events	How is it commemorated?
Palm Sunday	Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem	• Christians are given palm crosses in church services. These are kept until the next year and burnt on Ash Wednesday.
Maundy Thursday	The Last Supper and the arrest of Jesus	• The Queen gives out 'Maundy Money' to elderly people, symbolising Jesus' instruction to 'Love one another'. • The 'Mass and Last Supper' is celebrated.
Good Friday	Jesus was put to death on the cross	• Colourful items are removed from Churches and no candles are lit symbolising the death of Jesus. • Processions are led through towns and cities, often remembering the stations of the cross.
Easter Sunday	Jesus rose from the dead.	• Churches are filled with flowers and special hymns are sung to rejoice in the resurrection. • The priest declares 'Christ has risen.'

The role of the Church in the local community: Food banks



What does the Church and the church do?

Individual churches and the Church (worldwide Christian community) help to support local communities in many ways:



The Church (Capital C)

- Support local projects such as food banks to support the needy.
- Provide social services such as schooling and medical care.
- Help those in need.
- Campaign for justice.

Individual churches (lowercase c)

- Educate people about Christianity (e.g. Bible study groups)
- Meeting places for worship.
- Provide activities for young people.
- Places where Christians can socialise and be guided spiritually.

Examples of the Church Helping the Local Community:

The Trussell Trust

- Charity running over 400 food banks un the UK.
- Food donated by churches, and boxes in supermarkets.
- Aim to bring religious and non-religious people together to end poverty

The Oasis Project

- Project run by Plymouth Methodists.
- Provides internet café, training courses, job club and food banks.
- Spiritual and practical advice given to those in need

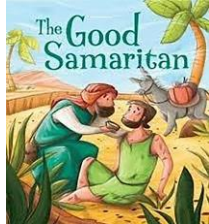


The role of the Church in the local community: Street Pastors

The importance of Helping in the Local Community

Jesus taught that Christians should help others by showing agape love towards them.

Jesus teaches Christians that they should give practical help to people in need.

			
The Golden Rule teaches that you should treat others in the way that you expect to be treated .	The book of James teaches " Faith without actions is dead ". It is important to put the teachings of Jesus into practical action .	The Parable of the Good Samaritan shows that you should help all people in need whether friend or enemy.	The Parable of the Sheep and Goats shows that it is important to treat all people as through they are Jesus .

Street Pastors

- Started in London in 2003.
- **Volunteers** are trained to **patrol streets in towns and cities**.
- The **main aim originally** was to **challenge gang culture and knife crime** in London.
- The **focus was widened** to **respond to drunkenness and anti-social behaviour**.
- They work closely with the **police and councils**.
- They **listen to people's problems** and **advise** on where they might get help.
- They **provide water, food and clothing** (including flipflops).
- **School Pastors** were set up in 2011 to **discourage illegal drug use, bullying and anti-social behaviour** in schools.



The Place of Mission and Evangelism

the Great Commission

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



The Great Commission

- The **Great Commission** is the instruction from Jesus to his disciples to spread the gospel (good news) and make disciples of all nations through baptism.
- The **Holy Spirit** at Pentecost gave the disciples the gifts and courage needed to carry out the **Great Commission**.
- **All Christians** have a duty to spread the gospel and tell others of their faith.
- Some Christians become missionaries or evangelists (people who promote Christianity, for example by going to foreign countries to preach or do charitable work.)
- They aim to persuade people to accept Jesus as their saviour.

Evangelism:

Spreading the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

The Alpha Course

- **Alpha** is an example of evangelism in Britain.
- It started with the aim of helping church members understand the basics of the Christian faith.
- The course is now used as an introduction for those interested in learning about Christianity.
- It is described as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life" through discussions.
- **Courses** are held in homes, workplaces, universities and prisons as well as churches.



Church Growth

The Growth of the Church

- The Church is growing rapidly in **South America, Africa and Asia** but not in the **USA, Europe and the Middle East**.
- Worldwide, **80,000 people become Christians each day** and over **500 new churches begin**.
- The **Church's mission** is to make new disciples, not just new believers. **Everyone should spread the faith of Christianity**.
- **Evangelism** should be followed by training new converts (people who have converted to become Christians) in the way of following Jesus and spreading the faith.
- **Every Christian** has a role in encouraging fellow believers.



Advertising using
social media (twitter/
facebook)

Talking about what God
has done in their life

Media such as God TV
and Christian Radio

Ways Christians
spread the faith:

Inviting people to
other events of church

Praying for others to
accept God in their
lives.

Inviting friends to
different ways of
'doing' church

Telling friends and family about
their beliefs.



The Importance of the Worldwide Church



Reconciliation is the restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down



Corrymeela Community

- Brings together people from different backgrounds, include people of different faiths and politics.
- Meet at a centre in Northern Ireland to build trust and explore ways of moving away from violence so they can work together.



Irish Church Peace Project

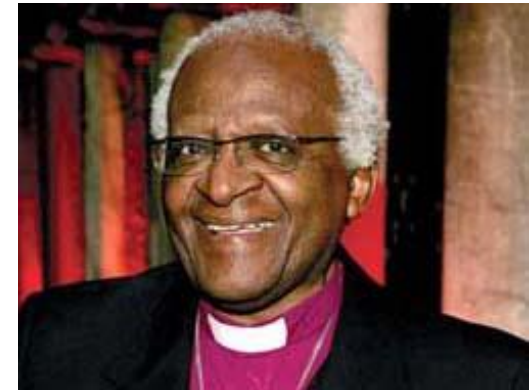
- Brings Catholics and Protestants together in Northern Ireland.
- Aims to develop peace and understanding between the two denominations.

Working for Reconciliation

- Christians believe humans were reconciled to God through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- This helped restore the relationship between God and humanity which has been broken through sin.
- The Gospel of Matthew (New Testament) teaches that Christians should be reconciled to each other.
- Reconciliation is therefore an important part of the Church's work. This might involve anything from trying to restore relationships between people, to work for peace between different groups or nations.

Desmond Tutu

- Former Archbishop of Cape Town in South Africa.
- Committed against the apartheid (segregation) in South Africa.
- He campaigned for justice but did not allow the use of violence.
- He led meetings of reconciliation between victims and perpetrators.



Christian Persecution

What is Persecution?

- Religious **persecution** is **hostility, ill-treatment or discrimination** because of a person's religion.
- It is estimated that **80% of all acts of religious discrimination** today is aimed at **Christians**.
- This persecution happens around the world but **particularly in North Korea, Somalia, Iraq and Syria**

Examples of Persecution

- Being forced to pay extra taxes to government.
- **Job discrimination**
- Being forbidden from building **churches**.
- **Attacks on homes, churches and family**, including murder and rape.



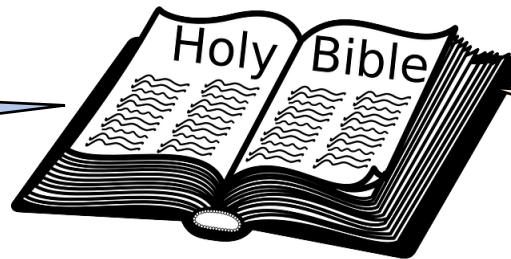
Some Christian responses to Persecution

Persecution **might have a positive effect**- it strengthens faith and allows them to **share in the suffering of Jesus**.

The Church believe it is **important to act against persecution** by supporting persecuted Christians.

Christians are **encouraged to show love and forgiveness** towards their persecutors.

"I want to know Christ- yes to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his suffering."
Philippians 3:10



"Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**."
Romans 12:21

Ways the Church helps persecuted Christians

- Christians have smuggled Bibles into countries for persecuted Christians.
- Open Doors is a Christian charity which supports persecuted Christians.
- The Barnabus Fund send money to support persecuted Christians.
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide campaigns for religious freedom for all.

The Church's response to World Poverty

Helping those in Poverty

- Christians try to help those living in poverty because **Jesus taught that this was important.**
- Three Christian charities that support those in poverty are **Christian Aid, Tearfund and CAFOD.**

Causes of poverty



Debt

Natural disasters

Disease

Unfair trade

No education

No health care

Conflict

Corrupt leaders

Lack of education

Teaching of Jesus about poverty

Jesus once told a rich man to **sell everything and give to the poor**- "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

The **Parable of the Rich Man** and Lazarus tells of a rich man who ends up in hell for ignoring a beggar.

The **Parable of the Good Samaritan** teaches the importance of helping all people whoever they are.

Jesus helped outcasts such as lepers, tax collectors and sinners.



Christian Aid

- Supports projects to **encourage sustainable development.**
- Provides **emergency relief** such as food, water, shelter and sanitation.
- Supports **campaigns to end poverty** and global warming and works to encourage fair trade.

Tearfund

- Works with churches worldwide to **lift people out of poverty.**
- Supplies **emergency aid** after natural disasters.
- Provides **long-term aid** to help **communities become more self-reliant.**
- Supported by **fundraising and prayer** from churches

CAFOD

- Works to **train and support communities to work their way out of poverty.**
- Gives **short-term aid** such as food, water and shelter during disasters.
- **Campaigns** with the government.
- **Encourages Catholic** churches and schools to donate **money and pray.**