

Worship

Liturgical – Follows a set routine e.g. RC
Non-liturgical - Does not follow a set routine

Charismatic – informal; spirit-inspired
Rosary – a string of beads with a crucifix attached

Meditation – thoughtfulness, focused on a religious truth

Quaker meetings – Completely informal, with no leader or structure

The Bible – regardless of the type of worship, it will always have a focus on the Bible

Private – worshipping alone

Prayer – Communicating with God

Why is worship important?

- It brings a sense of **togetherness** as a community
- It makes a person **feel closer** to God
- It is **peaceful** – allowing for prayer and meditation
- It is an **external expression** of their faith
- Christians **praise** God as the eternal Being and source of everything that exists

Year 9 term 1: Practices: Christianity

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is 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 pilgrimage.

Some examples of Christian places of pilgrimage are: **Lourdes, Iona**, the Holy Land (Israel) and Canterbury.

Prayer

Jesus spoke about prayer on a number of occasions. Some Christians follow set prayer (such as **the Lord's prayer** (which Jesus taught his disciples), whereas others make them more personal.

There are different types of prayer:

- Thanksgiving
- Adoration
- Confession
- Petition
- Intercession

Sacraments

A **sacrament** = an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace

Protestant Churches = only **2** sacraments: Baptism and Eucharist.

RC & Orthodox Churches = **7** sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick.

Baptism

Jesus was baptised by John and, during the baptism, Jesus experienced the Holy Spirit entering his life and heard God's assurance that he was the Son of God.

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

Eucharist

The Eucharist is celebrated by nearly all Christian denominations and has many names, such as Holy Communion. The central features are the same: the connection with Jesus' Last Supper, the giving of thanks for the bread and wine (consecration) and using Jesus' words at the last supper. RC Christians believe in **transubstantiation** – the bread & wine literally turns into the body & blood of Christ. Whereas Protestants do not believe this.



"Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith"

The Church in the local community

The Church has always been involved in caring for others. For example, in the Middle Ages the monasteries provided education, hospitality for travellers and treatment for the sick. In the 20th century, a London church set up the first **Samaritans** phone service for those feeling suicidal. In the Parable of the Sheep & the Goats, Jesus told his disciples that whatever they did or failed to do for someone, however insignificant the deed or situation, they did/or failed to do, for Jesus.

One way in which Christians put their faith into action is through food banks and street pastors.

Key organisations (research these!)

- **Corrymeela** – reconciliation & ecumenism
- **Open Doors** – Supports persecuted Christians
- **Spring Harvest** – Mission & evangelism
- **Community of the cross of nails**
- **CAFOD** – Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- **Tearfund**
- **Christian Aid**

Euthanasia

Euthanasia is illegal in the UK, It can be seen as assisted suicide, therefore breaking the **Suicide Act of 1961**. It can be viewed as manslaughter or murder and carries a prison sentence.

Some people believe that people should have the right to end their own life if they are terminally ill, incapacitated or in severe pain. This is known as euthanasia. In the UK, this is currently against the law, although in some other countries it is legal (Switzerland, Netherlands and Belgium). Some Christians believe that people should not be able to end their own life because all life is sacred, and that the terminally ill should be cared for in **hospices** at the end of their lives.

Islam tells us that Euthanasia is **zulm: wrong doing against Allah**.

Active euthanasia: being given lethal drugs to end a persons life so there illness does not kill them.

Passive euthanasia: a person stops taking medication to end their life.

Sanctity of Life

Many religions believe that life is **sacred** because God created it, including Islam and Christianity. Christians believe that all life is sacred, and precious. Some Christians do not believe that anyone should take their own life or the life of someone else. Therefore some Christians believe that euthanasia and abortion is wrong, as it is wrong to end a human life. In all legal systems **murder** is the worst crime you could commit.

Year 9 Term2: Religion and Life

The Use of Animals

Many medicines are tested on animals before they can be used on humans to ensure that they are safe. This is very controversial because many people think that it cruel and unnecessary. However others believe that animal experimentation is necessary to make breakthroughs in science and technology, and to manufacture effective cures. For example many surgical procedures such as transplanted surgery were traditionally perfected on animals.

Christians and Muslims are allowed to eat meat in their diets, although Muslims do not eat pork and some Christians fast during Lent. **Vegetarian:** a person who does not eat meat.

Abortion

The law defines abortion as **“the deliberate expulsion of a foetus from the womb, with the intention of destroying it”**. In the UK abortion is allowed up until 24 weeks of a pregnancy under special circumstances, i.e. if two registered doctors agree that there is a danger to the women’s mental or physical health, the foetus will be born with disabilities, or the mental or physical health of existing children will be put at risk. Some people do not believe that abortion is right because it means terminating the life of an unborn child. However, many people believe that it is the woman who should have the choice as to what happens to her body and therefore it is for her to make up her own mind. There are also circumstances such as rape, genetic abnormalities or failed contraception which cause debate on both sides of the argument.

In Islam, the life of the mother takes precedence – she is a fully developed human with responsibilities, whereas the foetus is not even born and will need everything doing for it.

Pro-Life: term used for arguments against abortion

Pro-choice: arguments in favour of having the CHOICE to choose an abortion

“Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith”

Origins of the Universe and Life

Some Christians believe that the universe was created by God in 7 days. This is described in the bible in the book of **Genesis**. The bible says that Adam and Eve were the first man and women. Christians who believe the literal truth of the bible are known as **Creationists**. Other Christians think the creation story is a metaphor for the creation of the Universe, but do not believe that the world was created in 7 days.

Scientists believe that the Universe was created billions of years ago and is constantly evolving. This is known as **the Big Bang Theory**. **Charles Darwin** was a famous scientist who came up with the theories of evolution and natural selection. This theory explains that humans are descended from apes and that species are constantly evolving to adapt to their changing environment.

Stewardship: the idea that God created the world and that humans have a responsibility to look after it.

Dominion: the belief that God gave humans the right to decide what happens to the world and the species in it.

Year 9 term 3; Beliefs & Teachings: Islam

Key beliefs about God

- There is only **ONE** God (**monotheism**). The 'oneness' of God is called **Tawhid** in Arabic
- Muslims call God **Allah**, which means 'the one true God'
- God cannot be divided and has never had a Son.
- In **the Qur'an** and **the Sunnah**, Allah has 99 'names'. E.g the Merciful, the Just, the Almighty...
- **Allah** is the same God that Jews and Christians worship
- **Allah** has **revealed** his will through his **prophets**
- Muslims share many of the beliefs that Jews and Christians have about God E.g. He is the creator, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, etc.
- **Allah** must never be pictured
- **Allah** is beyond understanding and nothing must ever be compared to **Allah**. Comparing things to **Allah** is a terrible sin
- All humans must 'submit' to the will of **Allah** (Islam means 'submission')



Predestination

- **Allah** is in total control of all events and *knows* everything that will happen
 - Because **Allah** is **transcendent** (beyond time and space), he is not limited by time or space
- BUT**
- **Allah** does not *decide* what will happen
 - Humans have **free-will** and are responsible for their choices
 - Humans will be judged by **Allah** based on their choices

RISALAH: The Prophets

Prophethood

- **Allah** appoints particular people to spread his messages
- These people receive **revelation** from **Allah** through his **Angels**
- There are 25 key **prophets** of Allah identified in **the Qur'an**, including Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus)

Adam

- Created specially by **Allah**.
- Given **dominion** over the earth by **Allah**
- The first human to communicate with **Allah**
- The first Muslim

Ibrahim

- One of **Allah's** most faithful servants
- Opposed **idolatry**
- Risked his life to argue for **monotheism**
- A great role-model
- An ancestor of **Muhammad**

Muhammad

- **Allah's** final and greatest **prophet**
- Received the **revelation of the Qur'an**
- A great teacher
- A great role-model
- A military commander
- Set up the first Muslim community in **Makkah**
- Must be respected but not worshipped

AKHIRAH: Life after death

HEAVEN AND HELL

- Described in different ways by different Muslims
- People go to heaven or hell for eternity after the **Day of Judgement**
- Heaven described in **the Qur'an** as a garden paradise
- Hell described in **the Qur'an** as a place of fire and pain
- Faithful and righteous Muslims will go to heaven
- Non-Muslims and unrighteous Muslims will go to hell

ANGELS

- Bring **Allah's** revelations to his **prophets**
- Created by **Allah** from light
- Usually invisible but sometimes take human form
- Pure and sinless
- Do not have **free-will**
- Have various roles
- Some are named E.g. Jibril, Mika'il, Israfil, Iblis

The Day of Judgment

- When all humans will be judged by **Allah** based on how they have lived
- Judgement will lead to punishment (hell) or reward (heaven)
- Preceded by a state of waiting in the grave called **barzakh**
- While in the grave, people are questioned by **Angels**
- People will be **resurrected** before their judgement

Sunni and Shi'a Islam

Sunni Muslims (majority)

- See the elected **Caliphs** as the successors of **Muhammad**
 - Follow the 6 'articles of faith': **Tawhid**, the **Day of Judgement**, the **Prophets**, **Angels**, the supremacy of **Allah's** will and the authority of **the Qur'an**.
- ### Shia Muslims (minority)
- See the **Imams** (descendants of **Muhammad**) as **Muhammad's** successors
 - Believe each **Imam** must choose his successor before he dies
 - Follow the 5 'roots' of Usul ad-Din: **Tawhid**, **Prophethood**, **Allah's Justice (Adalat)**, **Resurrection** and the **Imamate**

The Qur'an

- The word of **Allah** given to **Muhammad** through Jibril
- Originally dictated in Arabic
- The original words have never been altered
- Infallible: corrects all previous **revelation** from God
- Divided into '**Surahs**
- Supplemented by **the Hadiths** and **the Sunnah**