

**Notes for teachers**  
**Unit I - Christianity**

**GCSE Religious Studies**

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# **Teacher's Guide to Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies Unit I Christianity**

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This photocopiable guide is intended to give teachers resources and ideas for the Edexcel GCSE course in Christianity Unit I, which can be taught either as a freestanding Short Course 3480 (100% examination), 3481 (coursework) or as module 2 of a Specification A full course 1480 (100% examination) or 1481 (coursework), or as module 1 of Specification B 1482 (100% examination) 1483 (coursework).

All the sheets are photocopiable, and should be used in conjunction with GCSE textbooks such as *Christianity - A New Approach* - K. O'Donnell (Hodder & Stoughton) or *Examining Religion: Christianity* - J. Jenkins (Heinemann).

Candidates must study the four core sections - Beliefs and Values, Community and Tradition, Worship and Celebration, Living the Christian Life. In addition, they must study one of the option sections - A Place of Christian Worship or Christian Vocation. The options may be assessed either as a piece of coursework or by examination.

All the sections are covered in this guide by photocopiable fact sheets on a section followed by ideas for teaching. The ideas for teaching show how the course can be covered in 60 hours. If you are doing the full course GCSE Specification A, Module 1 Unit B can be covered in 60 hours using the *Teacher's Guide to Religion and Life* published by Hodder & Stoughton late 2001.

## **Introduction**

### **Historical background**

Christians believe that God created the world and made humans, in his image, to be his stewards of the world. They believe that God chose the Jewish people to be his special people who were to show the rest of the world (the Gentiles) how to live. When the Jews failed to do this properly, God sent his son, Jesus, to show people how to live and to save them from their sins.

Jesus and the early Christians were Jews, but most Jews did not become Christians, and so Christianity began to develop as a separate religion which was soon mainly Gentile.

Christians believe that Jesus has remained alive in the Christian Church which has developed since his death and resurrection and which is now the most numerous and widespread world religion.

### **Why there may be differences of opinion among Christians**

Christianity developed in different places in different ways. By the time Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire in 356 CE, there were several different traditions within Christianity. They were organised mainly by bishops and councils of bishops, but in the West, the Bishop of Rome (the Pope) gradually became accepted as leader. By 1054, the Eastern Churches (Orthodox) ruled by councils of bishops had split from the Western Church Roman Catholic) which accepted the leadership of the Pope.

In the sixteenth century, men like Martin Luther and John Calvin decided the Western Church had deviated from the Church of the New Testament. They protested and demanded reforms (the Reformation). This led to the Protestant or Reformed Churches, which believed in the Church being ruled democratically (all Christian believers being equal and being priests) and in the absolute authority of the Bible (individual Christians to interpret the Bible for themselves).

The Church of England, established by Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, is a mixture of Protestant and Catholic ideas. English Protestants who would not join the Church of England are called Nonconformists.

Another cause of difference since the nineteenth century has been liberal Christians who believe Christianity needs to take account of science and reason. They do not believe that the Bible should be taken literally as the word of God and reject many traditional beliefs.

## **The key features of the main Christian Churches**

### **The Roman Catholic Church**

This Church is led by the Pope and the bishops from its headquarters in the Vatican in Rome. It has male priests, who cannot marry, and bishops, with leading bishops called cardinals. Their worship is based on the Mass which is a colourful and symbolic ritual.

### **The Orthodox Churches**

These are national Churches led by a chief bishop called a Patriarch. Most of them are based in Eastern Europe (Greece, Russia, Romania, Serbia). They have priests who may marry, but their bishops must be celibate. Their worship is very liturgical and they use icons and incense.

### **The Church of England**

This is the state Church in England. The Queen is the Head of the Church and appoints bishops and priests. The Church of England has branches in all the English-speaking parts of the world. These Churches are independent but meet together at the Lambeth Conference, which is always chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury. These Churches are known as either Anglican or Episcopalian. Some are very Protestant and are called Low Church, while others are very Catholic and are called High Church.

### **Nonconformist churches**

These are Churches which thought the Church of England was not Protestant enough. Instead of bishops or priests they have ministers who are regarded as no different from lay people. They are governed by democratically elected bodies, and their services are Bible-based rather than communion based. The main Nonconformist Churches are:

- the Methodist
- the United Reformed (URC)
- the Baptist (who baptise adults rather than babies)
- the Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Pentecostals
- a variety of Black-led Churches.

## **How Christians make moral decisions**

All Christians believe that moral decisions should be based on the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament and the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament.

**Roman Catholics** believe that these teachings are best interpreted by the Church, especially the Head of the Church, the Pope. So, to make moral decisions, they may refer to the teachings of the Church contained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994) or Encyclicals (long letters containing the Pope's teachings).

**Orthodox Christians** would base their decisions on how the Bible has been interpreted by councils of bishops, or simply ask advice from their priest (many Catholics would also do this).

**Protestants** (Church of England, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal etc) believe that individuals should make their own decisions on the basis of what the Bible says, but most would also be guided by decisions made by democratically elected bodies of Church leaders (e.g. the General Synod of the Church of England or the Conference of the Methodist Church).

## **Ideas for Teaching the Introduction**

### **Lesson 1 (1 hour)**

Give out a copy of the specification content and the specimen exam paper. Go over with your students explaining the options system and the flexible approach to coursework. Point out when the Y10 and Mock exams are and, if necessary, the completion dates for coursework.

### **Lesson 2 (2 hours)**

Split the class into pairs, and ask students to answer the following questions using the introduction fact sheets:

- a) Why does Christianity have Jewish origins?
- b) What is the most numerous and widespread world religion?
- c) What is the main difference between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches?
- d) Name two leaders of the Reformation.
- e) What are the main features of Protestant Churches?
- i) What are the main Nonconformist Churches in the UK?
- g) What would all Christians use in making moral decisions?
- h) What extra things would the following use to help in making moral decisions:
  - i) Roman Catholics
  - ii) Orthodox
  - iii) Protestants?

Go over the answers on the board and check that all students have corrected their answers.

### **Homework**

Find the names of all the Christian Churches in your local town.

This could be gone over in class in the next lesson though it may require you to have knowledge of the various denominations. You could use The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church or The Penguin Dictionary of Religion to help you with this.

## Section 1: Beliefs and Values

### Key Words

<b>Unity</b>	the state of being one
<b>Trinity</b>	the belief that God is three in one
<b>Monotheism</b>	belief in one God
<b>Incarnation</b>	the belief that God took human form in Jesus
<b>Virgin birth</b>	the belief that Jesus was not conceived by sex
<b>Christ</b>	the messiah/the Anointed One
<b>Crucifixion</b>	a Roman death penalty suffered by Jesus when he was nailed to the cross
<b>Resurrection</b>	the body being brought back to life after death/Jesus being raised from the dead
<b>Fire</b>	a sign of the Holy Spirit purifying sins
<b>Wind</b>	a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and power
<b>Dove</b>	a sign of the peace the Holy Spirit brings
<b>Repentance</b>	the act of being sorry for wrongdoing and deciding not to do it again
<b>Faith</b>	belief in something without total proof
<b>Forgiveness</b>	the act of stopping blaming someone and/or pardoning them for what they have done wrong
<b>Reconciliation</b>	bringing together people who were opposed to each other.

### Christian beliefs about the nature of God

Christians believe in one God who shows himself to the world in three ways. This is the belief in the Trinity which is often described as the great mystery of God being three in one. This is often explained by the words person and substance: there is only one substance, God, but it reveals itself in three persons, Father Son and Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic church says, 'The Trinity is One. We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the consubstantial Trinity.'

### God the Father

The first person of the Trinity is God the Father. Luke 11:1-4 , the Lord's prayer, teaches that God is our father in heaven. God is holy and what he wants happens in heaven. It is the duty of Christians to ensure that what God wants also happens on earth. The role of God as Father means he will provide food and forgiveness for those who pray and live properly. The prayer for God to deliver from evil and not lead into temptation implies that God the Father is all-powerful.

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 teaches that God is the Creator. It says that God created the universe and human beings in this way:

Day 1 the light to separate day from night.

Day 2 the sky to separate the waters.

Day 3 dry land and seas, vegetation (plants and trees).

Day 4 sun, moon and stars.

Day 5 fish and birds.



Day 6 animals, creeping things, humans.

Day 7 God rested and declared the seventh day a holy day.

Christians believe that God is a good creator - 'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.'

### **God the Son (Jesus)**

The second person of the Trinity is Jesus. Christians believe that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ. God becoming human is called the incarnation. The creeds teach that this happened through the virgin birth, which means that Jesus had a human birth, but not a human conception. This is why Christians believe that Jesus was both man and God.

Christians believe that Jesus was the Christ, the one anointed by God to show people the nature of God and how humans should live.

Christians believe that Jesus was crucified by the Romans as a way of removing the power of sin from the world and giving humans the opportunity of going to heaven.

Three days after Jesus died on the cross, Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead and forty days later ascended to heaven to be with the Father again. Christians believe that the resurrection is proof that Jesus was both man and God because only God could rise from the dead.

The creeds teach that Jesus will return at the end of the world, judge everyone and decide who will go to heaven and hell on the basis of his judgement. Christians believe that Jesus is the head of the Church.

### **God the Holy Spirit**

The third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit purifies people from sin (as seen in the baptism service). This is why one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit is fire which is used to purify metals. Christians also believe that the Holy Spirit is the way in which God communicates with humans. This is why another symbol of the Holy Spirit is wind, which represents the hidden power of God. At the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as fire and wind (Acts chapter 2).

Christians believe that it is the Spirit which inspired the Bible and which inspires Christians today. The gifts of the Spirit are faith, hope and love, though many modern Christians believe that the Spirit can give special gifts such as healing and speaking in tongues.

### **Christian beliefs about sin and salvation**

Sin is going against God's will and Christians believe that sin separates people from God. All humans commit sins and some Christians believe this is what is meant by being born in original sin. To remove the separation of sin, God sent Jesus to die to save people from the consequences of their sins. The death of Jesus removed the power of sin and those who believe in Jesus and show their repentance are saved from their sins.

The way in which Jesus saves people from sin is what Christians mean by salvation. **Repentance** means to recognise one's sins, be sorry for having committed them and be determined to lead a new life following Jesus and deciding never to commit those sins again. It is the repentance and **faith** (believing without total proof) in the power of Jesus to **forgive sins** (pardoning people for what they have done wrong) which bring salvation.

All Christians believe that the forgiveness of sins brings humans and God back together (reconciliation) and is brought about by the life and death of Jesus. However, there are different views about how it happens:

- Some Christians (mainly Protestants) believe that if people have faith in Jesus as their personal saviour, they will be saved from their sins.
- Other Christians (mainly Catholics) believe that salvation and reconciliation come through the sacraments, especially the sacrament of reconciliation (confession, penance and absolution) and the Mass.
- Other Christians believe that faith in God and following the teachings of Jesus are all that is needed for salvation.

The nature of sin and reconciliation are shown in the story of Zachaeus (Luke 19:1-9), a sinful tax collector who had faith in Jesus, confessed his sins and was forgiven by Jesus. He showed his repentance by giving back to people the money from which he had cheated them.

## **Christian Values**

In Mark 12:29-31 Jesus taught that the two greatest Christian values are love of God and love of neighbour.

Jesus showed how Christians should love their neighbour in two parables.

Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) to answer the question, 'Who is my neighbour?' It tells how a Jew was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers and left half-dead. A Jewish priest passed by and did not help, and another Jewish religious person, a Levite, also passed by without helping. However, a Samaritan saw him and took him to an inn and took care of him. As Samaritans and Jews were bitter enemies and a different religion, this shows that Christians must love their neighbour by helping anyone in trouble no matter what their race or religion.

Jesus told the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25:31-46. It describes how, at the end of the world, Jesus will return and separate people into the good and the bad like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The good will be sent to heaven because they have fed Jesus when he was hungry, clothed him when he was naked, looked after him when he was a stranger, visited him when he was sick and in prison. The good will not know when they did these things for Jesus, but Jesus will say, 'Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' The evil will be sent to hell because they did not feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help the stranger, visit the sick and those in prison. This shows that Christians must love God and their neighbour by helping those in need of help.

## **Ideas for Teaching Section 1: Beliefs and Values**

### **Lesson 1 (1 hour)**

Read through the Apostles' Creed with the whole class. Then split them into pairs to work out the main beliefs in the creed about God, Jesus, the Church.

Go over on the board making sure everyone has the right answers.

### **Lesson 2 (1 hour)**

Put back into pairs to answer these questions:

- a) Why do Christians call God 'Father'?
- b) What does the Lord's Prayer say about God the Father?
- c) What do Christians believe was the purpose of creation?
- d) Why is the belief that God created heaven as well as earth important for humans?
- e) What is monotheism?

Go over the answers on the board.

**Homework** - Explain what Christians believe about God the Father.

### **Lesson 3 (1 hour)**

Split into pairs to discuss what they believe about creation based on the summary of the Genesis story. Follow this up with a whole class discussion on creation.

### **Lesson 4 (2 hours)**

Put into groups to brainstorm what they believe about Jesus.

Go over the answers in a plenary session. Then read through the fact sheet making sure everyone understands the central Christian beliefs about Jesus.

**Homework** - 'Jesus was just a good man.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view.

### **Lesson 5 (1 hour)**

Get students to work individually writing down what they think Christians believe about the Holy Spirit. Go over the answers on the board, checking they are compatible with the fact sheet.

### **Lesson 6 (1 hour)**

Have a whole class brainstorm on the Trinity, then read through the fact sheet on the Trinity. Use diagrams (e.g. shamrock or Venn) to illustrate the belief.

Discuss the nature of the Trinity using the Catechism quote.

**Homework** - Explain why Christians believe God is a trinity.

**Lesson 8 (1-2 hours)**

Read the story of Zacchaeus with the whole class then put them into groups to brainstorm their ideas on faith/sin/salvation.

Go over their answers on the board in a plenary session, then read through the fact sheet checking that they understand it.

**Lesson 9 (1 hour)**

Have a whole class discussion on Mark 12:29-31.

Then split into pairs; half to read the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) the other half to read the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46). Then write down what these mean for Christians today. Go over the answers in a plenary showing love of God and love of neighbour as the basic Christian values.

**Homework** - 'You can't worship God if you don't love your neighbour.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer showing you have considered another point of view.

## **Test on Section 1**

1. Outline Christian beliefs about the nature of God.
2. Explain why Christians believe that God created the world.
3. What do Christians believe about the incarnation of Jesus?
4. Explain the symbolism used to represent the Holy Spirit.
5. Outline Christian teaching on sin and salvation.
6. Explain how the story of Zachaeus shows what is meant by repentance and forgiveness.
7. Explain why it is important for Christians to love God.
8. Explain what it means for Christians to love their neighbours.

## Section 2 Community and Tradition

### Key words

<b>Old Testament</b>	the first part of the Bible which Christians believe foretells Jesus
<b>New Testament</b>	the second part of the Bible which records the life of Jesus and the early church
<b>Authority</b>	the power/right to tell others what to believe and how to behave
<b>Faith</b>	belief in something without total proof
<b>Salvation</b>	being saved from sin and becoming good
<b>Holy</b>	of or relating to God/sacred
<b>Catholic</b>	universal or world-wide
<b>Apostolic</b>	the belief that the Church is founded on the apostles who were appointed by Jesus
<b>Body of Christ</b>	the belief that the Church is Jesus' body in the world continuing his work
<b>Communion of saints</b>	the belief that Christians will live on after death, and that living Christians can share with those who have died
<b>Bishops</b>	specially chosen priests who are responsible for all the churches in a diocese
<b>Priests</b>	specially called/chosen people who are ordained to be ministers of the sacraments
<b>Deacons</b>	either people training to be priests or specially chosen assistants to priests
<b>Laity</b>	all the people of the Church who are not chosen to be bishops, priests or deacons
<b>Celibacy</b>	living without engaging in any sexual activity
<b>Ordination of women</b>	making women priests by the sacrament of holy orders.

### The Church

Church with a capital C is the name given to the whole Christian community whereas church with a small c is the name given to a building where a local Christian community meets.

### The means to faith and salvation

Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians believe that all Christian faith is to be found in the Bible and the Tradition, but it must be interpreted by the Church. The Bible is the word of God, which records the life, teachings and death of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church. The Tradition is the oral (spoken not written) gospel of Jesus given to his apostles and passed on through the bishops in the apostolic succession. This is interpreted for each new age by the Church, and so the Church is the source of and means to faith. They also believe that the Church is the means to salvation because salvation comes through faith and taking the sacraments of the Church.

Most Protestant Christians believe that the Church has made mistakes in the past and so the main means to faith is the Bible, and the means to salvation is faith in the power of Jesus to remove sin. However, all Christians believe that the Church is a source of learning and spiritual help, which is where most Christians find faith and salvation.

## Other beliefs about the Church

Christians believe there is only one Church, which is world-wide (catholic) and which is holy (from God). They believe there should only be one united Church, but the Church is divided.

Christians are divided for many reasons:

- Roman Catholics are divided from other Christians because of their beliefs about the authority of the Pope
- Protestants are divided from other Christians because of their attitude to the authority of the Bible
- Orthodox are divided from other Christians because of their attitudes to the liturgy and national patriarchs
- Pentecostals and charismatics are divided from other Christians because of their beliefs about spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues.

Nevertheless, all Christians are united in their belief in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed and so in their beliefs about God and Jesus. They are also united in their belief that Christians must be baptised (though they are divided about whether this should be as infants or as believers).

The Ecumenical Movement has also led to Christians being more united and most of the Churches in England and Wales are part of Churches Together, which tries to unite Christians in their own area.

The Church is **apostolic** because it was founded by the apostles of Jesus. Roman Catholics believe that the authority Jesus gave to Peter has been passed on from Peter to the Popes and to the bishops and through them to priests (apostolic succession). The Orthodox Churches and the Church of England believe the authority was passed from the apostles to the bishops. All Christians believe the Church is also apostolic because it preserves the original teachings given by Jesus to his apostles.

All Christians believe that the Church is also **the body of Christ** on earth because the Church carries on the work of Jesus on earth. The Church is like the body doing the work of Jesus through individual Christians and Jesus is the head, the one who gives directions and who is the source of all the beliefs and ideas. The Church is the way Jesus is still present in the world after his resurrection and ascension.

The Church is **the communion of saints**. Christians believe that they have a shared life with both living and dead Christians and they have a special relationship with the very holy or good Christians who have died. Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians believe that those who have been declared saints and who are in heaven can pray for Christians on earth. This is why Catholics and Orthodox light candles for saints, or ask saints to pray for them.

## Christian Ministry

Ministry means service and all Christians are called to serve God.

Some Christians (Orthodox, Roman Catholic and some parts of the Church of England) believe that some people are called by God to the sacramental ministry. These are called **ordained** because they have had the sacrament of ordination. Other Christians are called **the laity**.

The ordained ministries are **deacons, priests and bishops**. Only priests and bishops can celebrate the eucharist and only bishops can ordain deacons and priests.

- **Deacons** cannot celebrate the eucharist, but can baptise and take weddings and funerals. They are usually, but not always, on their way to becoming priests.
- **Priests** can celebrate all the sacraments and usually are in charge of a parish.
- **Bishops** are priests who are in charge of a diocese and are responsible for all the churches and priests in that area. They are also responsible, with the other bishops for the teachings of the whole Church.

### The role of the Laity

The Catholic and Orthodox Churches believe that the laity are called to serve God in the world and to help the ordained in the running of the Church.

The Roman Catholic Church has some special lay ministries:

- **Monks and nuns** take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to live the religious life (though many monks are ordained)
- **Eucharistic ministers** are lay people, specially trained, who can give out the bread and wine after it has been consecrated by a priest
- **Lectors** are lay people, men or women, who are allowed to read the Bible lessons in church.

Protestant Churches do not usually have deacons, priests and bishops. People who feel called by God to serve the Church full-time are called ministers or pastors and although they go through a service called ordination, they are regarded as no different from the laity because all Christians are thought of as priests. In many Protestant churches all services and sacraments can be conducted by trained lay people.

### Celibacy of the Clergy

All Catholic priests have to be celibate (i.e. not married or sexually active) so that they can dedicate the whole of their lives to the service of God. The Catholic Church feels that if you are called to give the whole of your life to God, you cannot have a part of your life that is given to someone else, ie. a wife. Christian husbands and wives have duties to love each other and share responsibilities for their children. That limits what they can do to promote the gospel and to live in service to others. Mother Theresa is an example of the level of dedication possible to a person who is celibate.



Roman Catholics also feel that a priest represents Christ at the eucharist and so a priest must be like Jesus who was not married.

The Orthodox Church insists on celibacy for bishops, but not for priests because they feel that a bishop has too many responsibilities to be married.

No other Christian Churches insist on celibacy, but some priests and ministers in other Churches decide voluntarily to be celibate to help them in their calling.

### **Ordination of Women**

The Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and some Protestant Churches believe that only men can be priests/ministers. The Church of England and most Protestant Churches have women priests.

#### **Reasons for the Catholic/Orthodox position:**

- Jesus chose men to be the apostles and the apostles chose men to succeed them, therefore the belief in the apostolic succession means that only men can be priests
- The priest represents Jesus at the eucharist and Jesus was a man so the priest must be a man.

However, the Catholic Church teaches that men and women are totally equal and Catholic women can be deacons, teachers in theological colleges, eucharistic ministers and lectors.

#### **Reasons for the fundamentalist Protestant position:**

- The teachings of St Paul, especially in I Timothy 2:11-14, say that a woman is not allowed to teach, speak in church, or hold authority over men.

#### **Reasons for the Church of England and other Protestant Churches position:**

- Men and women were created in the image of God and so either can become a priest/minister
- Many women followed Jesus and it was the women disciples who stayed with Jesus at the crucifixion and who were the first to see him when he rose on Easter Day
- The only reason Jesus appointed men as apostles was the culture of his time: if he had been appointing apostles today, he would have appointed men and women.

## The Bible

The Bible is not one book, but rather a library of books. It is divided into two parts:

- **The Old Testament**, written before the birth of Jesus, which contains Law Books, History Books, the books of the Prophets and a variety of other books known as the Writings. These books are about God's laws, the way he chose and looked after the Jewish people as a means of bringing the rest of the world to worship God, and prophecies about the coming of the Messiah
- **The New Testament**, written after the death of Jesus, which contains the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; the history book of Acts, letters written by some of the Apostles to early Christians and the Revelation of John (these books tell the story of Jesus' life and death, resurrection and teachings, the beginnings of the Christian Church and advice on how to live a Christian life).

### Different Attitudes to the Authority of the Bible

#### 1. The inspiration of the Bible

All Christians believe that God speaks to people today through the words of the Bible. However, there are different views about how this happens.

- a) Some Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God and the writers of the books of the Bible simply wrote down what God told them. This view is sometimes called 'fundamentalist'.
- b) Other Christians think that the writers of the books of the Bible were inspired by God's Holy Spirit, and so they wrote under the influence of God, but the culture they lived in may have influenced the way they interpreted some of their inspirations. This view is sometimes called 'conservative'.
- c) Others take this second view further and think that the writers of the books of the Bible were ordinary human beings writing down their experiences of God. So the Bible contains God's inspiration as experienced and interpreted by ordinary human beings. This view is sometimes called 'liberal'.

The differences between these views can be seen by looking at the Genesis creation story.

Those who believe in view a) would say that Genesis is totally correct because it is the word of God. Scientists who teach evolution are mistaken and the world was made directly by God in six days.

Those who believe in view b) would say that Genesis is generally correct, but it is possible that one of God's days may equal millions of our years so that both Genesis and evolution could be correct.

Those who believe in view c) would say that Genesis reflects the science of the time and expresses, in a sort of story, the belief that God created the universe. They would argue that God created the universe through the Big Bang and evolution.

## **2. The Authority of the Bible**

The views of Christians about the authority of the Bible reflect the different views about its inspiration.

Protestant Christians who hold views a) and b) believe that the Bible has complete authority and should be the basis of all Christian beliefs and morals. They also accept the authority of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds for what Christians should believe. They think the Bible has absolute authority because it is the Word of God and cannot be mistaken.

Fundamentalists claim the Bible can never be mistaken because it is the direct word of God.

Conservatives believe that, although it cannot be mistaken on matters of belief, it could be mistaken on science and the social forms of morality (e.g. women speaking in church) because the writers would reflect the culture of their day.

Liberal Protestants who hold view c) believe the Bible is only a guide book and that the experience of the Church today has equal, if not greater, authority.

The Catholic Church teaches that the Bible (usually called Sacred Scripture in the Catechism) has equal authority with the Apostolic Tradition which is the teachings handed down by Jesus to his Apostles and through them to the Pope and the Bishops. For Catholics the Bible and the Tradition are the only two sources of authority:  
"The Sacred Tradition and the Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all her riches." (Catechism 97)

## **3. Interpretation**

Protestants generally believe that the Bible is to be interpreted by individual Christians (Christians decide for themselves what the Bible means). However, in practice, most Protestants rely on Bible experts, the decisions of their Church leaders or their minister to decide what the Bible means.

Catholics believe that the Bible and the Apostolic Tradition should be interpreted by the Pope and the bishops in the Church's Magisterium:

'The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is to the Pope and the bishops in communion with him.' (Catechism 100).

Many Catholics rely on this interpretation being given to them by their parish priest in sermons and Bible study.

### **The Bible in Public Worship**

All Christians make great use of the Bible in public worship.

**For Roman Catholics**, this is done in the Mass where the Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Old Testament, the Gospel and the Letters. These readings are set out in the Sunday Missal lectionary which has a two year cycle of readings. Catholics should hear the major teachings of the Bible over a two-year period. The readings are then explained by the priest in a sermon (homily) in which he uses his training in the Church's Magisterium to interpret the Bible for the people.

The services for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, marriage and holy orders all have readings from the Bible, as do the ceremonies connected with death.

**For Protestants**, this is done in the non-liturgical Sunday worship where the Bible readings are the focal point of the service. The sermon is based on the readings and is usually quite long. It is used to interpret and relate the Bible to life today. Many, but not all, Protestant Churches also have a lectionary of readings. The importance of the Bible in Protestant public worship can be seen in the fact that most Nonconformist Churches have an open Bible on the communion table. They also have Bible readings in the communion service.

Protestant Churches also have readings from the Bible at baptism, marriage and funeral services.

### **The Bible in Private Devotion**

Many Christians set aside a certain amount of time each day to read a Bible verse and meditate on what it might mean for their lives or (especially if it is a Psalm verse) to meditate on God and grow closer to God. They may join a group such as the International Bible Reading Fellowship, which gives a series of readings with explanations and meditations.

Other Christians join a Bible study group at their church to look at a certain book of the Bible and come to learn more of its meaning through teaching and discussion.

Some Catholics, Anglicans and Orthodox use the Daily Office with its set prayers and Bible readings as a means of meditating and drawing closer to God.

## **Ideas for Teaching Section 2: Community and Tradition**

### **Lesson 1 (1 hour)**

Have a whole class brainstorm on the question - 'What do Christians believe about the Church?' Then write their answers on a poster to be displayed throughout this unit.

### **Lesson 2 (2 hours)**

Split into three groups to prepare presentations on:

1. The Church as the source of faith and means of salvation
2. The Church as one and holy, as catholic and apostolic
3. The Church as the body of Christ and as the communion of saints.

Discuss each presentation and check all students understand.

**Homework** - Explain why the Church is so important for Christians.

### **Lesson 3 (1 hour)**

Read through the fact sheet with the whole class discussing the roles and functions of bishops, priests, deacons and laity.

### **Lesson 4 (2/3 hours)**

Split the class into groups, half to prepare posters showing arguments for and against celibacy of the clergy, the other for and against women priests.

Each then to do a whole class presentation with discussion.

**Homework** - Explain what Christians believe about Christian ministry.

### **Lesson 5 (1 hour)**

Put into groups to brainstorm what they think about the Bible. Go over the answers in a plenary session, writing the main ideas on posters to keep for comparison. Then give out copies of the fact sheet on the Bible.

**Homework** - use the fact sheet to answer the question 'Why might Christians read the New Testament more frequently than the Old Testament?'

### **Lesson 6 (3 hours)**

Put into groups to make presentations on:

- a) different views on the inspiration of the Bible;
- b) different views on the authority of the Bible;
- c) different views on the interpretation of the Bible
- d) the use of the Bible in public worship;
- e) the use of the Bible in private devotion.

As each group makes its presentation, discuss it and compare it with the brainstorming posters.

**Homework** - Describe and explain two different attitudes to the inspiration of the Bible.

## Test on Section 2

1. Why do Catholics regard the Church as the means of salvation?
  
2. Explain what is meant by describing the Church as:
  - i) holy
  - ii) apostolic
  - iii) the body of Christ.
  
3. Explain the differences between a bishop, a priest and a deacon.
  
4. What is the role of the laity in the Catholic Church?
  
5. What is the apostolic succession?
  
6. Why do Christians have different views about Christian ministry?
  
7. What is the Bible?
  
8. Explain two different Christian attitudes to the authority of the Bible.
  
9. How is the Bible used in public worship?

## Section 3 Worship and celebration

### Key words

<b>Real presence</b>	the belief that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine of the eucharist
<b>Transubstantiation</b>	the belief that the bread and wine change into the body and blood of Jesus while outwardly appearing as bread and wine
<b>Commemoration</b>	the belief that the eucharist remembers and keeps alive the Last Supper of Jesus, but nothing happens to the bread and wine.
<b>Charismatic worship</b>	worship involving spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues and healing
<b>Non-liturgical worship</b>	worship which does not have any set ritual or form of words
<b>Infant baptism</b>	the practice of baptising babies/children
<b>Confirmation</b>	the sacrament when people confirm for themselves the promises made for them in infant baptism.
<b>Believers' baptism</b>	the practice of only baptising those old enough to express their beliefs.

### Forms of Sunday Worship

There are three main forms of Sunday worship:

- **Liturgical** - this is worship with a set order of service with prayers written down in a service book. It is the only form of worship in Catholic and Orthodox churches. A typical liturgical form of worship would be the Catholic Mass which has: preparation prayers, the penitential rite (prayers of confession), the liturgy of the word (Bible readings and a sermon), the liturgy of the eucharist (preparation of the bread and wine and prayer of consecration), the rite of communion, the concluding rite (blessing by the priest).
- **Non-liturgical** -this is worship without a set order or written prayers. It is the main form of worship in Nonconformist churches. A typical non-liturgical form of worship would have hymns, extempore prayers (prayers said without preparation) including intercession, Bible readings and a fairly long sermon.
- **Charismatic** - this is similar to non-liturgical, but is more spontaneous with people being led by the Spirit. It is the main form of worship in Pentecostal churches. A typical charismatic form of worship would have hymns and choruses (pop music type hymns); people speaking in tongues, prayers for healing, bible readings and a fairly long sermon.

## **Holy Communion**

There are many names for Holy Communion - the Eucharist, the Mass, the Lord's Supper, Breaking of Bread.

Catholics use all of these, but Lord's supper and Breaking of Bread are mainly Nonconformist. The Orthodox call it the Liturgy, but all other Christians recognise either Holy Communion or Eucharist.

Holy Communion began with the last supper Jesus had with his disciples when he gave them bread and wine, said it was his body and blood, and told them to do it in remembrance of him. It was used by the early Christians and St Paul describes early communions in his letter to the Corinthians. So Holy Communion is the earliest recorded Christian worship.

**The Catholic Eucharist** is the main part of the Mass and includes preparation and confession, the liturgy of the word and the rite of communion. It must be celebrated by a priest, who represents Jesus. Wine in a chalice (large goblet) and wafers on a paten are used. Catholics believe that in the eucharist the inner substance of bread and wine is mysteriously changed into the body and blood of Jesus. The Mass is a sacrifice, both remembering the sacrifice of Jesus and sacrifice of the people when they promise to live a new life. The eucharist unites people with God and with each other (communion) as Christ enters the people in the bread and wine.

**The Orthodox Liturgy** also has preparation, confession, liturgy of the word, eucharist and communion. It has to be celebrated by a priest who wears vestments. Much of the service happens behind the iconostasis, symbolising that God is separate from the world and that in the eucharist heaven comes to earth in the body and blood of Jesus. The Orthodox believe the bread and wine are mysteriously changed into the body and blood of Jesus through the epiklesis prayer.

**Protestant communions** also have preparation, confession, ministry of the word and the eucharist. There is no priest, ordinary bread and often Ribena are used. They believe that the elements (bread and wine) are not changed, they are symbols of Christ's spiritual presence. They believe the communion unites the people with each other and with God.

**The Salvation Army and the Quakers have no Holy Communion** because they believe that Jesus is the only priest, there is no need for rituals and worship should be direct contact with God without symbols like bread and wine.



## **Infant Baptism**

Baptism comes from a Greek word meaning bathed or totally washed. In Christianity, baptism is the sacrament by which someone becomes a member of the Church and so it is the Christian initiation ceremony. The origin of baptism for Christians is the baptism of Jesus, which marked a new beginning in his life when God declared him to be his Son and he received the Holy Spirit. A sacrament is an outward act or sign of an inner grace or gift. The act of washing in baptism symbolises God's grace in the cleansing or forgiveness of sins and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Most Christian Churches baptise the children of adult Christians and this is known as **infant baptism**. The ceremony involves:

- parents and godparents promising to bring up the child in the Christian faith, renouncing sin and professing their belief in God the Father, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit (these are called the baptismal vows made on behalf of the child)
- the priest baptising the child by pouring water on the child's head three times reciting the words 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' (in the Orthodox Church the child is immersed in the water)
- the child being anointed with chrism (consecrated oil) in Catholic and Orthodox churches
- a candle being lit and given to someone from the child's family to symbolise that the child has received the light of Christ
- the congregation welcoming the child into the family of the Church.

Christians who have infant baptism believe it is needed because:

- children of Christians have to be treated as Christians
- it has been the practice of the Church for over 1700 years
- infant baptism symbolises the Christian birth of the child, gives it a Christian name and sets it on the path to a Christian life
- infant baptism brings parents into the Church and helps them to bring up their children in the way they promised at their wedding.

## **Confirmation**

For most churches that practice infant baptism, confirmation is the second sacrament of initiation. It gives young people themselves an opportunity to confirm the baptismal vows taken on their behalf when they were babies. The sacrament of confirmation completes or confirms the process of initiation into the Christian Church and is usually administered by a bishop.

Those to be confirmed are prepared in confirmation classes so that they understand what they are doing and what beliefs they are agreeing to. In the service:

- the bishop explains the meaning of confirmation
- those to be confirmed renew their baptismal vows

- the bishop prays for them and asks God to send his Holy Spirit on them to guide them in the Christian way of life
- each confirmation candidate comes forward and is anointed by the bishop making the sign of the cross on their forehead with chrism, saying the words, 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

More people are baptised than confirmed, because confirmation is a deliberate decision and involves a big commitment to following the Christian way of life.

### **Believers' Baptism**

Some Christian Churches (especially the Baptist and Pentecostal Churches) do not practice infant baptism. They practice believers' baptism because:

- they believe baptism is a sign of repentance of sin and a decision to lead a new life following the way of Jesus. Only the person concerned can repent of their sins and make the baptismal vows: they cannot be made on your behalf by someone else
- they believe that only adult Christians are recorded as being baptised in the New Testament.

Churches that practice believers' baptism have special dedication services for parents to dedicate their babies to God and to pray for help in bringing them up in the Christian way. Most Baptist churches have a baptismal pool, but many other churches use swimming baths or rivers or the sea for their baptism services. Before the ceremony the candidate must have had a conversion experience in which they have given themselves to Jesus and had preparation classes. The main features of the ceremony are:

- Bible readings and prayers about baptism
- testimony (short speech) from the people to be baptised about their conversion
- confession of sin and repentance
- a statement of their belief in the Trinity and a pledge to follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour
- the minister/pastor giving them total immersion in the water with the words, 'On your profession of repentance towards God, and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

## **Advent and Christmas**

**Advent** is a four-week preparation for Christmas. It has:

- Bible readings from Creation to John the Baptist showing how the earth was prepared for Christ's coming
- special Advent hymns
- the Advent crown with candles symbolising the Bible, the prophets, John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary, and, on Christmas Day, Jesus.

Christians see Advent as a time to prepare not only for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, but also for his second coming at the end of the world and the final judgement.

**Christmas** celebrates the birth of Jesus and is based on the Bible stories of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel, Joseph being told by God that there was to be a virgin birth, the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem, the visit by the shepherds after the angels had told them of the birth of God's son. and the visit of the wise men. The Bible also records the visit of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where he was circumcised and where an old priest, Simeon, and a prophetess, Anna, recognised Jesus as God's Messiah.

Christians believe that Christmas is so important because without the birth of Jesus there would have been no Christianity and no salvation from sin. At Christmas God became man in Jesus so humans could come back to God.

Roman Catholics celebrate Christmas with a vigil mass on Christmas Eve afternoon, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and Masses at dawn and later on Christmas Day. Christmas lasts for 12 days and there are special masses for the Holy Family on the Sunday after Christmas and for the Virgin Mary on January 1.

Other Christians celebrate with carol services, nativity plays, the blessing of the crib, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and special services on Christmas Day, which are usually family oriented services.

**Epiphany** means making known and celebrates the two occasions when the fact that Jesus is God's Son was made known to the world - the visit of the wise men and the baptism of Jesus.

It is celebrated by a special Mass for the wise men on the first Sunday, and a special Mass for the baptism on the second Sunday.

It means that Jesus brought salvation to the whole world and that life is a pilgrimage like the journey of the wise men.

## **Lent and Holy Week**

These are preparations for Easter, the greatest Christian festival.

**Lent** prepares for Easter by remembering the way Jesus was tested by the devil for 40 days in the desert. So for 40 days before Easter, Christians give up things (just as Jesus did in the desert) and on the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday), they fast and confess their sins and have ashes smeared on the head as a sign of penitence. Many Christians attend study groups at Church or in each others' homes, to think about what it means to be a Christian today and to prepare for Easter.

**Holy Week** is the week before Easter in which Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life and especially how those events brought salvation to humanity. The main days are Palm Sunday, Holy (Maundy) Thursday and Good Friday.

**Palm Sunday** remembers the way Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem by a crowd which five days later denied him. Some Christians celebrate it by processing near the church with palm leaves or branches and then listening to a Bible reading of the events of Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Others have special celebration services about Palm Sunday and may receive crosses made out of palm leaves.

**Holy Thursday** remembers the Last Supper of Jesus with his apostles. Most churches have a special Communion service when the priest/minister washes people's feet as Jesus washed the apostles' feet. There are readings about the Last Supper and the arrest of Jesus. In Catholic and Orthodox Churches, enough elements are consecrated for Good Friday and Holy Saturday as no eucharists are celebrated on those days. In Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Church of England churches, the altar is stripped and all crosses covered as Good Friday and Holy Saturday are days of mourning.

**Good Friday** remembers the death of Jesus. Many Protestant churches have a morning service of readings of the passion story and meditations on the meaning of the death of Jesus. These are sometimes followed by a procession of witness. In Catholic, Orthodox and Church of England Churches, a 3.00 p.m. service is held to mark the time of Jesus' death with Bible readings and veneration of the cross. Most Catholic churches also pray at the stations of the cross on Good Friday.

Holy Week reminds Christians of the salvation brought by Jesus' death and prepares for the joy of Easter.

## **Easter**

Easter Day is the festival of joy as Christians celebrate the resurrection.

**Roman Catholics celebrate** with the Easter Vigil, which has:

- a ceremony of light to remember the darkness of the tomb and the joy and light of the resurrection
- Bible readings to remember how the resurrection of Jesus brought back the goodness of the world at creation

- renewal of baptismal vows to remember the rebirth brought by Easter
- the eucharist to remember that salvation now comes through the sacraments.

They also have a second Mass later in the day. Easter Day is the only occasion when Catholics are allowed to take communion twice in one day.

**Many Protestants celebrate with:**

- early morning communions to remember the women going to the tomb
- a church breakfast
- a family service celebrating the resurrection and all it means for Christians.

**Christians celebrate on Easter Day because:**

- Jesus rose from the dead and so must have been the Son of God
- Jesus' resurrection completes the salvation from sin begun at the crucifixion
- Jesus' resurrection means that those who believe in Jesus will also have eternal life as sin and death have been overcome.

**Pentecost**

Pentecost is the day when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

Christians celebrate Pentecost by having special services with readings from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 2 about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and special hymns, prayers and a sermon about the work of the Holy Spirit. Some churches process around the outside of the church as a witness to the people. In some areas there are church processions through the town with banners and bands as a witness to Jesus. Pentecost is also known as Whit Sunday because it is the day for confirmations in the Catholic Church and people wear white for their confirmation.

**Christians celebrate Pentecost because:**

- it is the time when the disciples received the Holy Spirit which gave them the power to witness to Jesus and so begin the Christian Church (Acts 2);
- Pentecost shows how the Holy Spirit can change lives;
- Pentecost is a reminder that God is powerful and that the Holy Spirit gives Christians the power and strength to witness to Jesus in their daily lives.

## Ideas for Teaching Section 3: Worship and Celebration

### Lesson 1 (1 hour)

Show some short videos or video clips of different types of worship. These could be collected from Sunday worship programmes on ITV and BBC 1.

Use the videos to stimulate discussion on how God should be worshipped.

### Lesson 2 (1 hour)

Divide into pairs to answer the following questions using factsheets:

- a) What is liturgical worship?
- b) What is non-liturgical worship?
- c) What is charismatic worship?

Go over the answers as a whole class discussion, getting students to amend their answers where necessary.

**Homework** - 'As long as you worship God, it doesn't matter how you do it?' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view.

### Lesson 3 (3 hours)

Split into four groups to make presentations on Holy Communion under the headings of **beliefs, role of priest/minister** and **role of laity**:

- one group for the Catholic Eucharist/Communion
- one group for the Orthodox Eucharist/Communion
- one group for the Protestant Eucharist/Communion
- one group for Christian Churches which do **not** celebrate the Eucharist and their reasons for this.

Students should use the fact sheets, plus books such as *Christianity* by K.O'Donnell, pages 42-48. Time should be given for discussion after each presentation.

**Homework** - Explain why different Christians have different beliefs about the Holy Communion.

### Lesson 4 (1 hour)

Have a whole class brainstorm on what symbols are used in Holy Communion, hopefully including at least: bread, wine, chalice, tabernacle, passing the peace. Then put into pairs to discuss what each symbol means and what it is based on.

Follow up with a plenary session on their answers and give notes so that all students have the correct information.

### Lesson 5 (2 hours)

Put the class into pairs to answer the following questions:

- a) What does the word baptism mean?

- b) What is Christian baptism?
- c) What do parents and godparents do at an infant baptism?
- d) What does the priest do?
- e) Why do Christians have infant baptism?
- f) Why do some Christians not believe in infant baptism?
- g) What happens at a believer's baptism service?

Go over the answers in a plenary session making sure that plenty of discussion takes place on believers' and infant baptism.

**Homework** - 'You should only be baptised when you are old enough to know what you are doing.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view.

**Lesson 6 (1 hour)**

Read through the fact sheet on confirmation having a whole class discussion on why people get confirmed and whether infant baptism and confirmation is better than dedication and believers' baptism.

**Lesson 7 (1 hour)**

Have a whole class brainstorm on Advent - what it is, what happens and why it is celebrated.

Write the answers on the board and then read through the fact sheet and see if the students need to add anything in the light of the discussion.

**Homework** - Give an account of what Christians do at Advent and explain why Christians celebrate Advent.

**Lesson 8 (1 hour)**

Split the class into pairs - half to read St Matthew chapters 1 and 2, the other half to read St Luke chapters 1 and 2. Each group to tell the Christmas story in headlines of the main events described in their gospel.

Go over the answers as a whole class brainstorm.

**Lesson 9 (2 hours)**

Have a whole class discussion on how Christmas is celebrated and what are the most important events. Using the fact sheet and the class discussion they have just had, ask students to answer the following questions:

- a) What biblical events does Christmas celebrate?
- b) What biblical events does Epiphany celebrate?
- c) How do Christians celebrate Christmas?
- d) What is the meaning of Christmas?
- e) How do Christians celebrate Epiphany?

Go over their answers in a plenary session.

**Homework** - 'Christmas is just an excuse for presents and parties.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view. In your answer you should refer to Christianity.

**Lesson 10 (1 hour)**

Have a whole class brainstorm on how Christians prepare for Easter, hopefully ending up with the idea of Lent and Holy Week!

Read through Lent on the fact sheet and in a book like *Christianity* by K. O'Donnell, page 59, with the whole class and discuss what they feel about Lent and what they think Christians get out of it.

**Lesson 11 (2 hours)**

Split the class into groups to make presentations on Holy Week using the fact sheet and a book like O'Donnell pages 59-61. Each group to answer under the headings of **biblical basis, what happens, and meaning**.

- one group to present Palm Sunday
- one group to present Holy Thursday
- one group to present Good Friday.

Allow time for discussion on the meaning and significance of these days and practices.

**Homework** - Explain why Holy Week is so important to Christians.

**Lesson 12 (1 hour)**

Split into pairs to brainstorm:

- a) what happens on Easter Day
- b) why Easter Day is so important for Christians.

Report back in a whole class plenary.

Read through the fact sheet with the class, comparing with their answers and getting them to add to the fact sheet where necessary.

**Homework** - Explain why many Christians would regard Easter as more important than Christmas.

**Lesson 13 (1 hour)**

Split into pairs to brainstorm:

- a) what happens at Pentecost
- b) why Christians celebrate Pentecost.

Report back in a whole class plenary

Read through the fact sheet with the class, comparing with their answers and getting them to add to the fact sheet where necessary.



### **Test on Section 3**

1. Give an outline of one form of Sunday Worship.
2. Explain the difference between liturgical and non-liturgical worship.
3. Explain why Christians have different beliefs about what happens in the Eucharist.
4. Outline the main features of a service of infant baptism.
5. Why do some Christians not baptise infants?
6. What happens at a confirmation ceremony?
7. How and why do Christians celebrate Christmas?
8. On what events is Epiphany based?
9. Explain why some Christians give things up for Lent.
10. Outline the main events of Holy Week.
11. How do Christians celebrate Easter?
12. Explain why Christians celebrate Pentecost

## Section 4 Living the Christian Life

### Key words

<b>Ten Commandments</b>	the ten rules for living given by God to Moses
<b>The Sermon on the Mount</b>	the rules for Christian living given by Jesus
<b>Displaying religion</b>	making a show of your religion e.g. by praying in the street
<b>Judgement</b>	the act of judging people and their actions
<b>The Golden Rule</b>	the teaching of Jesus that you should treat others as you would like them to treat you
<b>Service</b>	showing Christian values by helping other people
<b>Compassion</b>	a feeling of distress for the sufferings of others
<b>Concern</b>	to show compassion by becoming involved in other people's distress
<b>Justice</b>	due allocation or reward and punishment, the maintenance of what is right
<b>Oppressed</b>	those who are made to suffer by others (especially by governments and the rich or powerful).

Christian values, which are the basis for living the Christian life, are found in the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount.

**The Ten Commandments** - these can be divided into:

### Respect for God

- worship one God only
- no images of God
- no misuse of God's name (swearing)
- keep the Sabbath day holy

### Respect for others

- respect parents
- no murder
- no adultery
- no stealing
- no lying (bearing false witness)
- no coveting (wanting what other people have).

## **The Sermon on the Mount**

### **Re-interpretation of the Law of Moses**

- The Law said no murder, but Jesus said do not even become angry with your brother. Do not make offerings to God when you are quarrelling with your brother. Settle your arguments before you get to court.
- The Law said no adultery, but Jesus said do not even look at a member of the opposite sex with lust if you are married.
- The Law said only divorce if you have a certificate of divorce, but Jesus said do not divorce except in the case of adultery.
- The Law said do not break oaths made to God, but Jesus said do not take any oaths at all.
- The law said an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but Jesus said if someone hits you on the right cheek offer them the left as well.
- The Law said love your neighbour and hate your enemy, but Jesus said love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

### **Displaying Religion**

- Jesus said that when Christians give money to help the poor, they should do so secretly, so they are praised by God rather than humans.
- Jesus said that when Christians pray, they should pray at home directly to God, rather than standing on a street corner showing off their religion. He also said that prayers should be short and gave the example of the Lord's Prayer.
- In the same way when Christians fast, they should not let anyone but God know they are fasting.

### **Christians and Money**

- Jesus said that it is impossible to serve two masters and so people cannot serve God and money. Christians must store up spiritual treasures, not material ones.
- Christians should not worry about what is going to happen in the future, God looks after the birds and the flowers, how much more will he look after those who love him.

### **Christians and Judgement**

- Jesus said that Christians should not judge other people.
- Rather than looking at what is wrong with other people, Christians should first judge themselves and make themselves perfect.

### **The Golden Rule**

Jesus said,

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.' Matthew 7:12

## The Expression of Christian Values

Christians should put their beliefs into action. They can show their Christian values:

- **By service to others** e.g. by a job such as teaching or social work, or by doing voluntary work in youth groups, old people's lunch clubs etc.
- **Through compassion for people who suffer** e.g. through work with homeless people, with the Red Cross, in nursing, by working with the hospice movement to help those with terminal diseases come to terms with death and to die surrounded by love.
- **In concern for the causes of suffering** e.g. by working for groups like Christian Aid or Cafod or by being involved in politics to remove the causes of suffering. For instance, the Jubilee 2000 Campaign was organised and run by Christians trying to persuade Western Governments to cancel the debts of poor countries.
- **By helping those in need.** Christian values expressed in such teachings of Jesus as the parable of the sheep and the goats compel Christians to help those in need. Almost all Christian churches have groups to help the poor and homeless and to support the work of Christian Aid or Cafod or Tear Fund. Christian groups such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society help homeless people and drug addicts in the UK.
- **In seeking justice for the oppressed.** The Catholic Church in South America is working for justice for the street children of Brazil. The Christian Churches in South Africa worked for justice for black Africans by opposing apartheid.

## Two Exemplary Christians

**Mother Theresa** was born in Yugoslavia in 1910, she took her vows as a Loreto nun at the Dublin headquarters when she was 18. She was sent to Calcutta as a teacher of Geography in the convent schools and whilst there she became concerned at the thousands of slum children who could not afford an education. In 1948 she founded a school for slum children in Calcutta. Then she found children dying on the streets and was given a disused Hindu temple to care for the dying.

In 1950 she was given permission to found her own order of nuns, the Missionaries of Charity, and as Mother Superior she became known as Mother Theresa. The school and the home for the dying have since been extended to leprosy centres, other homes for the dying and other schools for slum children in African countries as well as India. In 1979 Mother Theresa was given the Nobel Peace prize which enabled her to extend the work of the missionaries.

**Mother Theresa was inspired by** the teachings of Jesus about caring for the homeless and the unloved especially the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. She herself said that working for the poor is like prayer and she always tried to work with Jesus and for Jesus in helping the poor.

**Helder Camara** is a Catholic priest in Brazil who originally thought all priests should support their government. Then, as Bishop of Rio, he became aware of the great extremes of wealth and poverty in Brazil and when he became Archbishop of Recife, he helped with the development of liberation theology which through study of the gospels shows that Jesus called his disciples to liberate the poor.

He struggled to get the Brazilian government to do something to help the poor. But he also opposed those priests who wanted to use violence to force the rich to do something. Camara believes in non-violence, and has been responsible for a lot of initiatives to help the poor by the Brazilian Catholic Church.

**Helder Camara was very influenced by** Martin Luther King's ideas on non-violence and by the teachings of Jesus about wealth and poverty, especially Jesus' statement that he had come to bring good news to the poor.

## **Ideas for Teaching Section 4: Living the Christian Life**

### **Lesson 1 (1 hour)**

Have a whole class brainstorm on - what are the Ten Commandments? Then refer to the fact sheet to see how correct they have been.

Have a whole class discussion on how the two great commandments (love God and love your neighbour as yourself) relate to the ten commandments.

### **Lesson 2 (1 hour)**

Split into pairs to discuss:

- a) why some Churches allow images in church;
- b) why the Sabbath has been replaced by Sunday.

Discuss the answers in a plenary session.

**Homework** - 'As long as you go to church, it doesn't matter what else you do on Sundays.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered another point of view.

### **Lesson 3 (2 hours)**

Put into pairs to discuss the following questions using St Matthew chapter 5.

What does the Sermon on the Mount say about:

- a) murder
- b) adultery
- c) divorce
- d) the use of God's name
- e) revenge
- f) enemies?

Go over the answers as a whole class discussion, comparing with the fact sheet.

### **Lesson 4 (2 hours)**

Split into groups to make group presentations based on St Matthew chapters 6-7:

- one group to do displaying religion
- one group to do judgement
- one group to do money.

Give out the fact sheet before the presentations so that students can add to it where necessary.

End the lesson with discussion on the Golden Rule.

**Homework** - Explain why the Sermon on the Mount is important for living the Christian life today.

### **Lesson 5 (2 hours)**

Have a whole class brainstorm on what Christian values are. Then read through and discuss the expression of Christian values in the factsheet in the light of the brainstorm.

Give out copies of recent Christian newspapers (e.g. Catholic Times, Catholic Herald, Church Times, Methodist Recorder) to pairs of students. Get them to read their paper looking for examples of:

- service
- compassion
- concern for the causes of suffering
- helping those in need
- justice for the oppressed.

Come back in a plenary session and make sure students amend their fact sheet where necessary.

**Homework** - Explain how Christians show their love of their neighbours.

### **Lesson 8 (2 hours)**

**Either** - show videos on Mother Theresa or Helder Camara (you could use the Belief File from BBC Education on Martin Luther King if you do not want to do Camara).

**Or** - divide students into two groups to prepare and give class presentations on exemplary Christians (one group on a woman, the other on a man).

Use the factsheet, a book like O'Donnell pages 106-110 and these prompt questions:

- What did they do?
- Why did they do it?
- How have their lives shown their Christian values?

After the presentations, have a whole class discussion on their lives.

**Homework** - Explain how the life of ONE exemplary Christian of the twentieth century expressed Christian values.

## Section 5 Option 1 A Place of Christian Worship

### Architectural features

Any type of church can be chosen. These notes are about a pre-twentieth century Church of England Church.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Lych-gate	to mark the change from the unholy material world to the holy world of the Church - coffins were rested here
Tower or steeple	to indicate that the church is leading to heaven and to contain bells to call people to worship
Cruciform shape	in the shape of a cross to remind people of Jesus and his death
Nave, the main part of the church where the congregation sit	only the priests were allowed in the sacred area where the bread and wine are consecrated
Chancel facing east	the holiest part of the church faces the rising sun, symbolising the resurrection of Jesus
Choir stalls	between the nave and chancel to separate the altar from the ordinary congregation.

### Other Main Features

Altar	the place where the priest consecrates the bread and wine for communion
Candles	usually two on the altar to signify Christ as the light of the world
Cross or crucifix	a plain cross on the altar symbolises the death and resurrection of Jesus. A crucifix symbolises the death of Jesus and his sacrifice in the eucharist. The plain cross is more Protestant, the crucifix Catholic
Lectern	a book rest for the Bible readings, often with an eagle symbolising the gospel
Pulpit	a raised desk from which the sermon is preached
Font	a container for water used in baptisms. Its shallowness means that full-immersion believers' baptism is not practised



## **The Role and Function of the Minister or Priest**

In a Church of England church, the role of the priest is to be the leader and spiritual adviser of those in the parish who attend the church, and to provide baptisms, weddings and funerals for baptised people living in the parish.

The main functions of the priest are to:

- read the services of Matins and Evensong every day (though many no longer do this in the church)
- celebrate the eucharist at least once a week (though often much more)
- prepare parents for the baptism of their children and conduct the service
- prepare candidates for confirmation
- prepare couples for marriage, read the banns and conduct the service (Church of England vicars have a legal duty to marry any baptised Christians who live in their parish)
- conduct funerals
- visit the sick and the bereaved (including taking communion to the sick)
- lead the Parish Council in the organisation of church events and organisations.

## **The Role and Function of the Church in the Local Community**

Many Christians would see the main role of the church to be a witness to God and Christ in the local community. Most churches fulfil this role by performing a variety of functions:

- holding regular services so that the people in the local area can worship God
- providing weddings, baptisms and funerals for those requiring them
- providing Sunday schools so that children can learn about Christians and parents can be helped to bring up their children as Christians
- providing confirmation classes for those wishing to be confirmed
- providing opportunities for Christians to learn more about their faith e.g. discussion groups
- providing social facilities such as youth clubs, uniformed organisations, Mums and Tots groups, Mothers' Union to help the local community
- providing help for those in trouble
- being involved in moral and social issues about which Christians are concerned.

## Reasons for Differences in Places of Worship

The main differences in places of worship are caused by differences in belief and forms of worship.

### **Roman Catholic churches have these features which are not found in Protestant Churches:**

holy water stoup	because Catholics are expected to cross themselves with holy water when they enter the church (Protestants are not)
statues of saints with candles in front of them	because Catholics believe that the saints can help to take prayers to God
statue of the Virgin Mary	because Catholics believe that Mary is the model of the Christian life who is now in heaven and can pray for Christians on earth so prayers can be addressed to her (Protestants do not)
statue of Saint Peter	because St Peter was the first Pope and the rock on whom Jesus founded his Church (many Protestants would see this as breaking the second commandment about making idols)
a tabernacle	to keep the consecrated bread which Catholics believe has become the body of Jesus (Protestants have a different belief about the eucharist)
altar with candles	Catholics believe the Mass is a sacrifice bringing the light of Christ into the world (Protestants do not)
stations of the cross	pictures or carvings which represent the stages in Jesus' way to the cross which have special acts of devotion on Good Friday (Protestants do not believe in devotions to pictures or statues)

### **Protestant (mainly Nonconformist) churches have these features not found in Catholic churches:**

pulpit in the middle of the church	because the sermon is regarded as the most important part of worship
communion table with open Bible	because they believe communion is not a sacrifice and the Bible is the basis of belief
cross not crucifix	because a cross represents resurrection as well as crucifixion and a statue of Jesus is against the second commandment
no statues or pictures	because they are against the second commandment

## **Reasons for Differences in Forms of Worship**

The main reasons for differences in forms of worship are to be found in the different beliefs about the eucharist and about the nature of the sacraments and the importance of the Bible. You should use the notes on Celebration and Worship for this.

## **Ideas for teaching Option 1: A Place of Christian Worship**

### **Lesson 1 (1 hour)**

Visit a church and ask the students to make a list of the features of the building itself (architectural features) and what is in the church (other main features).

**Homework** Try to discover the reasons for the features of the church that you found.

### **Lesson 2 (1 hour)**

Plenary session in which the results of the visit and the homework are discussed and compared with the fact sheet so that students end up with a list of the architecture and other main features of a church and the reasons for them.

**Homework** What are the main features of a particular Christian church? Why does it have these features?

### **Lesson 3 (1 hour)**

Invite a local minister/priest in to talk to the class about her/his role and function. There should be plenty of question and answer time.

**Homework** What is the role and function of a minister/priest?

### **Lesson 4 (1 hour)**

Divide the class into groups to make presentations on the role and function of the church in a local community. Allow plenty of discussion when the presentations are made and display the presentations around the room.

### **Lesson 5 (2 hours)**

Invite members of different local churches in to discuss what they see as the role and function of their church.

Give out copies of the fact sheet and then have group work to relate the group presentations, the views of the church members and the fact sheet. Have a plenary session in which the results are written on the board, so that the students can copy down a revised fact sheet.

**Homework** 'A church is an essential part of every community.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view.

### **Lesson 6 (2 hours)**

Have a revision lesson on Section 3 worship clarifying the different types of Christian worship.

Visit a Catholic and Nonconformist church and ask students to note their main features. Divide the class into groups to discuss how different forms of worship would reveal themselves in differences in places of worship.

**Lesson 7 (1 hour)**

Invite members of different Christian denominations to discuss why they like their form of worship and whether they would be happy to change their form of worship so that all Christians could worship together.

## Section 5 Option 2: Christian Vocation

### Key Words

<b>Christian vocation</b>	a calling from God to devote your life to him (especially as a priest or nun)
<b>Celibacy</b>	not marrying or having sex
<b>Chastity</b>	not having sex
<b>Religious life</b>	being a member of a religious order so that you spend the whole of your life worshipping God
<b>Religious orders</b>	monks or nuns who follow a way of life set down by their founder
<b>Evangelical counsels</b>	the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience taken by members of a religious order
<b>Contemplative life</b>	spending most of your life praying or thinking about God (usually in a religious order)
<b>Religious communities</b>	monasteries, convents or anywhere where a religious order lives and works
<b>Benedictines</b>	an order of monks whose way of life is based on the rules of St Benedict
<b>Missionaries of Charity</b>	an order of nuns established by Mother Theresa

### Christian Vocations

A vocation is a calling by God to a certain way of life. Christians believe they have been called by God to be followers of Jesus, to be members of the Church and to make their pilgrimage on earth. Sometimes God calls people directly by speaking to them and telling them what to do; more often people feel that God speaks to them indirectly through their experience of life or through natural or historical events. For example Jesus heard the voice of God calling him when he was baptised by John, but someone like Mother Theresa felt God was calling her through her experiences of the dying in Calcutta and through the parable of the sheep and the goats.

As well as the vocation of all Christians, there can also be a personal call by God to a specified state of life. A Christian can be called in many different ways. It is possible to be called to marriage/nursing/teaching etc. However, traditionally a Christian vocation means being called by God either to be a priest or to join a religious order (this is often called the religious life and means becoming a monk or a nun).

All Christians are called to be disciples of Jesus by following his example of love, service and compassion. They are also called to witness to their faith through their daily life and work so that by their example others may become Christians. Most Christians fulfil their vocation to discipleship and witness in an ordinary life. However, some Christians feel they have a vocation to the specifically religious life.

## Religious Communities

Christians who have a vocation to the religious life join a religious community. Many religious communities are based in monasteries, which are communities of Christians who have separated themselves from worldly life to become as perfect Christians as possible. Such people are known as monks or nuns and they live a special way of life known as a rule.

Although religious communities are based on different rules from different founders, they have certain things in common. They must all follow the evangelical counsels of **poverty, chastity and obedience**.

- Poverty is needed for complete dedication to God as Jesus showed when he told the rich young man to sell all he had so he could follow Jesus.
- Chastity is needed so that the religious can be totally devoted to God.
- Obedience is needed to follow the example of Jesus who was totally obedient to God his Father and for the efficient running of the community under the leadership of the Abbot/Mother Superior etc.

Some communities follow the contemplative life. Contemplation is a state of mind focussed on God. The contemplative is a person who seeks to live with a permanent awareness of God's presence.

Contemplatives read and meditate on the Bible to understand God's purpose and to experience his love in their lives. They speak to God in prayer, but what God says to them is more important than what they say to God. By concentrating on prayer and meditation, contemplatives can serve others by praying for them and by becoming so close to God that they can show the world a bit more of what God is like.

Other communities have a rule based on prayer and meditation but which follows the active life rather than the contemplative life. Such monks and nuns usually teach or nurse or help the poor.

There are many types of religious communities (not all are monks and nuns). The Iona Community in Scotland has men and women, Protestants and Catholics. Taize in France is a modern type of monastery dedicated to reconciliation between the races and generations. The Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland is made up of Protestants and Catholics who feel called to live together and show that peace and reconciliation is possible in Northern Ireland.

## **The Benedictine Way of Life**

The father or founder of monasticism is usually regarded as St Anthony of Egypt who went into the desert to follow Jesus' command to the rich young man to sell all he had, give to the poor and follow Jesus. After living as a hermit for thirty years, he formed a community with a simple rule.

Two hundred and fifty years later St Benedict worked out a new rule based on poverty, chastity, obedience, prayer and work. He taught that a religious order should be able to support itself and that every member should do some work because 'to pray is to work and to work is to pray'.

Pope Gregory VI was a Benedictine and he sent a group of Benedictines led by St Augustine of Canterbury to England in 697 A.D. There were many Benedictine monasteries in England until King Henry VIII dissolved them all. The English Benedictines went to Europe and English Benedictines stayed there until Catholics had more freedom in England and they could return. New monasteries were founded. The most famous is Ampleforth in North Yorkshire, where Cardinal Hume used to be a monk.

The monks of Ampleforth share a common life under the guidance of the Abbot and they work by teaching in the school (college) attached to the abbey.

## **The Missionaries of Charity**

This is an order of nuns founded by Mother Theresa in 1950. Theresa was a Loreto nun working in India as a teacher. She wanted to do more for the poverty-stricken people of Calcutta who could lie dying in the streets with no one to care about them. The nuns have a centre in Calcutta (the Place of the Pure Heart) and run schools, hospices and leprosy centres in India and Africa.

The order is centred on the eucharist and prayer, every day begins with Mass and meditation. There is more meditation and the liturgy of the hours from 12.30 to 2.00 and from 6.30 to 7.30 there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Around this prayer and meditation, the sisters are expected to put in between 10 and 12 hours of work per day in service to the poor. Once a week there is a day of recollection for the full sisters when the novices do the work for the poor (during the rest of the week, the novices have classes in theology, the Bible and religious orders).



## **Ideas for Teaching Section 5 Option 2: Christian Vocation**

### **Lesson 1 (1 hour)**

Read through the fact sheet on vocation with the whole class, then put them into pairs to make lists of:

- a) jobs/careers that a Christian could regard as a vocation
- b) jobs/careers Christians could not call a vocation.

Have a plenary session for the whole class to go through the answers.

### **Lesson 2 (1 hour)**

Put into pairs to make a list of the qualities of a Christian disciple.

Have a whole class discussion on the answers and compare them with the fact sheet.

**Homework** - 'It's just as hard to be a disciple today as it was 2000 years ago.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have considered another point of view.

### **Lesson 3 (1 hour)**

Read through the fact sheet on religious communities and then have a whole class brainstorm on what are the features of the religious/contemplative life. Put the answers on the board.

### **Lesson 4 (1 hour)**

Split the class into pairs to answer these questions:

- a) What are the three evangelical counsels?
- b) Why are they needed for the religious life?
- c) What is the contemplative life?
- d) What is the active life?
- e) Name three religious communities founded since 1900.

Go over the answers in class.

**Homework** - Explain why some people feel they have to join a religious order to fulfil their vocation.

### **Lesson 5 (1 hour)**

Show a video on either the Benedictines or the Missionaries of Charity, stopping regularly to ask questions and make sure the students are writing down the main parts of their way of life.

### **Lesson 6 (2-3 hours)**

Split the class into groups to make class presentations. Half the groups to prepare a class presentation on the Benedictines, the other half on the Missionaries of Charity. Allow at least one lesson, probably two for the class presentations.

**Homework** - Explain how the way of life of ONE religious order helps its members to fulfil their Christian vocation.

## Tests on Section 5

### OPTION 1

- a) Describe the main features of a particular church or cathedral.
- b) Explain the role and function of a minister or priest.
- c) 'All Christians should worship together.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view. In your answer you should refer to Christianity.

### OPTION 2

- a) Describe the life of a particular Christian community.
- b) Explain what is meant by a Christian vocation.
- c) 'It's no use spending your life locked up in a monastery.'  
Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered another point of view. In your answer you should refer to Christianity.