

## WORSHIP

Worship is about showing love, reverence and respect for God  
**LITURGICAL** worship is a form of formal worship which follows a set pattern

**NON-LITURGICAL** worship is less formal. Services are planned to fit a theme, but there is still a basic structure

**INFORMAL** worship for example Quaker services where people spontaneously share prayers or thoughts

**PRIVATE** worship is when an individual spends time with God praying or reading the Bible

## PRAYER

- Prayer is communicating with God
- They may be set prayers or individual
- There is no 'one way' to pray
- Prayer is important for personal strength and bonding as a community
- Jesus taught the LORDS PRAYER to show his disciples how to pray
- It reminds them God is the FATHER of all Christians
- It reminds them that they must forgive to be forgiven

## COMMUNION A.K.A EUCHARIST A.K.A MASS

Uses bread and wine to remember the sacrifice of Jesus  
It is celebrating the great love God has for his people by sending Jesus  
It is an act of collective worship and brings believers together  
Money is usually collected and used to help the poor  
In the CATHOLIC CHURCH it is believed the bread and wine literally becomes the blood and body of Christ  
The Priest blesses the food and gives it to the congregation

## PILGRIMAGE

A journey to a place of religious significance e.g. Iona or Lourdes  
Brings believers closer to God  
Express sorrow for sin      Experience a Holy place

## COMMUNION IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The priest blesses the food / The Lord's Prayer is said  
The vicar distributes the bread and wine  
Not all Christians believe the bread and wine becomes the body and blood of Christ

## THE SACRAMENTS RITUALS WHICH ARE THE OUTWARD SIGNS OF AN INWARD CHANGE WHICH COMES THROUGH GOD

### BAPTISM

- The formal acknowledgement of entry into the church
- Some Christians are baptised as babies
- INFANT baptism promises are made on behalf of the child
- Sins are washed away
- A candle is passed around

### BELIEVERS BAPTISM

- Older children and adults
- Make promises for themselves
- The ritual varies but usually people are immersed in water
- Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by his cousin John the Baptist

## THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

### FOOD BANKS

- The church is more than the building; it is the collective effort of Christians
- Often the church goes out to help those most in need
- Many Christians set up or help at food banks like the TRUSSELL TRUST
- Helping at food banks is a way of following Jesus' teaching in the parable of the sheep and the goats

### STREET PASTORS

- **AGAPE** - The Christian idea of showing love to all people
- Christians should meet the needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable such as the homeless, young people and those caught up in gang activity
- Street pastors go out into community and care for people in a practical way. For example going out at night to help people who are vulnerable, listening to people, going into schools, praying for the vulnerable

## FESTIVALS

### CHRISTMAS

- Remembers the birth of Jesus
- Celebrations last around 10 days
- Lights represent Jesus as the light of the world
- Children act out nativity plays
- Midnight Mass takes place on Christmas Eve
- Cards and gifts are exchanged as a demonstration of peace and goodwill
- Christians often give to charity

### EASTER

- The most important Christian festival
- Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead
- Holy week remembers the events that lead to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross
- On EASTER SUNDAY churches are filled with flowers and special hymns are sung
- They walk around the darkened church with lighted candles representing the empty tomb
- The priest announces "Christ is risen"
- The congregation reply "He is risen indeed"
- Eggs are often exchanged as a symbol of new life

## GROWTH OF THE CHURCH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

- The primary mission of the church is to send the message that Jesus came to restore the bond between people and God.
- This is referred to as RECONCILIATION
- Christians around the world work to encourage reconciliation for example the statue in Coventry Cathedral shows how Christians promoted peace after WWII.
- Despite this Christians are often PERSECUTED
- The church encourages reconciliation between Christians and those of other faith

### CHURCH GROWTH

- There are between 1.5 and 2 billion Christians
- However not all of these attend church
- In some areas like Africa the church is growing but has decreased in some places in Europe
- Christ for all nations aims to spread Christianity in Africa
- Discipleship is the Churches mission of sharing the message of Jesus
- It also means to educate converts on how to follow Jesus

### MISSION

- The spreading of the good news of God to non-believers
- Jesus told his disciples to "MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS"
- Many Christians feel they have the responsibility to spread their faith. They are called **MISSIONARIES**

### EVANGELISM

- Evangelists preach the word of God
- They promote Christianity
- The alpha course uses evangelism because they believe they have a mission to spread the word of Jesus

### CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION PERSECUTION is a form of discrimination

- It can range from being charged extra tax or attacks on their homes, families or themselves
- Many Christians believe suffering brings them closer to Jesus
- The Barnabas fund supports persecuted Christians. They believe if person suffers they all suffer