



Knowledge Organiser: Christianity Practices Part 1

Key Words

Worship: Act of religious honour or devotion
Liturgical worship: service which follows a set pattern
Non-liturgical worship: service which does not follow a text or set pattern
Informal Worship: a type of non-liturgical worship which is spontaneous
Private Worship: Someone praises or honours God on their own
Prayer: Communicating with God
Set Prayers: Prayers that have been written down and said more than once. E.g. The Lords Prayer
Informal prayer: Made up prayer using your own words
The Lords Prayer: The prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus. Example of set prayer.
Sacrament: Rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift of grace. 'An outward sign of an inward grace'
Baptism: A sacrament in which believers are washed with water to remove sin and become part of the church community
Believers Baptism: Where a person is old enough to choose to follow God and choose that they want to be baptised
Infant Baptism: A child Baptism in which they are not old enough to choose but promises are made on their behalf. It welcomes them to the church community and washes away original sin.
Holy Communion: A service of thanksgiving where bread and wine are consumed to remember Jesus' death and resurrection.
Pilgrimage: A special religious journey to a holy site. Also an act of worship
Festival – celebration for religious reasons
Christmas – celebration of Jesus' birth
Easter – celebration of Jesus death and resurrection

Worship

It is a way for Christians to show love and respect for God. It shows Christians how important God is to them. They worship in different ways but the public worship takes place at church on Sunday. Christians prayer to ask for forgiveness, to say thanks, to ask for help or for comfort and strength. There are different types. Liturgical, non-liturgical, informal and private.

Prayer

Prayer is all about communication with God. Christians ask God for help for themselves or others, ask for forgiveness, to be provided with strength or comfort or to say sorry, confess sin and ask for forgiveness or to praise God. People pray in different ways, which might include standing, kneeling or using rosary beads – for Catholics and Orthodox Christians use Icons. Christians do believe God answers prayers, but because he is transcendent (beyond our understanding) we cannot understand when or how he does it and perhaps not in the way we would want or expect. For example when Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane he asks God to "remove this cup from me". He is asking God to help him not have to go through the crucifixion. God doesn't stop this as there is a purpose to Jesus' suffering.

The Lords Prayer

This is the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples to pray. "Our father who art in heaven...". This is an example of set prayer and is important as it sets out how to live, for example to show forgiveness to others. It also reminds how God is part of the whole community and is said out loud together.

The Sacrament of Baptism

This is important as it is the initiation ceremony to become a Christian and part of the church and therefore receives the grace of God. Sins are forgiven and they start a new life in Christ. Jesus was baptised by John in the river Jordan, here is received the Holy Spirt and sets an example for Christians to do the same. "Therefore go and make disciples of many nations, baptising them in the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit.
 Infant Baptism – Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican Methodist practice this. Everyone is a descendent of Adam and Eve and therefore carries Original Sin and so baptism washes this away. It also welcomes them to the church community.
 Believer's Baptism – Baptist and Pentecostal's think children are too young to understand the meaning and therefore don't baptise infants. They have believers baptisms when a person is old enough to understand the meaning behind what they are doing. This includes a full immersion in a pool to wash away sin and start a new life in Jesus.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Also known as Mass, Eucharist, The lord's supper, The Divine Liturgy or the breaking of bread. Remembers Jesus' last supper, "This is my body which is for you, do this in remembrance of me", with his disciples and therefore the death and resurrection of him. Christians celebrate communion to give thanks to God for sending Jesus to save us from sin.
 Catholics and Orthodox – Believe in transubstantiation where the bread and body actually turn in the body and blood of Jesus.
 Other Christian – it is a reminder of Jesus at the last supper. The bread and wine are just symbols.
 It impacts Christians today as they receive God's grace, brings them into a community of believers strengthening their faith, it can provide support and encouragement to those who are struggling. It is a shared meal so it encourages everyone to share and make everyone welcome. It reminds people that others are starving around the world and money is collected to help the poor around the world.

Different ways to celebrate Holy Communion

Orthodox – Divine Liturgy – Hymns, prayers, readings from Bible. Priest comes through royal door to chant the gospel. Lords prayer offered, behind royal doors words of Jesus said, bread divided into four – three consecrated as body and blood and fourth broken into small pieces. Priest gives bread and wine together on a spoon. Prayers of thanksgiving said afterwards.
Catholic – Mass – Three readings from the bible –OT, Paul's letter and Gospel, prayers said, offerings of bread and wine brought to the altar, Priest says words of Jesus at the last supper, prays over wine, lords prayer said, sign of peace shown between each other, congregation come to altar to receive communion, Priest blesses them.
Anglican – Holy Communion – almost identical to Catholic, sign of peace is shared at a different point, Community meal being shared with all.
Non-conformist Churches – Holy Communion – Begins with a hymn, bible readings, sermons, congregation prays for the world, minister reminds people of Jesus' actions and words at the last supper, 'open table' for anyone who wishes to take bread and wine can, pieces are broken by the congregation and then passed around to others and prayers of thanksgiving are said at the end with people commanded to go out and serve God.

Festivals

Festivals remember important events in a religions calendar, for Christians this is Christmas and Easter. They are centered around Jesus who is the most important person in their religion.
Christmas – Remembers the birth of Jesus – his incarnation. It is celebrated on the 25th December. Trees and homes are decorated with nativity scenes. Lights remember Jesus is the light of the world. Carol services happen in Churches with readings from the bible. Children act out nativity plays and midnight mass takes place on Christmas Eve. "I bring you glad tidings that today a king is born"
Easter – It is the most important festival which celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead leading up from holy week. Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and rose on Easter Sunday. Special services take place and processions led by someone carrying a cross. On Easter Sunday special services take place with hymns which celebrate the resurrection. Eggs are used as a reminder of new life. "Christ is risen from the dead".

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a special religious journey and can be seen as an act of worship in itself. For Christians the Holy Land, where Jesus lived and died is particularly important. Pilgrimage is important as it allows people to get closer to God, strengthen faith, ask for forgiveness, pray, ask for a cure, help others and meet others who share your faith. Two important places are Lourdes and Iona.
Lourdes – In France dedicated to Mary as Bernadette believed to have seen visions of Mary in the 19th Century. A spring of water was discovered which had healing powers. Now millions of people have been to drink from the spring of water in the hope of being healed. Many sick or disabled people go to Lourdes.
Iona – An Island off the west coast of Scotland. In the 6th Century St. Columba, an Irish missionary brought Christianity to Scotland and set up a small monastic community there. Pilgrimages happen there in dedication to the virgin Mary. The community in Iona hold daily services in the Church leading a seven mile hike to holy spots.

Teachings

Prayer - "And prayer on the spirit on occasions with all kinds of prayers"
 "call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you"
 "This is how you should pray, 'Our father who art in heaven...'"
 "Pray continually"
 "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."
Baptism – "Get up, be baptised and wash away your sins"
 "Whoever will be baptised will be saved"
 "Jesus was baptised too"
Communion – "When he was at the table with them, he broke bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them"
 "This is my body, do this in remembrance of me"
Easter – "He said 'it is finished', with this he bowed his head and gave up his spirit"
 "He is not here, he is risen!"
Christmas – "The word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us"

Knowledge Organiser: Christianity Practices Part 2



Key Words

Church: The holy people of God, the body of Christ or a building where Christians worship

Agape: unconditional, unselfish love

Mission: A calling where an individual or group go out and spread the word of God.

The Great Commission: Jesus instruction to his followers to go and spread his message *“Go and make disciples of many nations”*

Missionary: A person sent on a religious mission to promote Christianity in a different country through preaching or charity work

Evangelism: Spreading the Christian message through preaching the Christian gospels

Alpha course: An example of evangelism –trying to tell others about Christianity

Convert: Someone who has decided to become committed to a religion and change his or her religious belief.

Reconciliation: A sacrament in the catholic faith, also making up after an argument or disagreement

Persecution: hostility or ill-treatment, because of race or religious or political beliefs.

Poverty: When people live without having basic human rights such as having enough food, water or shelter

The Church

Church means a gathering of people and originally the church didn't have special buildings but met at peoples homes. The church therefore is about people who meet to worship Christ. *“And God placed all things under his (Jesus’) feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body”*. The church as a building provides a place where Christians in the local community can meet, socialise, worship and gain spiritual guidance. Christians meet at church on a Sunday, but many churches have events happening throughout the week. Traditionally the role of the church helped with schooling, medical needs and other services. In modern times the church has projects in the community to help others following the teachings of Jesus to help those who need it. *“Love your neighbour”* and *“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...”*

The role of the church in the local community: Food Banks

The Trussell Trust: Founded in 1997 it provides emergency food help and support to people in the UK. Based on the *parable of the sheep and goats* to aim to end poverty and relieve hunger of people. Due to rising prices, cut in benefits, redundancy and other family issues people need help with food to survive. Food is donated by churches, supermarkets, schools and business and care professionals identify people in need and give vouchers so that they can get food to help them in the short term.

The Oasis Project: Part of Plymouth Methodist Church which is a community hub with an internet café, creative courses, job club, training opportunities and a base for meetings. 200 people use the centre each week. It supports people with disabilities, ill-health, learning needs, domestic violence, substance abuse, low income and housing problems.

The role of church in the local community: Street Pastors

The parable of the sheep and goats shows how Christians should help others and show agape. Street pastors started in 2003 in London with volunteers to work on the streets to patrol areas to provide a reassuring presence to people at night. They try to focus on responding to anti-social behaviour, drunkenness and fear of crime. They want to help people in practical ways working with the council and the police. They wear blue reflective uniforms to be seen so they can be spotted for people to come to them if they need help. They go out to listen to people, giving advice about where they can go, or to offer flip flops to girls whose shoes have broken or space blankets to help keep people warm. They do not actively go out to preach but work off the basis of the teachings of Jesus to offer help to people who need it.

The place of mission and evangelism

Christians believe they should spread the news of Jesus to non-believers. Matthews gospel ends with the Great Commission and the order of Jesus to, *“Make disciples of many nations...”* These were the last words given to the disciples before his ascension. At the day of Pentecost the disciples were given the gifts to carry out the Great Commission. Christians have the responsibility to spread the news of Jesus to others. Some believe they are called to do this in other countries and become missionaries, which involves evangelism. The aim to persuade people Jesus is the saviour of the world. The Alpha course is an example evangelism. They take place around the country with the aim to introduce Christianity to people and convert others to Christianity.

Church Growth

It is estimated that there are up to 2.5 billion Christians in the world. The church has grown rapidly since the time of Jesus and still is in South America, Africa and Asia, although not the case in the USA and Europe. There are approximately 1.1 billion Catholics in the world and it is estimated soon there will be more Christians in China than any other country in the world, despite it being a communist country. In Africa it is estimated that churches are growing at 34,000 people a day. Worldwide 80,000 people become Christians everyday and over 500 new churches are formed. Christians are taught to teach others about Jesus and so converts are trained to spread the news to others as well as a way of following Jesus. This can be done through sharing testimonies (how God has affected their lives), inviting people to meetings, prayer, advertising, using the media, fellowship meals and social events.

The importance of the world wide church

The importance of the church is also to work for reconciliation. This is get others to put differences behind them and come together. Jesus came to restore the relationship between humans and God and so Christians should work to restore or reconcile issues between others. One of the seven sacraments of the Catholic church is reconciliation and this is because in the bible it teaches Christians should work to not only be reconciled with God but with each other. There have been examples where even parts of the Church have fallen out, for example Protestants and Catholics in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Irish Churches Peace Project (ICPP) was set up to bring together Christians from all over Northern Ireland to discuss initiatives to develop peace and understanding. Despite reconciliation work it is estimated that 80% of religious discrimination is directed towards Christians. Persecution ranges from Christians having to pay more tax to not giving them jobs, attack on homes or not allowing them to build Churches. The Corrymeela Community in Ireland was set up to promote peace making and healing racial, political and religious divisions. It is to get all sorts of different people to come together and talk about their differences to work together.

Church persecution

Persecution doesn't always have a negative effect as Christians believe it can develop and strengthen their faith. It also allows people to understand the suffering that Jesus went through in his life and death. *“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.”* Christians are encouraged to show love even when being persecuted or ill-treated, *“overcome evil with good”*. In the bible St. Paul says that the members of the church are like different parts of the body, *“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it”*. The Barnabus fund sends financial support to projects that help Christians who are being persecuted because of their faith. The Christian Solidarity Worldwide is a Christian human rights organisation that campaigns for religious freedom for all.

The church's response to world poverty

The teachings of Jesus are all about helping others and showing agape (unconditional love) to everyone no matter who they are, *“Love your neighbour as you love yourself”*. In the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus Jesus taught about the rich man who ended up in hell as he didn't help a beggar. The Good Samaritan teaches about helping others and Jesus helped all kinds of people even lepers, tax collectors, sinners and people who were mentally ill. In the book of John it says, *“If anyone has material possessions and see a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?”*

There are different Christian organisations who help to respond to poverty in the world.

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD): Started in 1960 it is the official aid agency in England and Wales. It works to help poor communities in Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East. It helps to give access to clean water, education and healthcare. It encourages Catholic schools and parishes to give and campaign to help disadvantaged communities.

Christian Aid: It is the official relief and development agency for 41 church denominations in Britain and Ireland. Started in 1945 they aim to encourage sustainable development, stop poverty and provide emergency relief in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South America and the Caribbean. They aim to end poverty by campaigning with Fairtrade, stop climate chaos and trade justice movement.

Tearfund: In 1968 there was a terrible famine in Biafra, Nigeria, and Churches in the UK wanted to do something about it and in response the Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund was set up (TEARFUND). They continue today to raise money in the UK so that Tearfund can work with churches in 50 countries to help people to work their way out of poverty. Tearfund works with 90,522 churches worldwide and have helped tens of millions of people out of poverty.