

GCSE Religious Studies

Christianity

Practices Workbook



Name:

Forms of Worship

There are four forms of worship you need to know:

1. Liturgical worship
2. Non-liturgical worship
3. Informal worship
4. Private worship

Liturgical Worship

This type of worship is found in services in the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Church of England (Anglican) churches. Some acts of worship require a liturgy (a set order or pattern), for example, Roman Catholic Mass. Features of liturgical worship are: a set structure to the service, the use of set prayers and readings. Some Christians see it as 'old fashioned' or 'very traditional'. The service follows the text of a prayer book and is not improvised at all.



Liturgical worship often takes place in a church, but not always, for example, a papal open-air Mass or an Anglican Eucharist in the home of a sick person. Some Christians prefer liturgical worship: the familiarity of the service makes them feel secure and they can join in with ease. They know exactly what to expect even in a church where they have never been before. They like the dignity that is typical of liturgical worship and think there is a variety and choice within the set structure.

Non-Liturgical Worship

Other Christians prefer a more information style of worship. They think that liturgical acts of worship is typical of some nonconformist churches and tends to be Bible-based.

It often follows a structure (for example, hymn, prayer, reading, hymn, sermon, prayer, hymn) but the service leader has free choice within that structure. They may choose a relevant theme for events in the world or community.

The minister or person leading worship will choose Bible readings that will be based on the theme of the sermon. Prayer is usually in the person's own words and personal style, known as extemporary prayer.

Informal Worship

Charismatic worship is a form of individual worship. The service has the characteristics of other forms of worship (hymns, sermon, prayer, readings), but it is very free-flowing.

On charismatic (spirit-inspired) worship, the worshippers often speak in tongues (outbursts of praise in words that are not intelligible, but which express the person's devotion to God.) This is seen as the gift of the Holy Spirit. Singing, often accompanied by music, is

lively. This has much more of a relaxed feel to it. Some Christians believe it comes more from the heart.

Evangelical churches are often charismatic in style. These have become more popular in recent church history in Britain.



The Bible

Regardless of the type of worship, it will always have a focus on the Bible. Many Christians believe the Bible to be inspired by God and for some it is the word of God. So it has a central place and importance in any act of worship.

Use of the Bible in worship

- The bible may be processed
- Many hymns are based on the Bible, for example, 'The Lord is my Shepherd' (Psalm 25)
- Portions of the Bible are read aloud
- Sermons are often based on a bible passage

Quaker meetings

Quakers (the Society of Friends) have a very distinctive form of informal worship. There is no leader and no set structure at all. Those present usually sit in chairs forming a circle around a table on which there are a Bible and the book of Quaker writings. The worshippers sit in silence, until someone feels called to share thoughts with others.

Tasks:

1. Explain liturgical worship.

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Explain non-liturgical worship.

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Explain informal worship.

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. How is the Bible used in worship?

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. Explain Quaker worship.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Private Worship

Christians believe that private worship (worshipping on their own) is just as important as public worship. It can take place anywhere. It may be liturgical in structure, for example, an Anglican saying Morning and Evening prayer every day, or a Roman Catholic saying the Rosary. Some Roman Catholics say three times daily the Angelus, which is a structured series of short meditations on the incarnation. It may be non-liturgical, perhaps starting with reading a passage from the Bible or meditating. Christians might go into a church while they are out shopping, so that they can spend a short time worshipping God, shutting out the pressures and concerns of daily life. Those travelling, for example by train, might use the time for silent worship. Worshipping alone allows worship to be exactly how the person wants it and to feel close to God as they are alone with God and their thoughts.

The Rosary

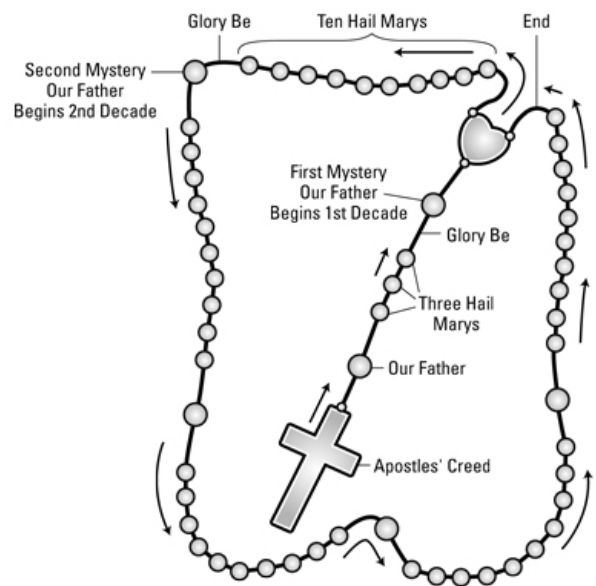
The Rosary is a string of beads with a crucifix attached. Saying the Rosary involved running one's hands through the set of beads and saying certain set prayers (the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the 'Glory be to the Father...') while touching each bead.

Meditation

Meditation is thoughtfulness, focused on a religious truth. Christians often use a stimulus, for example, they might sit in front of a candle, focusing on 'Christ the Light of the world.' They might meditate on a picture, which may be specifically religious (perhaps an icon of Jesus) or show a beautiful scene from nature. Other Christians might read a passage from the Bible and think about its message. In a church, a Christian might stand before and meditate on each of the Stations of the Cross (visual portrayals of the suffering of Jesus).

Why worship is important for Christians (any form of worship):

- It brings a sense of togetherness with the community
- It makes them feel closer to God
- It is peaceful – allowing for prayer and meditation
- In worship Christians praise God as the eternal being and source of everything that exists – 'Alleluia' or 'Hallelujah' means 'Praise the Lord'
- It is an external expression of their faith



Tasks:

1. Where can Christians worship privately? Give examples.

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. What is the Rosary? How does it help worship?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. What is meditation? How does it help worship?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Why is worship important in Christianity? Give several arguments.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

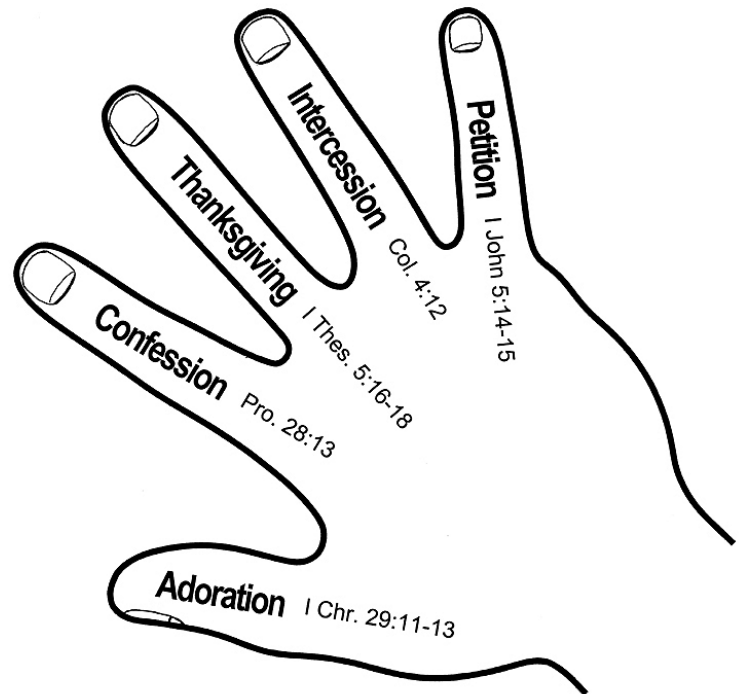
.....

Prayer

Prayer is not just about asking God for things and expecting to get them. For Christians, it is about listening, being open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and doing what God wants them to do.

There are several types of prayer. A way of remembering them is to think in terms of 'the hand of prayer'. Praise/adoration is the basis of all prayer. It has been said that the whole of life should be an act of thanksgiving. The forefinger is used to point in accusation – so it represents the opposite. Christians believe that balanced prayer includes many or all of these aspects.

Jesus spoke about prayer on a number of occasions. In parables, he made the point that persistence can make even the most corrupt and self-centred people sometimes give in. Jesus' point was that if humans could be persuaded, then an all-



loving God would definitely respond to the needs of those praying. Jesus also stated that humility and honesty in prayer were very important.

Set Prayers

Set prayers form a key part of liturgical worship, but many Christians also use them for private prayer. Many were written by great thinkers, literary figures and above all, deeply religious men and women. Some come from the Bible, such as the prayer starting with, 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...' that is often said in both public and private worship and is taken from 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Perhaps the simplest of all set prayers is the Jesus Prayer which says, 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' It is an Eastern Orthodox prayer which dates back to the fourth century,

THE LORD'S PRAYER
OUR FATHER
WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
hallowed be your name,
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
and forgive our debts,
AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE;
MATTHEW 6:9-13
for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

but it has become popular with Christians in other denominations as it is so simple, yet profound. It is meant to be said and repeated many times, like chanting. Whilst repeating it, a person meditates. Some also use rhythmic breathing as they say the prayer. The first part is said while inhaling and the second part while exhaling.

The Lord's Prayer

This prayer is especially important for Christians as it was the prayer that Jesus himself taught his disciples when they asked him how they should pray. It contains some of the key aspects of prayer: praise, confession, prayer for others and prayer for oneself.

The Lord's Prayer	Its meaning
Our Father in heaven	'Father' reminds Christians that the God who created the universe loves and cares for each individual. 'Our' reminds us that God's love knows no boundaries and that Christians are part of a community. 'In heaven' is a reminder that God is not a human father. It stresses His eternity and transcendence.
Hallowed be thy name	May God be treated with honour and respect
Your kingdom come	May God's kingship and authority be recognised and accepted by all
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven	May God's purposes be carried out as fully in the created world as they are within the eternal sphere of heaven
Give us today our daily bread	Christians ask God to give them (and everyone) all they need for the day. This includes spiritual and emotional as well as physical needs.
Forgive us our sins	Christians acknowledge that they fail to live up to their calling and are in need of God's forgiveness
As we forgive those who sin against us	A reminder that if they are not forgiving, they make themselves unable to receive God's forgiveness
And lead us not into temptation	A prayer not to be tested beyond their powers to resist
But deliver us from evil	Acknowledgement of their need of God in the struggle against all that is evil in the world
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever	All the previous petitions are possible because God is the omnipotent and majestic ruler of all
Amen	A Hebrew word that means 'so be it'. Christians end their prayers with this word to show they mean and assent to what they say

Informal Prayer



In public worship, this takes the form of extemporal prayer.

Most Christians use their own words at least some of the time in their private prayers. Many prefer informal prayer to set prayers as they seem to come more directly from the heart, meeting their particular concerns. One type of informal prayer is known as the arrow prayer. These are very short prayers addressed to God spontaneously at a time of urgent need or in response to a particular situation. In a time of personal crisis a Christian might pray, 'Help me God,' or respond to getting through a crisis with, 'Thank you God'.

The Sacraments

The term 'Sacrament' has been defined as 'the external and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace'. In other words, a sacrament is something people can experience with their senses (see, taste, smell, hear, and touch). But there is a deeper reality to it which cannot be experienced through the senses.

The Protestant traditions generally acknowledge only the two sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist. They are known as Gospel sacraments because they were authorised by Jesus and there are many references to their use in the books of the New Testament.

Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians and some Anglicans recognise seven sacraments. They believe that they are all implied by the ministry of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels and the practice of the Early Church described in the rest of the New Testament. These seven sacraments are: baptism, confirmation (chrismation in the Orthodox Church). The Eucharist, reconciliation (sometimes referred to as confession), healing, marriage and ordination (becoming a priest).



These Christians believe that through the sacraments God imparts particular gifts and powers. For many Christians, they are of central importance to the practice of their religion. Some of the seven sacraments are intended for all Christians, notably baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, healing and reconciliation. Roman Catholics refer to the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist as the three rites of initiation. Marriage is for those who get married. Ordination is for those who believe that God has called them to the priesthood.

The Symbolism of the Seven Sacraments

Sacrament	Outward and Visible Sign	Inward and Spiritual Grace
Baptism	Water and Trinitarian formula	Receiving the Holy Spirit The removal of original sin Entry into the kingdom of God/the Church
Confirmation	The laying on of hands by the bishop	Strengthening/sealing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the person Becoming an 'adult' member of the Church
Eucharist	Bread and wine	Spiritual 'feeding' with the body and blood of Christ
Reconciliation	Words of absolution (forgiveness)	The forgiveness of sins

Healing	Anointing and the laying on of hands	Spiritual and sometimes physical healing Preparation for death
Marriage	Ring(s)	The endless love between the couple
Ordination	They laying on of hands by the bishop	The special gifts of the Holy Spirit needed by a deacon or a priest

The importance of sacraments for Catholic Christians

For many, the sacraments are God's fists of grace offered to them at appropriate points in their Christian lives. Some can be seen as rites of passage, as they move from one stage of life into another. Baptism marks the start of the Christian life, giving the strength needed for the journey ahead. Confirmation reinforces baptism, as now those being confirmed make the commitment for themselves. The Eucharist is unique in that it is the only sacrament intended to be received frequently. Christians believe that it unites them with the risen Christ. Reconciliation enables Christians to think about how they have fallen short of God's will for them. They show their penitence through confession their sins and performing a special task set for them by the priest and they are assured of forgiveness through the priest's words of absolution. The sacrament of marriage is believed to unite the couple with each other and with God in what is to be a lifelong loving relationship. Healing is given at times of serious or prolonged illness, not necessarily just when a person is dying. It is believed to give strength and peace of mind. However, when given to those who are dying it is intended to prepare them for death by enabling them to accept peacefully and trustingly what will come. The Eucharist which is given at this point is known as the viaticum, that is, the food for the journey. Ordination sets apart those who believe God has called them to the priesthood, giving them the gifts needed to carry out their ministry. For some Christians, the seven sacraments are the means by which they can grow closer in love to God and are as essential to their spiritual lives as oxygen is to physical life.

Why some Christians do not believe in the Sacraments

Quakers and members of the Salvation Army reject all sacraments. They claim that there is no reference to most of the seven in the Bible. They also think that Jesus did not intend either baptism or his words and actions over the bread and wine at the Last Supper to become rituals for his followers to follow. Above all, they believe that God speaks directly to the believer's heart and that there is no need of any form of 'go-between'. Symbols and ritual are a distraction from the true religion.



Tasks:

1. What is a sacrament?

.....
.....

2. Which sacraments do the Protestant traditions recognise? Why?

.....
.....
.....
.....

3. Which sacraments do the Roman Catholics and Orthodox traditions recognise?
Why?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

4. Explain the symbolism of the seven sacraments.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. What is the importance of the seven sacraments to Roman Catholics?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. Which denominations do not believe in the sacraments? Why is this?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Baptism

Baptism in the Bible

Baptism was a ritual that the Jews of Jesus' day practised when being cleansed from ritual defilement (impurity) or as part of the process of a non-Jew becoming a Jew. However, when John the Baptist baptised people, it was a symbol of forgiveness of sins. This was in preparation for the new way of life that would start with the coming of the Messiah (Jesus).

Jesus was baptised by John, who was his cousin. By being baptised, he was identifying with what John was doing. At first, John refused to baptise Jesus, as he believed Jesus should be the one doing the baptising (as the Messiah). However, he did do as asked and during the baptism,

Jesus experienced the Holy Spirit entering his life and heard God's assurance that he was the Son of God. The Gospels say that the Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove, so some Christians believe that this literally happened.



Just before his ascension, Jesus told his disciples to, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Baptism was the rite of initiation into the Christian community right from the start and there are many references to baptism throughout the New Testament.

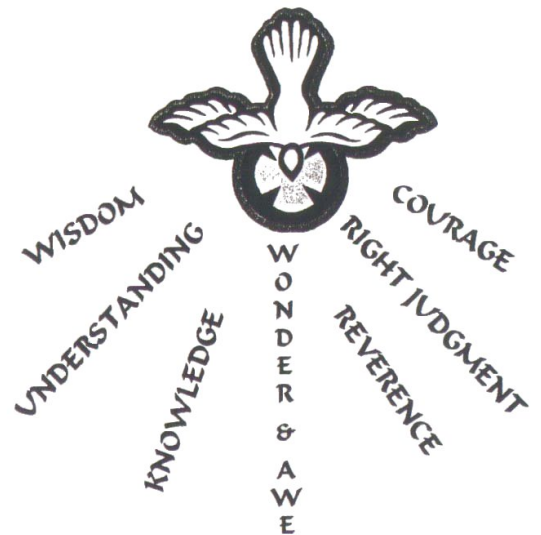
Baptism is a Gospel sacrament practiced by almost all Christian Churches (although in different forms), so it could be considered the most important of all sacraments. The structure of the baptism service varied in the different denominations, but all use water and the Trinitarian formula: 'I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.' Baptism is important to Christians for many reasons:

- It is the rite of initiation into the Christian community, making it possible to receive the other sacraments later
- The person is cleansed from original sin
- The person died from their old way of life and is reborn into eternal life
- The person is united with Christ as a child of God (all those baptised are of equal importance and value). Paul wrote: 'You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:26-27)
- The person received the gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- Understanding

- Courage
- Knowledge
- Awe and wonder in God's presence
- Reverence
- Wisdom
- Right Judgement



Infant Baptism

Many Christian denominations practise infant baptism (baptising of a baby). The actual service differs from denomination to denomination and even within denominations. However, central to all is the use of (blessed) water combined with the use of the Trinitarian formula. Roman Catholic and Anglican churches use a font, pouring water three times over the baby's head. In the Orthodox Church the naked baby is immersed totally in the font. This use of water symbolises washing away original sin and spiritual rebirth. Other features found in many baptism services are:

1. Bible readings and prayers
2. Anointing with two different oils at different points in the service as a sign of receiving strength to fight evil and of salvation
3. Making a sign of the cross on the child's forehead to show that the child is called to fight against all that is wrong and to remain faithful to Christ
4. Promises by parents and godparents on behalf of the child to reject evil, repent of sins and submit to Christ, and acceptance of the Church's faith as set out in the Apostles' creed
5. Clothing the newly baptised child in a white robe
6. The lighting of a candle, often from the Church's Paschal (Easter) candle, and giving it to the child as a sign that he or she has received the light of Christ and is to shine as a light in the world
7. The reminder to the parents and godparents that they now have the duty to bring up the child in the Christian faith both in the home and as part of the Christian community, leading at the appropriate stage to the child and receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation in the Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Anglican traditions



Why many Christians support infant baptism:

- It is in line with baptism of whole households of the early Church
- It is a part of Christian tradition
- It is natural for Christian parents to want to bring up their child as a practising Christian right from the start
- The child receives the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are as essential to spiritual growth as food is to physical growth. These are qualities such as wisdom and patience

- It enables the child to receive the other sacraments as soon as it is appropriate
- If a new-born baby is unlikely to survive, it comforts the parents to know that he or she has become part of the Christian family before dying

Believer's Baptism

The Baptist and Pentecostal Churches practice only believer's baptism, which is for teenagers and adults. As with infant baptism, the central ritual is the use of water together with the Trinitarian formula. The baptism does not take place in a font as it involves total immersion. Many churches have a baptistery built in the church. There is a large tank that can be filled with water that comes up to the thighs. It has two sets of steps down into it and up out of it, so the person enters at one end and exits at the other. Sometimes baptism takes place in a river, lake or even in a swimming pool.



Key elements are:

- White clothes are worn as a sign of the new life that is about to begin
- The testimony, which is a statement by the person (candidate) about to be baptised, explaining how he or she came to believe and their reasons for seeking baptism
- Declaration of penitence, of being truly sorry for sin, of faith in Christ as his or her personal Saviour and of the intention to show lifelong dedication to the service of Christ
- The candidate goes down one set of steps into the water, symbolising the end of the old life of sin and separation from God
- At least one person, often but not necessarily the minister, is in the water and tips the person back, right under the water, stating 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.' This baptism is a powerful symbol of death and resurrection. The newly baptised person comes out of the water by



another set of steps, symbolising the start of his or her new life as a Christian. The candidate may go off to get dried

- He or she may be given 'the right hand of fellowship' by the minister on behalf of the whole Christian community. This is a handshake done to welcome them into the community on behalf of the whole community

Why many Christians support believers' baptism

- Only those old enough to really know what they are doing and be fully committed to the decision should be baptised. This means that have to be (young) adults and it means that the baptism will mean much more to them

- Jesus himself was baptised as an adult, as were most people in the Early Church
- When they are older, children might resent promised made on their behalf when they are babies
- The idea of cleansing sin does not make sense for a baby
- For many people, infant baptism is just a meaningless practise that just names a child
- Many of those who have been baptised do not go to church again, except if they decide to marry in a church

Tasks:

1. What evidence is there of baptism in the Bible?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Why is baptism important to Christians?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Explain in detail what happens at an infant baptism.

.....

.....

.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
5. Why do Christians support infant baptism?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
6. Explain in detail what happens at a believer's baptism.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
7. Why do Christians support believer's baptism?

The Eucharist

The Last Supper

Jesus' last meal was with his disciples on the night before he died. It was probably the Passover meal, which celebrated the escape from slavery in Egypt of Moses and his fellow Israelites. What Jesus said and did gave this meal a new significance. Paul, in a letter to the Christians in Corinth, describes how in the course of the Last Supper Jesus 'took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



Jesus linked the bread and wine to his imminent death and it was a sign of the new covenant established by his death between God and all believers. Ever since the start of the Church. In obeying Jesus' command most Christians have celebrated the Eucharist wherever they are and sometimes in secret. During the Second World War prisoners in Japanese POW camps did not have bread, so the Eucharist was instead celebrated with rice.

The Eucharist is celebrated by almost all Christian denominations (though not by Quakers and the Salvation Army). It has many names, such as the Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread, the Liturgy, Holy Communion, Mass. The central features are the same: the connection with the Last Supper, the giving of thanks for the bread and wine (consecration) and using Jesus' words at the Last Supper. The consecrated bread and wine are then shared among the congregation. However, the structure of the service and the interpretation of its meaning differ considerably between the Christian denominations. So, for example, Roman Catholics believe the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation), whereas Protestants do not believe this. Many

Protestants see the ceremony as an expression of faith and obedience, whereas the Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican traditions see it as a way to receive God's grace. Not all denominations use wine, many of the Non-Conformist churches use a non-alcoholic substitute.

Tasks:

1. What was Jesus and his disciples celebrating during the last meal?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. How far have people gone to celebrate Jesus' command to 'do this in memory of me'?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What do different denominations believe about the Eucharist?

.....

.....

.....

.....

An Orthodox Divine Liturgy

In the Orthodox Church, the Eucharist is known as the Divine Liturgy. A typical service would include:

- The wine and home-made bread are prepared on the altar of preparation, behind the iconostasis (a screen separating the holiest part of the church from the rest). The iconostasis is a wall of painted religious icons with doors in the middle called the Royal Doors
- In preparation, the bread is divided into four. The Eucharistic prayer is said over three parts of the bread consecrating them, through which the Orthodox believe they come to 'coexist' with the actual body and blood of Christ
- The service includes Bible readings, a sermon and prayers, before the procession of the Gospel/Bible through the Royal Doors
- The cherubic hymn is sung, to bring everyone present into the presence of the angels and around the throne of God. Then the bread and wine are carried through the Royal Doors, which are then closed
- The Royal Doors are opened and the priest invites all baptised members of the Orthodox Church to receive the consecrated bread and wine, administered from a silver chalice (cup) on a spoon. The bread is in the cup with the wine
- At the end of the service, all those present may take home to share with others the fourth unconsecrated piece of the loaf, known as the antidoron



Roman Catholic Mass

- Introductory and penitentiary rites – worshippers confess their sins to God, and forgiveness is given
- Bible readings, a sermon and prayers; the Nicene Creed is recited



- After the bread and wine are brought to the altar, the Eucharistic prayer is said (whilst the bread and wine are consecrated)
- The Lord's Prayer and other prayers are said; the congregation stand before the priest to receive the consecrated bread which is placed on their tongue or in their hands
- There is a post-Eucharistic prayer, followed by a blessing and a dismissal



Eucharist in Protestant Christianity – the Lord's Supper

The services in most Protestant and Non-Conformist forms of Christianity are much simpler than in the Orthodox, Catholic and Anglican forms of the religion. Often the service is additional and outside a normal Sunday service. Whereas in other denominations, a person should have been baptised, here they may only need to be a Church member, or there may be no such requirement. It can also be a monthly service rather than offered daily or weekly as in the other denominations.

The format can be very simple:

- Those wishing to take part gather at the front of the church
- A minister will read the Gospel story of the Last Supper, or St Paul's version from Corinthians
- The bread and wine (often a non-alcoholic drink) are shared with those who want to join in. Others are simply blessed. The 'wine' is given in individual glasses, not a single chalice
- Depending on the church, hymns may be sung. A prayer will certainly be said in addition to the Lord's Prayer, which is said by all



Tasks:

1. Explain in detail how the Orthodox denomination celebrate the Eucharist.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Explain in detail how the Roman Catholic denomination celebrate the Eucharist.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Explain in detail how the Protestant denomination celebrate the Eucharist.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

The significance of the Eucharist for Christians

The Christian denominations that celebrate the Eucharist attach great significance to it. Some celebrate it daily or weekly, thinking that it is so important that frequent celebration is necessary. Others celebrate it monthly or less because they think it



is so important that they want to avoid the danger of losing its significance by overuse.

Christians interpret it in different ways, the Orthodox Church resists any attempts at a precise definition of what happens at the consecration / blessing of the bread and the wine because it is essentially a mystery that humans cannot explain. They believe that Christ is mystically and truly present.

Roman Catholics believe in transubstantiation; that the bread and wine are invisibly transformed 'in their substance' into the actual body and blood of Christ.

Anglicans hold a range of beliefs, a few identifying with Roman Catholic thinking and others believing that the bread and wine hold the spiritual presence of the body and blood of Christ, rather than becoming it.

Others, like Methodists, believe the Eucharist is just a memorial; the bread and wine being purely symbolic of Jesus' death, which brought salvation. Many Christians believe this alongside other views.

The Eucharist for Christians is a taste of heaven. The worshipper is united in love with Christ and also with all other Christians. This is shown when those present shake hands with one another in the part of the service known as the Peace. Christians believe it is food for the soul that gives them the strength to live their everyday lives in God's glory.

Tasks:

1. What is the significance of the Eucharist for Orthodox Christians?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. What is the significance of the Eucharist for Roman Catholic Christians?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. What is the significance of the Eucharist for Anglican Christians?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What is the significance of the Eucharist for Methodist Christians?

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. What is the significance of the Eucharist for **all** Christians?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Pilgrimage



A pilgrimage entails a visit to a place regarded as holy for the believer. Often, the journey is also special. Pilgrimage has always played an important role in the history of Christianity, though it is not a compulsory duty and many today see no need to go on a pilgrimage. Places of pilgrimage have special meanings, often making people feel closer to God. They are usually linked to Jesus or a saint, to event/s of religious significance or to healings that are seen as miraculous (inexplicable by science).

Christianity has many places of pilgrimage. Some are very ancient, for example, Jerusalem, the place of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Pilgrimage tours of the Holy Land (Israel) can be undertaken.

Others have become places of pilgrimage for Christians within a specific country, for example Canterbury in England or Iona in Scotland. They link to a key person in the history of Christianity in that place. English Christians often include the journey from London to Canterbury in their pilgrimage.

Others are very recent, for example, Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which became a pilgrimage site in the 1980s when some children claimed to have had visions of and received messages from Mary, the mother of Jesus.

St Bernadette at Lourdes

Bernadette was born in 1844, in Lourdes, France. Her early childhood was very happy. She found learning difficult and was illiterate. In 1854 her father suffered an accident, plunging the family into poverty. They had to move into a tiny dark room that had formerly been a prison. Bernadette struggled with asthma and cholera.

On 11 February 1858, while she and a friend were at a cave on the banks of the River Gave, she received the first of eighteen visions. The last one was on 16th July. In one vision, she was told to dig away the growth clogging the spring and drink the water, which was at first muddy, then clear. Soon after that, a friend put her dislocated arm into the water and it healed. The authorities at first doubted Bernadette's claims. However, the priest was convinced. Bernadette claimed the woman she was said she was the 'Immaculate Conception'. There was no way that she could have known this phrase, let alone its link to the Virgin Mary. Crowds accompanied Bernadette on her visits to the grotto.

From 1858 to 1862 the bishop of that area carried out an enquiry, interviewing Bernadette and others several times. He concluded that the visions were genuine and that a number of inexplicable healings had occurred to some of those who drank or bathed in the grotto's waters. Over time, pilgrim numbers increased. Bernadette herself entered a convent there, dying in 1879.

Tasks:

1. What is a pilgrimage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. What makes a place a site of pilgrimage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. What was Bernadette's life like, before her experience at Lourdes?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What happened to Bernadette?

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. What was Bernadette's life like, after her experience at Lourdes?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Pilgrims come in their thousands throughout the year from all over the world to visit the churches at Lourdes, take part in the processions with candles and services, to touch the walls of the grotto, light candles and drink or bathe in the spring's water. Many pilgrims take home with them Lourdes water, and many shops in Lourdes sell religious artefacts, for example, statues of Mary. Some go to Lourdes on holiday as well as on pilgrimage; there are many activities provided in the surrounding area.



In the UK, Roman Catholic churches organise pilgrimages for the sick or disabled, their families and volunteer helpers. Special provision is made for the needs of the sick in purpose-built accommodation that has full medical facilities. The volunteers who accompany the sick pilgrims look after their rooms and push hand-drawn carts enabling them to take part in the processions.

Every Easter there is a pilgrimage for 1000 children, who are sick or have special needs. The participants are accompanied by volunteer helpers, doctors and nurses.

Healing at Lourdes

Since the first cure in 1858 there have been 69 healings that have been declared miracles (they are inexplicable by current medical and scientific knowledge). All claims of healing undergo a rigorous and lengthy assessment by a large panel of medical experts. At any case termed as an 'unexpected cure', that is, a lasting cure where no medical explanation can be found, is referred to the bishop of the area where the person lived. It is he who will declare whether or not the cure is a miracle. Danila Castelli had had to have many operations for the removal of growths and was found to have a tumour which caused others. Medical treatment was not effective, but in 1989 she bathed at Lourdes and claimed to have been cured. It was not until 2010 that the Lourdes Office of Medical Observations certified the cure. In 2011 the Lourdes International Medical Committee concluded that her cure 'remains unexplained according to current scientific knowledge' and all the information was sent to Danila's bishop. In 2013, he recognised her healing as miraculous.

Most of those who go to Lourdes do not experience such healing, but almost all come away feeling that they have been healed spiritually. They are enabled to come to terms with their illness or disability and have peace of mind. Those with terminal illness often feel able to face their immanent death more positively.

Tasks:

1. What can pilgrims do at Lourdes?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. How is Lourdes catering for the sick or disabled?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Explain in detail healings at Lourdes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What do most people receive or come away with, once visiting Lourdes?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Iona, an ancient centre of pilgrimage



Iona, the 'cradle of Christianity in Scotland', is a small island off the west coast of Scotland. In 563CE Columba, an Irish monk, settled there. He had left Ireland because of his part in a family feud that killed 3000 people. The Gaelic rulers gave Iona to Columba so that he could build a monastery. The monks went out from Iona in small groups, living amongst the pagan people then came across, caring for them and preaching the Gospel as far away as north-eastern Scotland.

Columba had a close relationship with the king as an advisor and a diplomat and he travelled to neighbouring countries on the king's behalf. The ruler's sons were educated in his monastery. In return for this, the monastery was given land and protection.

Columba died in 597CE, but the monastery's influence continued, leading to the foundation of new monasteries in Ireland and at Lindisfarne (an island off the north-east coast of Northumberland). Many came on pilgrimage and a system of Celtic crosses and processional roads were built for pilgrims. Rulers of several lands were buried there. The Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript of the Gospels, was produced there. Repeated Viking invasions, beginning in 794CE ended Iona's influence. Columba's remains were removed in 849CE and divided between Scotland and Ireland as religious relics across a number of churches.

In the early Middle Ages, Iona again became a centre of pilgrimage when Benedictine monks built a monastery with a beautiful abbey church. Pilgrims did a circuit of all the sites, culminating in arriving at St Columba's shrine, and from there they went into a crypt beneath the abbey church to see relics of the saint.

Iona, a modern centre of pilgrimage

In 1938, George McLeod, a minister in Glasgow, brought to Iona a group of unemployed skilled craftsmen and men training to become ministers. His plan was that they should rebuild the actual monastic buildings which had fallen into ruin and disrepair. At the same time, they would rebuild the community life which Columba had first set up by living together and sharing everything. That led to the foundation of the ecumenical Iona Community. Ecumenical means one which includes all Christian denominations. This group of men and women are committed to a way of life that reflects the Gospel and is relevant to the modern world. It has a global membership who are committed to a Rule that required daily prayer and Bible reading, stewardship of time and money, regular meetings with other members and an active concern for justice, peace and the environment.



Pilgrimage to Iona

Iona has a different history than Lourdes. Its rich history has newly made it a centre of pilgrimage. Individuals and family groups go. Guests and staff share the practical tasks, for example, the washing up. Others come as part of larger groups from churches or schools. Special programmes are organised for those staying within one of the Community's two centres, as well as 'Open Weeks' that have a range of activities and workshops. As well as meeting together for worship, visitors hold discussions, often on issues relating to justice, peace and conservation of the environment. They spend one day in pilgrimage around Iona, visiting the many sacred sites. There is also time for reading, reflection, boat trips, entertainment and craft sessions. People go to Iona to reflect and to live in a specific type of community, not for miracles, which is the reason why many people go to Lourdes.

Different Views on Pilgrimage

People hold very different views on the importance and value of pilgrimage. For some Christians it is a very important part of their faith, because:

- It enables time to be taken out from the often very pressured and secular everyday lives they lead.
- They return from pilgrimage refreshed with renewed vitality to cope with the demands of life
- It offers an opportunity for spiritual growth. They have the time to pray and to meditate
- It gives inspiration and encouragement to visit the places associated with Jesus
- They might be going for a specific purpose, e.g. a healing
- They can meet Christians from very different backgrounds and cultures. This deepens their faith as they gain new insights

Other people, both Christians and non-Christians think that pilgrimage does not have value, because:

- It is often costly and shows poor stewardship, as the money could be put to better use
- It is not necessary, as spiritual development can be gained through regular attendance at church and through daily Bible reading and prayer
- Reading about Jesus and about the great Christians of the past gives the same insights as pilgrimage
- Any spiritual 'high' may well be temporary and the effects may soon wear off when everyday life kicks in again



Tasks:

1. How did Iona come to be a place of pilgrimage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. What is there to see/experience/do in Iona?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. How is Iona developing into a modern place of pilgrimage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Why might a person want to go to Iona and not Lourdes?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. What arguments to people give for pilgrimage being a good thing?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. What arguments to people give for pilgrimage being a negative thing?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Christmas

Christmas marks the birth of Jesus, who is considered to be the Son of God. It is celebrated on December 25th and the story is known as the Nativity. It is the first story told in the accounts of Matthew and Luke in the New Testament. Both accounts tell us that Jesus was born to a woman called Mary who was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter. The Gospels state that Mary was a virgin when she became pregnant. They do, however, have some differences:

Matthew's Account

- Joseph was visited by an angel to told him to marry Mary and not expose her pregnancy
- Wise men followed a star to Jesus' birthplace

Luke's Account

- Mary is visited by an angel who told her she would give birth to God's son
- Shepherds were led to Bethlehem by an angel

Both Gospels tell how Joseph and Mary travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Jesus' birth to take part in the census. But when they arrived in Bethlehem the inn was already full, so they had to stay in the stable. It was here, next to the noise and filth of the animals, that Mary gave birth to her son and laid him in a manger.

Today, Christmas is celebrated at the end of the season of Advent. This is an important time in the Christian calendar because it is a period of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Some Christians fast during this time.

For non-Christians, Christmas is the biggest holiday of the year, with the main focus on exchanging gifts.

Why is Christmas important?

- Jesus is God incarnate (God in human form)
- It marks the end of a world of ignorance, greed and hatred
- Jesus' coming signifies a spiritual turn for mankind that is to be celebrated: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." [Luke 2:10](#)
- Because of God's reason for sending Him to earth: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."
- God became one of us, a human being, so we could understand what he is really like.



Celebrating Christmas: Christmas is a time to be with loved ones, to pray and to thank God for the gift of sending his Son, Jesus, so that mankind has a chance at salvation (being saved from their sin). Features of Christmas can include:

- Church on Christmas Eve (often at midnight) or on Christmas Day. At Midnight Mass, the church is lit with candles. The lights come on when the Gospel reading takes place, symbolic of the birth of Christ the Light of the world
- Nativities to act out the story of when Jesus was born (usually performed by children)
- Advent candles at church count the weeks until Christmas. Churches hold special services, e.g. midnight mass or carol services.
- Exchanging of gifts to remember the gifts that the wise men brought for the 'new king' Jesus
- Cards are sent to family and friends to wish them a 'Happy Christmas'
- Holly and ivy is often used for decoration. This reminds Christians of Jesus' crown of thorns
- Christingle services, which originally came from Eastern Europe, may occur. The candle represents Christ, the Light of the world. The fruits represent the fruits of the world that are God's gift to the world. The four sticks represent the four seasons of the year. The ribbon represents the blood shed by Jesus to save the world. The orange represents the world.



The orange represents the world.



The red ribbon indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the cross.



The dried fruits and sweets are symbols of God's creations. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.



The lit candle symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.

Tasks:

1. What does Christmas celebrate?

.....

.....

.....

2. What is the difference between Matthew's and Luke's account of the Christmas story?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. What is the same about both versions of the Christmas story?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Why is Christmas important to Christians?

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. How do Christians celebrate Christmas?

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. Explain the symbolism of a Christingle.

.....

.....

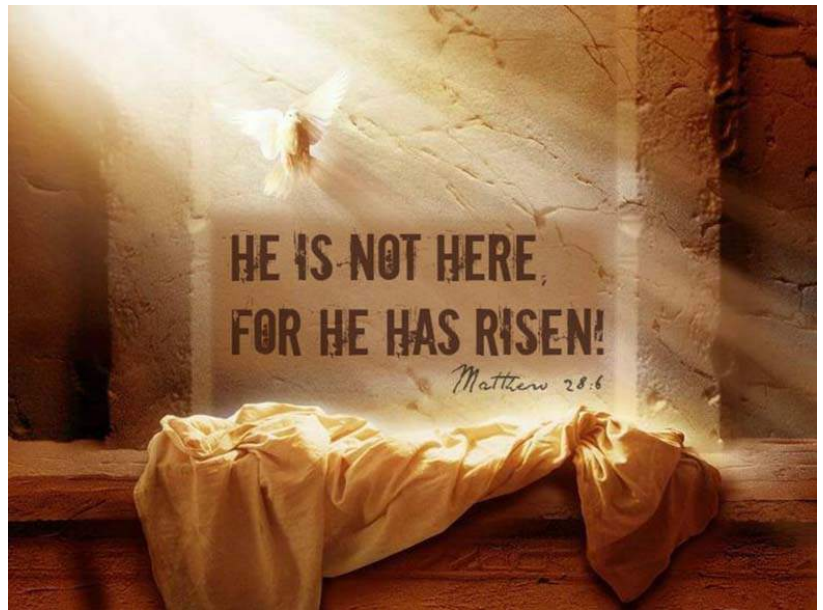
.....

.....

Easter

Easter is at the end of Holy Week – the last week in the life of Jesus, before his crucifixion. It remembers the sacrifice made by Jesus on mankind's behalf and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus had his last meal with his disciples on the evening of a Thursday (remembered as Holy Thursday), was arrested during the night, tried Friday morning (Good Friday), condemned, crucified, and died before sundown on Friday. And, according to the Gospel accounts, he was bodily raised from the dead on the third day — Sunday, the day of Easter.



	What happened?	Explanation and Significance
Palm Sunday	Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey	Jesus arrived in the city and was welcomed by the Jews. They thought he was the Messiah. The donkey is a humble animal, symbolising Jesus' service.
Monday	Jesus turns the traders' tables over in the Temple	Jesus was angry when he saw traders cheating people in the Temple. He said that they had turned his father's house into a den of thieves.
Tuesday	Jesus gave further teaching in the Temple	Jesus was challenged by priests about his authority and where it came from. He taught the parable of the wedding banquet and about paying taxes.
Wednesday	Jesus spent the day with Martha and Mary in Bethany. Judas agreed to betray Jesus	These were two sisters whose brother Jesus brought back from the dead. Many thought that Judas was a revolutionary – part of the Jewish underground movement to rise up against the Romans. It has been suggested that Judas was disappointed because he thought that Jesus was the man to lead this.
Maundy Thursday	Last Supper, arrest and trials begin.	Jesus shares the bread and wine, preparing his friends for his death. He is arrested and put through trials with the ruling council and King Herod.

Good Friday	Trial with Pontius Pilate who sentences Jesus to death. Jesus is whipped, nailed to the cross and left to die.	Jesus had to die as atonement for the sins of human beings. At his death he commended his soul to God. He said that the criminals beside him would be with him in Paradise – showing it was now open to humans. The temple shroud was ripped apart, showing all had access to God. His body was laid in a tomb as the Sabbath was about to begin and no work can be done on the Sabbath.
Saturday	Shabbat – Jesus' body lay in the tomb	The disciples hid, fearing they would be arrested. Losing Jesus had challenged their faith.
Easter Sunday	In the morning, the women went to the tomb to anoint the body – it was gone. A young man told them Christ was risen.	The tomb was empty because Jesus had resurrected from the dead. Christians see this as a victory over death.

Easter is important to Christians because:

- It demonstrates that Jesus must be the Son of God as he had the power to resurrect
- It is a triumph over death – not just for Jesus, but for humans too
- In Jesus' sacrifice, death and resurrection, sin and death were destroyed
- It is so special that it needs to be prepared for. Christians fast for 40 days during Lent
- It offers reconciliation and the chance at a new life with God
- Jesus restores Christians' 'brokenness' by forgiving all wrongdoings of those people who truly repent
- Jesus' death for mankind shows God's unconditional love for all humans



How is Easter celebrated?

- Palm Sunday:
 - Christians are given palm crosses at church to take home to keep until the start of Lent the following year
 - On Ash Wednesday the old palm crosses are symbolically burned, then replaced on the next Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
 - Christians attend church to remember the last supper



- The Queen of England gives out Maundy money (silver coins) to selected older people, reminding of the 30 pieces of silver that Judas betrayed Jesus for



➤ Good Friday

- Churches are cleared of colour, candles are unlit, cloth is removed
- Vicar wears black robes, for mourning
- Some Christians walk through their towns carrying a heavy wooden cross, just as Jesus was forced to do
- Christians may eat fish on this day
- It is called 'Good Friday' because Jesus died for the good of all mankind

➤ Easter Sunday

- Attending church for a special service. This could be a sunrise service, to celebrate at the very start of Easter Day, or Roman Catholics might go to Rome to take part in a large Mass held by the Pope in St. Peter's Square
- Lighting candles to remember that Jesus is the light of the world, who has driven out the darkness through His sacrifice
- Churches are filled with flowers to symbolise new life
- Priests wear bright robes in celebration
- Easter is the end to the fasting season of Lent, so a celebratory meal might be shared
- Easter eggs are given out to remind Christians of new life



Tasks:

1. What does Easter celebrate?

.....
.....

2. Explain what happened during Holy Week and its importance for each event on each day.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3. How is Palm Sunday celebrated?

.....
.....
.....

4. How is Maundy Thursday celebrated?

.....
.....
.....

5. How is Good Friday celebrated?

.....
.....
.....

6. How is Easter Sunday celebrated?

.....
.....
.....

Role of the Church in the Local Community

Church = the wider Christian community. It was officially founded on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit visited the apostles.

church = the church building

Christian churches in the UK work together and individually to try to make their local communities a better place for everyone to live in. The Church has always been involved in caring for others. For example, in the Middle Ages the monasteries provided education, hospitality and treatment of the sick. With all the social and economic problems in the UK today, Christians of all denominations feel called to respond where they see need. There is a wide range of involvement by local churches, for example food banks and caring for the elderly.



Why Christians are involved?

In his parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus told the disciples that whatever they did or failed to do for someone, they did it/failed to do it for Jesus. This encourages a sense of helping others. Jesus himself deliberately sought out those whom society rejected, notably tax-collectors and prostitutes, and the religious leaders criticised him for welcoming sinners and eating with them. This encourages Christians to reflect Jesus' teachings in their own lives, working with modern day sinners and 'outcasts'.

Food Banks



In 1997, Paddy Henderson started Trussell Trust to help disadvantaged people in Bulgaria. In 2004 he launched the first (and now biggest) UK-wide food bank network, teaching churches and communities how to set up food banks in their areas. Its vision is to end poverty and hunger in the UK through giving compassionate, practical help and campaigning for justice.

The Salvation Army

Founded by William and Catherin Booth, this Christian denomination were shocked at the deprivation they saw and the apparent unconcern of many churches. Salvation army members work with the poor and disadvantaged in many ways, including setting up soup kitchens, distributing toys at Christmas, giving emergency assistance, providing advice, raising awareness of human trafficking, and many more.



Street Pastors

Street pastors go out onto the streets of cities to care for the physical and spiritual needs of young people who might be clubbing, drinking, fighting, etc. they care for and listen to the people they come across.

The movement began in 2003 in London, but it has now spread to over 270 towns and cities. In the UK there are over 20,000 street pastors.



Tasks:

1. What is the difference between church and Church?

.....

.....

.....

2. What do churches work individually and together to do?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Why do Christians involve themselves in this work?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What are food banks and what do they do?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. Who are the Salvation Army and what do they do?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. Who are Street Pastors and what do they do?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Church Growth –

Christian Mission and Evangelism in UK

Mission: A vocation or calling to go out and spread the Christian faith

Evangelism: Spreading faith to others. Jesus said to 'make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19).

Church growth: The effort to expand the numbers of people in the Church

Christians follow Jesus who said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20.21). They are called to serve God's mission by living and proclaiming the good news (the 'Gospel').

For Christians, God's mission is about transformation - transforming individual lives, transforming communities and transforming the world. By following Jesus Christ, they believe that God's mission is revealed to them by the Holy Spirit in three ways:

- through the Bible
- through the tradition and life of the Church
- through listening, praying, thinking and sharing



The Church Army

The Church Army is a lay organisation committed to evangelise. Its evangelists are trained over 4 years and are licensed by the Church of England and Ireland to work throughout the UK. They are committed to enabling people to find faith, showing the love of God as revealed in Christ. In particular, they bring the gospel of salvation to the vulnerable and marginalised in society and encourage the Church as a whole and locally to live up to its calling.

The Church Army is involved in:

- clubs for children and working with families
- projects for young people
- working with drug addicts



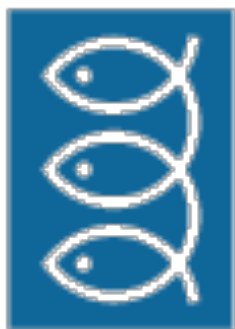
- acting as chaplains
- visiting the elderly and providing lunch clubs for them
- providing alternative forms of Church



Christian mission and evangelism in the world

Serving in Mission (SIM) is an international evangelical and interdenominational organisation with a based in the UK. They send mission workers to more than 70 countries across the world.

For instance, the support of their church in Hampstead has enabled the Curry family to work with SIM in West Africa. Andrew teaches English to university students, and to those who wish to hear it he proclaims the Gospel. Sue works in a medical clinic with a special focus on those with diabetes and children suffering from malnutrition. Both see their work as carrying out the commission given by Jesus to his disciples.



ICHTHUS

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Ichthus Fellowship

There is growth in other denominations of Christianity, although church attendance in traditional churches is dropping. The Ichthus Fellowship takes its name from the ancient Christian symbol of a fish, which was used by Christians to represent Jesus Christ, God's Son and Saviour. This fellowship started with the intention of evangelising by planting churches throughout London and Kent. 'Planting churches' means establishing new churches in communities, so that, like plants, the Christian community thrives and grows. This movement has now spread and there are many link churches throughout the UK and abroad, such as the King's Church, which operates in many cities. These are linked to a central church, but are not physical churches in their own right. Ichthus' central aim is to worship Jesus. They do this through worship, Bible studies, shared meals, serving those in need, etc. Services in these churches attract hundreds of people of all ages. The structure of the organisation is threefold and show how Ichthus differs from traditional denominations:

- celebrations where people from a number of churches come together
- congregations where local churches meet for worship and service to the community
- cells where smaller meeting for prayer, discussion and support in the faith occur in homes

Fresh Expressions

Fresh Expressions are churches that are different in approach from the planted churches because they are intended for a different group of people from those already attending the original church.

The form of the church suits the location and the context, for example

a church for surfers or for young people in a skate park. Other 'fresh expressions' of church can be in pubs, cafes and schools. Their aim is to attract new people to Christianity.

When Jesus called his first disciples, he said: 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' This is what those who plant new churches see themselves as doing.



Mission and evangelism at Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest is a Christian organisation that holds event for people at Butlins' holiday camps. It is open for individuals or families and also groups from schools or churches. There are two priorities: to deliver excellent Bible teaching and to seek God's presence in worship inspired by the Holy Spirit. A wide range of age-appropriate activities are run for children and teenagers and special provision is made for those with special needs. There is also discussion groups, prayer sessions, craft activities and times for games and fun. There are two intentions: to help some have a first personal experience of God and to deepen the commitment of others.



Tasks:

1. What is mission and evangelism?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Explain the work of Church Army.

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Explain the work of the Ichthus Fellowship.

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Explain the work of Fresh Expressions.

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. Explain the aims and purpose of the Spring Harvest.

.....

.....

.....

.....

New Testament Responses to Persecution

Early Christians were persecuted for their faith. Christian missionaries and converts, both, were killed. Immediately after Jesus' death, Christians were hunted down as we are told in the famous conversion of Saul, who thereafter was known as Paul. The New Testament details many examples of Christian persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire. This led to the canonisation of many saints and therefore a more rapid spread of Christianity.

The Great Persecution in the 4th Century AC ordered the imprisonment of Christian priests and Christians were forced to sacrifice to the Roman gods, or face execution. 20,000 Christians died during this time.

Today, Christian persecution largely exists among Middle Eastern countries, such as Saudi Arabia, where freedom of religious expression is not practised or allowed.

Working for reconciliation: The World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is an inter-church organisation seeking worldwide fellowship and unity for all Christians.



World Council of Churches

The WCC brings together churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 500 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. There are now 348 member churches.

For its member churches, the WCC is a unique space: one in which they can reflect, speak, act, worship and work together, challenge and support each other, share and debate with each other. As members of this fellowship, WCC member churches:

- are called to the goal of visible unity in one faith and one Eucharistic fellowship;
- promote their common witness in work for mission and evangelism;
- engage in Christian service by serving human need, breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace, and upholding the integrity of creation; and
- foster renewal in unity, worship, mission and service.

Working for reconciliation: The Ecumenical Movement

The Ecumenical Movement is the movement towards worldwide Christian unity or cooperation. Due to historical schisms (splits), the Christian church has divided into many different denominations (branches within Christianity) such as Roman Catholic and Church of England. In some circumstances, the conflict has become so tense that war has broken out within communities, such as the Roman Catholic/Protestant divide in Northern Ireland.

Ecumenism understands that these divisions must be overcome, as people are all members of one faith; one Church. Therefore, Ecumenism seeks to reunite what was divided during the schisms in the past.

Underlying the movement is the belief that people should be focusing on Jesus and Salvation, not on their individual denominations or organisations. People should be coming together in a dialogue of love and a dialogue of truth, to spread the Gospel and follow in Jesus' footsteps on earth.

Galatians 3:28 *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

Open Doors

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

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

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

Corrymeela

Corrymeela began in Belfast to bring communities back together after the conflict in Ireland. There are now 40 full time staff and 20 volunteers running a variety of programmes, including:

- Working with families needing help to work through difficult times
- Helping 18-25s deal with issues of concern to young adults
- Working with schools to encourage positive citizenship

Community of the Cross of Nails



One in Christ

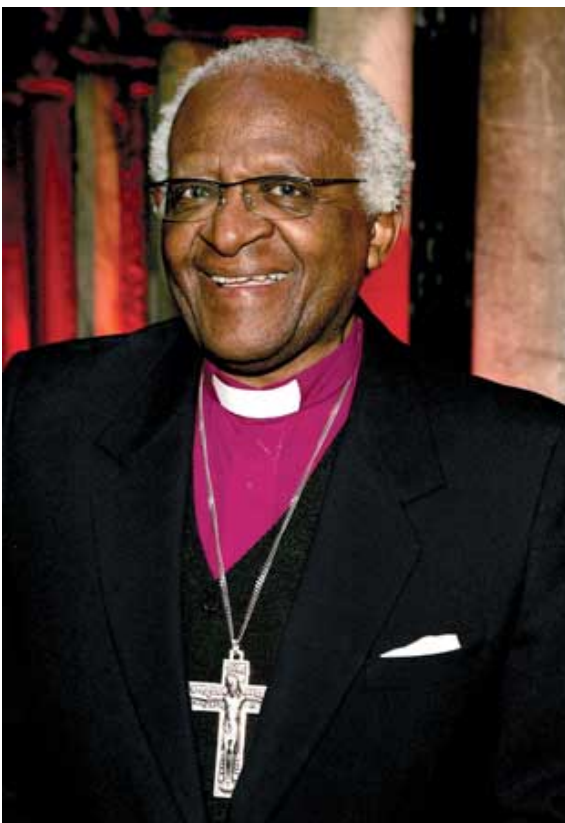
In 1940, Coventry cathedral was bombed and reduced to ruin. The Provost (head) of the cathedral wrote on the wall, 'Father Forgive', words that are now properly inscribed in the wall. The Provost stated in a broadcast that he is committed to forgiveness and working for reconciliation, once the war has ended.

Three nails from the original building were made into a cross and this Cross of Nails became a powerful symbol of friendship and hope once the war was over. After the war, Coventry created links with three German cities and gave a Cross of Nails to Berlin. A new cathedral was built alongside the ruins of the old one, which have become a memorial to all civilians who have been killed or injured by conflict world-wide.

Coventry Cathedral became a world Centre for Reconciliation and the Community of the Cross of Nails was born. There is now an international network of 170 partners in 35 countries, all committed to praying for peace, justice and reconciliation.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Desmond Tutu is a retired Archbishop from South Africa. He was subject to African apartheid, which ensured the mistreatment of black people and reduced their life chances. He became Archbishop of Cape Town and used his position to speak out against apartheid and campaign for social justice.

When Apartheid ended and Nelson Mandela became President of South Africa, Archbishop Tutu chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission where the perpetrators of the most horrific acts of violence and their victims came face to face. The perpetrators asked for and the victims granted forgiveness.

Since then Tutu has been involved in the search for reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians.

Tasks:

1. How have Christians been persecuted?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Explain the work of the World Council of Churches.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Explain the work of the Ecumenical Movement.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Explain the work of Open Doors.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. Explain the work of Corrymeela.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. Explain the work of the Community of the Cross of Nails.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

7. Explain the work of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Poverty in Less Economically Developed Countries

Less economically developed countries (LEDCs) are the poorest countries of the world. Many are found in Asia and Africa. Religious voluntary aid agencies such as Cafod, Christian Aid and Tearfund help people in LEDCs because of the extreme poverty in which so many people live.

Why do these agencies choose to help?

Since these people are poor, many things like healthcare and education are often quite limited. People struggle to make more of their lives or even survive. Religious voluntary aid agencies help because they are able to do so. Many Christians live in privileged situations, especially compared to those in LEDCs. They are able to thank God for this by helping others. The agencies are putting this attitude into practice. They may feel that they can make the most difference in the poorest countries, where the need is so glaringly obvious.



Helping LEDCs

There are different types of aid:

- Emergency Aid: immediate response, usually to disaster or disease. This includes medical kits, blankets and tents or teams of specialist doctors.
- Short-term Aid: takes over from emergency aid. It reunites families and begins the process of rebuilding and getting children back into schools.
- Long-term Aid: is development and tackles the root of the problem and enables communities to become self-sufficient. For example, educational programmes, well-digging and the training of medical health workers.

The Christian response to poverty

Christianity has, at its core, the desire to follow Jesus' example. Cafod, Christian Aid and Tearfund are all part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) which responds to crises such as a natural disaster or the mass displacement of people in a civil



war. DEC's appeals on radio and television are free, saving vital money that can be used to respond. The humanitarian agencies involved all work together to raise money from the public.

Work in the UK

Aid given abroad is made possible by work done in UK, through:

1. **Campaigning:** putting pressure on those in positions of power or peacefully protesting
2. **Increasing public awareness:** achieved through sympathetic celebrities who speak out in the media. Educational resources are made for school children of all ages, as they will be the ones to make a change in the future, bringing justice
3. **Fund-raising:** raising money to spend on emergency and long-term development work. A small amount is used for costs associated with fundraising and administration.



Tasks:

1. What are LEDCs?

.....

.....

.....

2. Why do Christian agencies help LEDCs?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. What are the different types of aid?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What is the Christian response to poverty?

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. What do agencies do in the UK in response to poverty?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Christian Charities

Cafod

In 1960 the Catholic Women's League organised their first Fast Day to raise money for mothers in the Caribbean islands. They

were so successful that this led to the founding of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (Cafod), which now gives support to over 500 partners in LEDCs.



When emergency aid is needed, Cafod not only give emergency assistance but also puts in place disaster risk-reduction strategies. For example, in earthquake-prone areas, Cafod will advise and train local people in constructing homes less vulnerable to earthquakes. Once the emergency is over, Cafod remains to put in long-term sustainable development. Communities who have received help from Cafod gain confidence and self-belief, which becomes the seed for much greater change. Most of Cafod's money comes from Catholic communities, both churches and schools. Cafod's help is given to the poorest of the poor, regardless of race, religion, gender or political belief.

In Zambia, Cafod have enabled the village of Kalisowe to get their own water by providing two solar powered water pumps. As a result, the people can grow their own crops and drink clean water. They have also established a school, which drives up aspirations and changes lives for all.

Christian Aid

Whenever you helped one of the least important ... you did it for me (Jesus). (Matthew 25:40)

Christians believe that caring for others and sharing with others – in other words 'loving' them – is not just something they should do, but a command of Jesus himself. Jesus taught that all people have human dignity and should be treated with justice

He also said that only loving the people who love you in return is not difficult; loving someone who is your enemy, or who dislikes you, or someone who is a complete stranger, is another matter. So Christians try to put this into practice in their day – to – day lives, and also support organisations that do it globally.





Who? What is Christian Aid? It is a charity organisation working in partnership with local organisations in over 60 countries in the developing world.

Why? Which religion does it belong to? Christianity. In fact, it is supported by more than 40 different Christian denominations in the U.K.

What? What are the main aims of this organisation?

- To expose the scandal of poverty.
- To contribute to stopping poverty.
- To be inspired by the Gospel of good news to the poor (Christian teaching), which promises a good life for all and hope.

How? How does Christian Aid work for justice?

- To improve lives of people in poor countries.
- To support the poorest groups of people, whatever their religion or culture.
- To campaign for fair trade and greater equality.

How? How does the work demonstrate the teachings of the religion? Christian Aid believes in a God who loves the world and all who are in it and that they should be following the example of Jesus and speaking out against injustice.

Case Study:

In Senegal, Christian Aid works with local groups of Farmers by

- Farming and environment: including planting new trees, animal fattening, producing animal feeds.
- Training including literacy classes (for women), management classes (budgets etc), and a theatre group to communicate ideas visually / dramatically to help the illiterate.
- Village water: well digging (two per year) and irrigation systems.
- Savings and credits: giving access to money through loans at low interest to allow trading and development.

Tearfund

Tearfund are a Christian charity who aim **to put Christian beliefs and Jesus' command to 'love your neighbour' into action**. Christians believe they are putting into practice the unconditional or unselfish love (agape) that Jesus talks about in the Bible.

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.

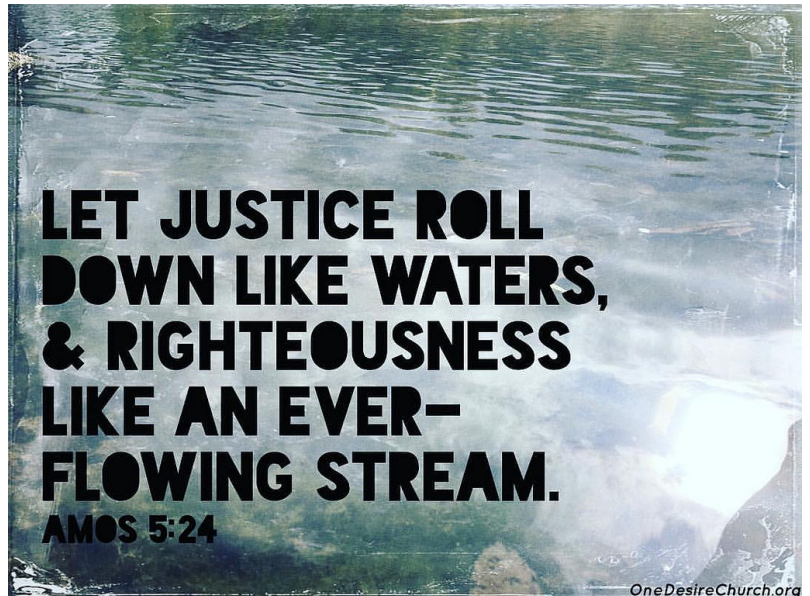
Tearfund are important because:

- They have a role in raising public awareness of social issues, such as poverty and discrimination in the world
- They campaign against the causes of poverty worldwide

Why do charities respond to those in need?

The organisations share the same motivation, even if they did begin from different issues. Some of the reasons why Cafod, Tearfund and Christian Aid do what they do include:

- The eighth-century prophet, Amos, said that what God required above all from Israel was justice and fairness: “Let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-ending stream.” (Amos 5:24)
- Old Testament laws encouraged generosity. For example, when harvesting, farmers were not to cut corn to the very edges of their fields and if they dropped any, they should leave it lying there. This was so that the poor could come and gather what was left.
- The first Christians in Jerusalem practised a form of communism. Those with money to spare gave it to the apostles, who then shared it out among the poor. Barnabas had land in Cyprus (his homeland). He sold it and gave the proceeds to the apostles (Acts 4:32-37)
- When there was a famine in Jerusalem, which meant prices would have rocketed, the Christians living in Antioch in Syria made a collection and sent the money to Jerusalem so that the people there could afford to buy food.



Different views on supporting LEDCs

There are different views on whether people in the UK should give aid to LEDCs.

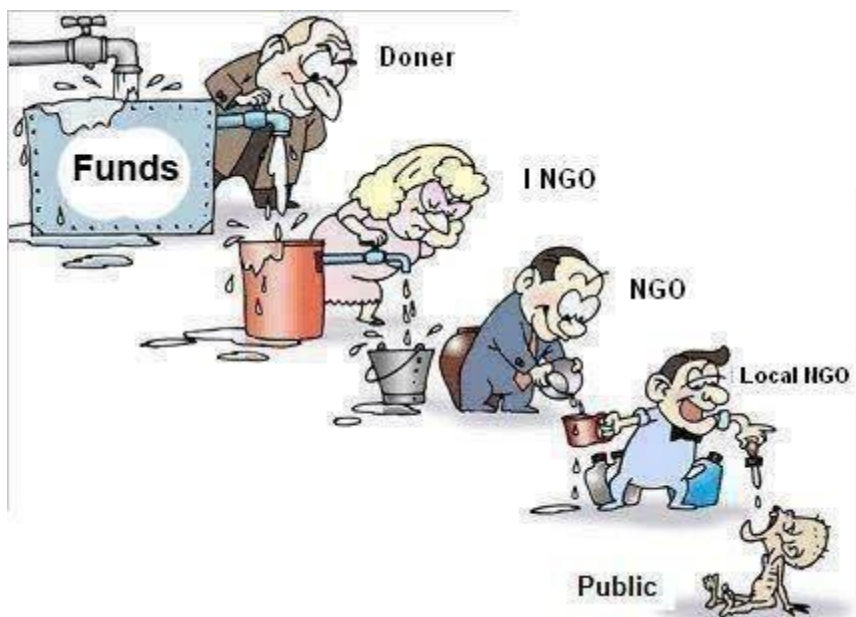
For:

- Developed countries are responsible for much of the poverty in LEDCs, so they have a duty to put things right
- We should treat others as we would want to be treated
- We are all God's children, with responsibilities for one another
- Christians should see helping others as helping Jesus



Against:

- In the past, money has been spent on weapons or on palaces and homes for rulers – it is not put into health and education, like we were told it would
- Where corruption is a problem, the LEDCs themselves should put that right
- The UK has enough problems of its own, so our own needs should come first
- Giving aid makes countries aid-dependent – they need to become self-reliant



Exam-style questions

1. What is meant by liturgical worship? (1 mark)

.....
.....

2. What is the prayer called that Jesus taught his disciples? (1 mark)

.....
.....

3. Name a Gospel sacrament. (1 mark)

.....
.....

4. What is meant by pilgrimage? (1 mark)

.....
.....

5. Which festival celebrates the birth of Jesus (1 mark)

.....
.....

6. Name a type of worship. (1 mark)

.....
.....

7. What is another name for the Eucharist? (1 mark)

.....
.....

8. Which festival celebrated the resurrection of Jesus? (1 mark)

.....
.....



9. Give two examples of Christian charities. (2 marks)

.....
.....

10. Explain the term 'street pastor'. (2 marks)

.....
.....

11. Give two alternatives for the term 'Last Supper'. (2 marks)

.....
.....

12. Explain why someone might have a believers' baptism. (2 marks)

.....
.....

13. Give two reasons why Holy Week is important to Christians. (2 marks)

.....
.....

14. Give two reasons why some Christians disagree with pilgrimage. (2 marks)

.....
.....

15. Give two effects of giving to charity. (2 marks)

.....
.....



Time + Effort = Success

16. Explain two contrasting Christian views about the importance of pilgrimage. (4 marks)

.....
.....
.....
.....

17. Explain two contrasting ways in which Christians celebrate the Eucharist. (4 marks)

.....
.....
.....
.....

18. Explain two contrasting ways Christians play a role in the local community. (4 marks)

.....
.....
.....
.....

19. Explain two contrasting ways a Christian might worship. (4 marks)

.....
.....
.....
.....

20. Explain two contrasting ways in which a believer may enter God's family. (4 marks)

.....
.....
.....
.....

21. Explain two contrasting Christian views about the importance of the sacraments. (4 marks)

.....
.....
.....
.....



22. Explain two ways in which Christians think worship is important. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

23. Explain two ways in which Christians celebrate Easter. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

24. Explain two ways in which Christians respond to the word poverty. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

25. Explain two ways in which Christians evangelise. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

26. Explain two ways in which Christians support their communities. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

27. Explain two ways in which Christians pray. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

28. Explain two ways in which Christians put their faith in action. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

29. Explain two ways in which Christians think worship is important respond to persecution. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



