

Component 2 Christianity – Practices

Key words

Sacraments – are an outward sign of a visible and inward blessing by God, for example: baptism, Eucharist.
 Evangelism – is preaching of the gospel to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith.
 Worship - an expression of adoration and praise for God.
 Prayer – communication with God.
 Extemporaneous prayer – non-formulaic, spontaneous prayers that are spiritually honest.
 Informal prayer – informal way of speaking to god in day-to-day language.
 Evangelical worship – many evangelicals, especially Pentecostals, worship by connecting with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, dancing etc.
 Baptism - Initiates people into the Christian church. Catholics believe that it washes away sin.
 Confirmation - When a baptised person becomes old enough, they commit to the church themselves. They remake the promises make by their parents and godparents on their behalf.
 Eucharist - Worshippers share bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus’ death.
 Penance (confession/reconciliation) -). Catholics confess their sins to a priest, who will then ‘absolve’ (or free) them from their sins and ask them to carry out a penitent act to show they are sorry for what they have done.
 Anointing of the sick - This is performed when a Catholic is seriously ill or dying. It is carried out by a priest who applies oil to the person.
 Holy orders - Joining the priesthood of the church. This is known as being ‘ordained’.
 Marriage - Spiritual union of the couple and God.
 Ecumenical – representing or promoting unity within the different Christian Churches.
 Persecution – persistently cruel treatment, often due to religion or belief.



Worship	Prayer	Sacraments
<p>Worship is an expression of adoration and praise for God. Acts of worship are frequently referred to in the Bible. For example, the Ten Commandments contain the commandment to, ‘keep the Sabbath day holy,’ which has been interpreted as a command to worship God. There are different ways of worshipping God:</p> <p>Liturgical Worship- Set structure, e.g. Mass or a Eucharist Service Informal Worship - Worship that doesn’t have a set pattern. It is spontaneous in structure and can emphasise the importance of the Holy Spirit Individual/Personal Worship Worship on your own to form a personal relationship with God and worshipping alone is a part of this. The Bible instructs both individual and corporate (public) worship. Since church attendance has declined, the role of public worship is becoming more important.</p> <p>Set and informal prayers are an important part of all Christian worship. Worship can also involve: Music, Singing hymns, Listening to sermons.</p> <p>Evangelical Worship Informal; Christians are moved by the Holy Spirit during worship. This may involve them falling into trances or even speaking in unknown languages (speaking in tongues). Movement and participation is encouraged and there is often music, singing and dancing in the congregation</p>	<p>Prayer is an essential part in a Christian’s faith. John 4:23 says, <i>“The true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipped the Father seeks.”</i> Prayer can be to: adore God; confess to God; contemplate; say sorry to God; praise God; thank god; ask God for something. Jesus taught the early disciples to pray, encouraging them to pray to God as a father. Many people pray alone, but many find spiritual support from praying together.</p> <p>Set Prayers -Learn and repeat prayers that have meaning -Prayer can become collective -The Lord’s Prayer, which Jesus taught to the first disciples, taught people how to pray -They are part of the tradition and ritual of worship -Many Protestant denominations, e.g. the Church of England, use Book of Common Prayer</p> <p>Spontaneous Prayer -Non-formulaic prayers -Considered more spiritually honest -Use of words is influenced by the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Informal Prayers - Informal voice and language is used in prayers, e.g. calling God terms like, ‘Dad’ or ‘Big G’, rather than ‘Father’. This helps people to connect with God on a day-to-day level</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sacraments</p> <p>Sacraments are an outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing by God, for example Baptism and the Eucharist. There are 7 specific rites that are seen as central to Christian life. All 7 are still acknowledged by Roman Catholics. Church of England observe 2 of the sacraments (Baptism and Eucharist), because these were the only two practiced by Jesus during his life</p>
Baptism	Eucharist	Eucharist views
<p>What happens in a Baptism? -It must be performed by an ordained minister -RC/CoE: Infants are baptised, marking the entry into God’s community. Parents and godparents make promises to raise the child in Christian faith -Baptists: don’t believe in infant baptism but instead have a believer’s baptism, where the person is able to declare their own faith -Evangelical Christians: fully immerse the person being baptised in water, as Jesus was in the River Jordan</p> <p>Why is a Baptism important? It is a rite of entry; people become members of the Church. Original sin is removed through the action of baptism. It follows the example Jesus set, who was baptised by John the Baptist. Believers’ baptism gives a person the opportunity to publicly declare their personal faith. It is seen as the first sacrament – a ‘covenant’ between humans and God Baptism links believers directly with the belief in the death and resurrection Jesus instructed: <i>“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”</i> Baptism is a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>What happens during the Eucharist? -Also known as Mass or Holy Communion -Started by Jesus at the Last Supper. Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples, telling them they represent his body and blood. He said that they should do this in his memory after his death -Taking Eucharist brings Christians closer to God -‘Eucharist’ means ‘thanksgiving’. It is an act of thanksgiving for the life and death of Jesus and for the Christian faith -Eucharist services are an example of liturgical worship – they have a set structure and rituals happen the same each time.</p>	<p>Different views about the Eucharist Roman Catholics believe that the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ. This is called transubstantiation, where the body and blood of Christ are somehow present in the bread and wine. Protestants, e.g. Church of England, do not believe in transubstantiation. They believe that Christ is present spiritually, rather than physically. Protestants, e.g. Baptists, believe that the ritual of the Eucharist is simply an act of remembrance. This is known as memorialism.</p>

Festivals

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. This is known as the **incarnation** (God became human flesh). **Advent** is a time of preparation, where Christians prepare for Christmas.

The run up to Christmas may include any of the following methods of celebration:

- Nativity** or crib scenes in homes and churches
- Nativity **plays** are acted out in schools and churches
- Christingle** services are held where children make a Christingle (orange with a candle) to show that Jesus was the light of the world
- Carol concerts are held where people sing **Christmas carols**
- Advent **wreath** decorations
- Midnight Mass** communion (Eucharist) service takes place on Christmas Eve

On Christmas day itself, Christians may:

- a. Attend church services
- b. Celebrate a feast with their families
- c. Exchange gifts



Evangelism/Mission

Evangelism is the way the church grows and means, 'preaching the good news.' Evangelism is best shown through the way Christians live their lives rather than talking about religion.

Mission is what the church is supposed to do in terms of every Christian being an evangelist as a 'preacher of the gospel.' It is the mission of the Church to help Christians live a life of faith and spread the message of Salvation to all. Many Christians see it as a **duty** or mission to convert other people to Christianity.



Pilgrimages

A pilgrimage is a **journey to a sacred place**, usually as an act of religious devotion. In Christianity, pilgrims might travel to the Holy Land to '**walk in the footsteps of Jesus**'. Pilgrims believe that life itself is a journey towards God. **A pilgrimage is faith in action**, the journey representing the journey that all Christians undertake from earth to heaven.

Today, Christians might travel to Walsingham (where a replica of the house where the Annunciation is built) or Taize, to live a life of common, ecumenical prayer.



Festivals

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar

Lent is a period of 40 days leading up to Easter. It remembers the time Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying. The devil tried to tempt Jesus but he resisted

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**. Roman Catholics attend special church service where their heads are marked with the shape of the cross.

To remember how Jesus fasted in the desert, Christians often give up something for Lent. The day before Lent starts is known as Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, and was an opportunity to use up the foods that Christians would be giving up during Lent



Worldwide church - growth

Church Growth

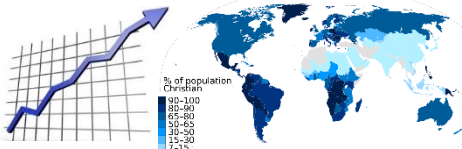
There has been a decline in church attendance, but some churches are thriving in Britain, e.g. Evangelical churches. 'Church planting' is the process of establishing new non-traditional churches. The Ichthus Fellowship aims to spread Christian values by church planting.

Fresh Expressions

Fresh Expressions attempt to attract people to churches who wouldn't usually attend church services. People will meet, for example, in a café, on a beach or a gym and talk about their faith.

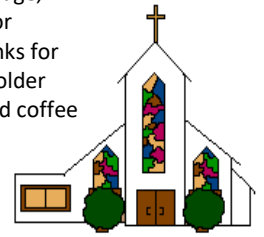
Worldwide Church Growth

Christianity is a world religion and it is spreading and growing in other parts of the world, e.g. Asia, South America and Africa. It is estimated that by 2050, four in ten Christians will live in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Church role in local community

Churches reach out into communities in both religious and non-religious ways. For example, community celebrations, e.g. baptisms and marriage, providing shelter for homeless, food banks for poor, youth clubs, older people concerts and coffee mornings. Often these events take place in a church hall.



Tearfund

About Tearfund

Tearfund are a Christian charity who aim to **put Christian beliefs and Jesus' command to 'love your neighbour' into action**. Tearfund help the poor in over 50 countries, providing emergency aid when disasters occur and carrying out long-term projects to support local communities. In UK, many people support Tearfund by raising money through coffee mornings and buying Tearfund Christmas cards.

tearfund

Persecution

'**Martyr**' is used for someone who dies or is killed for their religious beliefs. **Jesus himself was a martyr**. Christians believe they were given a divine commission from Jesus to spread the good news of the Gospel and this may be in the face of personal danger. Christian persecution continues into 21st Century throughout the world. In some parts of the world, Christians are treated unjustly in societies where Christian faith is a minority religion. For example, terrorist organisations like Islamic State in the Middle East have targeted Christians, subjecting them to violent attacks. Evangelical Christian organisations such as **Christian Freedom International** and **Open Doors** seek to help persecuted Christians. These organisations provide practical help to persecuted Christians, provide Bibles and work actively for the human rights of Christians suffering persecution. Open Doors, established in 1955, supports Christians facing persecution around the world, distributing Bibles, supporting victims and raising awareness.

Reconciliation

Working for Christian Reconciliation

Living in a pluralist society, reconciliation is more important now than ever. There are two important organisations working for Christian reconciliation:

1. The Ecumenical Movement

'Ecumenical' means **many Christian Churches** and the Ecumenical Movement is an attempt to bring closer together the different Christian denominations and **promote Christian unity** throughout the world. Although denominational differences still exist, today **many Christians believe there should only be one Church**. At a local level, many churches actually cooperate and work together.

2. World Council of Churches

"A worldwide fellowship of churches seeking unity, a common witness and Christian service." The aim of these churches is to be a 'visible sign, deepening communion, sharing the Gospel together and making connections.' Each year the World Council of Churches (WCC) holds a special week of prayer for Christian unity. It brings together churches in more than 110 countries. The Roman Catholic Church isn't a member of the WCC but it does take part in some national and local ecumenical organisations.

Christianity in Britain

The Changing Religious Landscape in 21st Century Britain

- The Christian Church faces many challenges in 21st Century Britain, including decline in church attendance
- Religious beliefs are seen as out of date or irrelevant
- Many people claim to be agnostic or atheist
- Christianity is one of many religions followed by people in Britain. This means that the religious landscape is pluralist
- The celebration of religious festivals for many have lost their religious significance, e.g. Christmas.

UK Laws, Festivals and Traditions

- 'Keep holy the Sabbath day', is a Commandment. The hours that shops can trade on a Sunday are restricted
- In a UK court, witnesses swear on the Bible. Laws are made up of Commandments, e.g. "Do not steal"
- Christian hymns and readings are often made at public events, for example the National Service of Remembrance
- Lots of people in UK mark important life events, like marriage in a church, even if they are not religious

