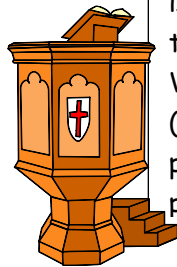


# Christian Practices Revision Guide.

## Places of worship:

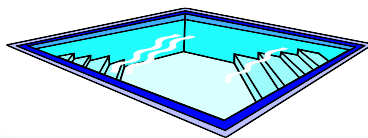
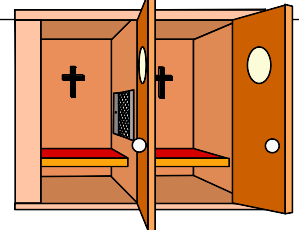


**Icon:** Described by Orthodox (strict) Christians as a window to God. "An earthly copy of a heavenly image."



**Pulpit:** The sermon is delivered from the pulpit. The Vicar or Pastor (for Baptist) will preach from the pulpit.

**Confessional box:** Used in Roman Catholic churches only. A person can confess their sins to a priest here - called the sacrament of Reconciliation.



**Baptistry:** Found at the front of Baptist churches and non-conformist churches only. People are immersed under the water like Jesus's baptism.



**Font:** Most common in Protestant and Catholic churches. Traditionally by the door to symbolise a person's entry/welcome into the Christianity. In Baptist churches a baptistry (pool) is used.

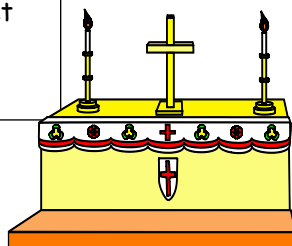


**Quakers - Meeting House** (not called a Church). Jehovah Witness- Kingdom Hall (not called a Church).



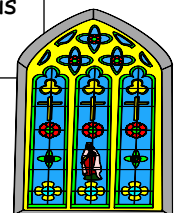
**Lectern:** Often in the shape of an eagle - to carry God's words to heaven. Used for reading the Bible, lessons, announcements and leading prayers

**Altar:** Represents being in the presence of God. The altar reminds Christians of the last supper. They take their Eucharist/Holy Communion at the altar. Quakers do not take Eucharist/Communion and they do not have an altar. They meet in a meeting house and sit in a circle to show everyone is equal.

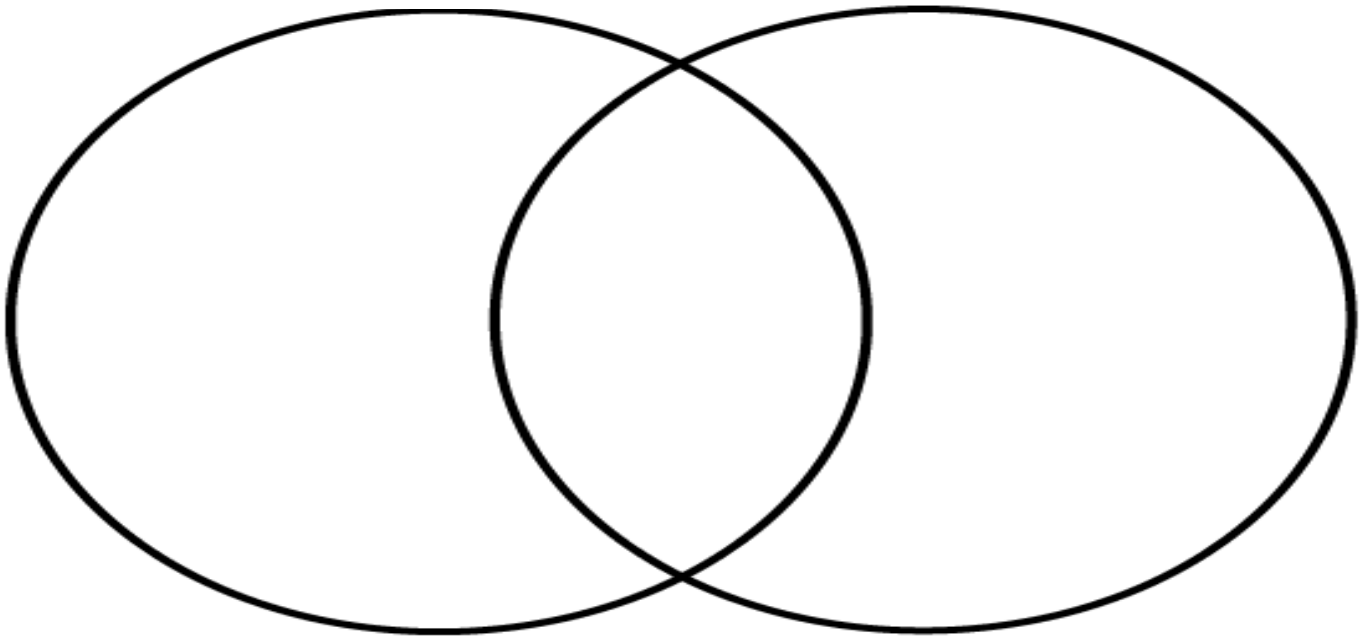


### Stained glass windows:

Show scenes from the Bible to inspire Christians. Some Baptist Churches do not have stained glass windows so that the focus can be on worship.



Places of worship similarities and differences:



**Liturgical worship:**

**Liturgical worship** is doing the same thing each week. There is an order to the service. Most religious services like this will have it all written down a special book called a liturgy. Usually seen in a Church of England or Catholic Church

'Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them.'

**Non-liturgical worship:**

Pentecostal Christians worship in this way. Christians who worship in this way will often feel that the Holy Spirit is entering them during worship. They may speak in tongues or complete laying on of hands.

'Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.'

<b><u>Liturgical Worship</u></b>	
<b>Pro's</b>	<b>Con's</b>

<b><u>Non-Liturgical Worship</u></b>	
<b>Pro's</b>	<b>Con's</b>

Does it really matter how you worship?


**7 Sacraments**

**Baptism:** Most Christian groups baptize infants. The Baptist Church does not. For Christians belonging to the church is like belonging to a family - God's family. Parents and godparents answer questions promising to guide and keep the child in God's faith. The priest says special words as he pours holy water over the baby's forehead 3 times - **'I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'** This is a sign that original sin has been washed away to begin a new life with God. A baptism candle is lit and presented to the child as a sign of Jesus **'the Light of the world'**.



The Baptist church (group of Christians) cannot see how a young baby can have faith, so they only perform adult baptism because belonging to God means you have made a conscious choice and have faith and can make a commitment to a totally new kind of life. Men and women wear white clothing as a symbol of purity for their baptism and cleansing ceremony. These baptisms are carried out in a pool (Baptistry) sunk into the floor of the church or some people even travel to the Holy Land to the River Jordan, the place of Jesus' baptism.



- As the person goes down to the water it demonstrated them leaving behind their sinful life.
- As the person is submerged under the water they are buried with Christ and so are dead with him.
- As the person rises from the water they enter a new life and the resurrection Jesus has promised.

### Eucharist or Holy Communion:

At the Last Supper Jesus revealed God's plan for him, that he would be betrayed and sacrificed on the cross. Jesus broke the bread and said **"This is my body broken for you, take and eat..."** Jesus took the cup of wine and said **"Drink, this is my blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins..."** Jesus said **"Do this in memory of me."**

Almost every denomination (type) of Christian church celebrates Holy Communion (Quakers & The Salvation Army do not have communion services). Some Christians do it every time they meet e.g. Catholics others, like Baptists, do it occasionally. Holy Communion is the worship of God, a remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice. Through this sacrament Christians receive God's grace (blessing). It is the worship of God, it makes people Holy and it strengthens and expresses their faith.



Roman Catholics believe- the bread (host) and the wine change completely into the actual body and blood of Christ. This change is known as Transubstantiation.

### Confirmation:



The candidates renew the promises made at their baptism. There is a rejection of all that is evil and a profession of faith.

Methodist, Baptist and some other denominations do not have confirmation services.

## Marriage:

Marriage is a union between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation, mutual support, or love. All denominations of Christians teach that marriage is intended to be a life-long commitment. The couple vow (make a promise) to God to remain married for life. The marriage is made by God and unites two people.

In the Catholic Church, however, marriage is more than this. Marriage was elevated by Jesus, when he participated in the wedding at Cana, to be one of the 7 sacraments. For Catholics it is a holy relationship that enables God to channel his love for the couple.



The Catholic church teaches that couples cannot be divorced in the eyes of the church.

*"A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

## Anointing of the sick:

For Catholics, the Sacrament is a ceremony which gives them spiritual comfort and often recovery of health. The reasons for this sacrament are found in the life of Christ who had a special care for the sick, he healed the lepers, the blind and the lame, and told his followers to show compassion and have the same concern.

*"Love your neighbour."*



The purposes of the sacrament are:

1. Spiritual comfort, the person receives God's grace (love and power) in the Holy Spirit.
2. Forgiveness of sins.
3. Strength and courage to accept illness. They may completely recover their health.
4. They will not be anxious about death, the fear is lifted and people often get well.

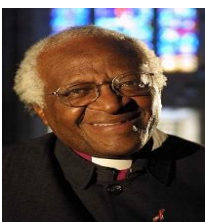
## Penance or Reconciliation:

Jesus wanted to show what God the Father is really like. He told parables (stories with meaning) one of which was The Parable of the Lost Son which shows God forgiving his son.

Catholics confess their sins (confession) to a priest and express their sorrow and promise to try not to sin again. The priest forgives the sin in God's name. This enables the person to reconcile themselves with God and to return to God and the Church. Roman Catholics must confess their sins at least once a year but the church encourages people to confess more often than this.



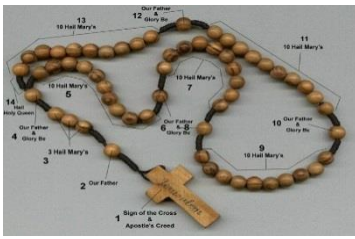
## Ordination



Ordination is when people are made deacons, priests or bishops. This is called a vocation. A vocation is when someone chooses to lead a life of service in response to God. They see it as their duty to dedicate their lives to the service of God and that is a gift to do so. According to the Bible the disciples left everything and followed Jesus. They became '*fishers of men*'.

**Prayer:**

'This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask him anything according to his will, he hears us.'



Prayers for Catholic's are most likely to be formal. Often it is encouraged to use certain items to focus your prayers.

These beads are known as **rosary beads** and are used to count off the prayers.

Christians believe God loves people and Christians trust God's love to do what is best. God knows us better than we know ourselves, and will answer our prayers in the best possible way. Jesus said that his followers must have faith to have their prayers answered. Modern Christians have faith that God will answer all prayers in a way designed for the long-term good of the person praying. They argue your prayer may not be answered in the way you expect because God has different plans

- **Prayer:** form of communication with God
- **Meditation:** quiet form of prayer
- **Rosary:** a string of beads with a crucifix used in prayer
- **Icons:** images that some Christians use to help focus on God during prayer

**Set or formal prayers**

- From a book or a service sheet
- Followed like a script
- Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church
- ✓ The congregation can pray together
- X Lacks spontaneity and less personal

**Informal (extempore) prayers**

- Informal or made up prayers
- No set pattern or structure
- Baptist and free churches like Quakers
- ✓ More personal style of prayer
- ✓ Less structured and can be done anywhere
- X Can't be said as a group as not scripted

<b><u>'Praying is the most important thing to a Christian'</u></b>	
<b>Agree points:</b>	<b>Disagree Points:</b>

## Pilgrimage to Walsingham:

In 1061 a widow called Richeldis, had a vision of the Virgin Mary. She said her spirit was taken to Nazareth to see the place the Angel Gabriel had appeared to the Virgin Mary and that she was told to take measurements of the house and build a copy in Walsingham (Norfolk).

- **Why do people go to Walsingham?**

Jesus himself went on pilgrimage, though not to Walsingham, when he was twelve with Mary and Joseph so people want to follow in his footsteps. Many Christians say that by praying, and trying to listen to what God might be trying to say to them is a way of finding out what he wants them to do in their lives. The Shrine at Walsingham, in the Holy House, has always been a place where Pilgrims say prayers for others. Many pilgrims who visit today light candles or leave names of people who need prayers.



- **What happens?**

Pilgrimages to Walsingham might include **Bromholm Priory to see a remains of the Holy Cross** or St William's shrine in Norwich Cathedral. A long procession follows Mary's statue as it is carried through the village into the Abbey grounds, where a huge open air mass is celebrated.



**The Mass**, the formal, official worship service of Catholicism, is the most important and sacred act of worship in the Catholic Church. The Mass includes the **Bible (Sacred Scripture), prayer, hymns, symbols, sacred food for the soul, and directions on how to live a Catholic life** — all in one ceremony. After praying and signing to show thanks to God Catholics have Holy Communion or The Eucharist which is bread and wine a symbol Jesus' body and blood. Bells are rung as a symbol of joy. The Mass ends with the priest blessing the congregation and sending them forth to spread the Word of God and put it into practice.



Visit the Slipper Chapel. It is now known as the Roman Catholic Church's National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Thousands of Roman Catholic pilgrims visit here each year to offer their prayers. There is a special statue of Our Lady of Walsingham (the Virgin Mary) in there. Back in medieval times pilgrims used to stop at the **Slipper Chapel to give thanks to God for a safe journey** and to have a rest. They would then take off their slippers/shoes before walking the last mile to the Holy House and Priory in the village. This mile became known as the Holy Mile and pilgrims still walk it to this day.



b) Explain why Christians visit places like Walsingham (5)


**Pilgrimage to Taizé:**

The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order (which means different types of Christians can be a part of it). They have a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Today Taizé is one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Each year tens of thousands of young pilgrim's flock to the small village of Taizé in central France. The community of monks that live there gather for common prayer three times a day. The style of prayer is highly meditative. Singing and silence play a large part. Prayer chants are sung in many different languages. Welcoming others has always been an essential part of Taizé life.

- **Visitors**

Throughout the summer months, thousands of young people, aged 17 to 30, come to Taizé to explore or rediscover their Christian faith. They will typically camp in the fields around the church and monastery, joining in the community's worship three times a day. They will also spend time studying the Bible, reflecting in silence and meeting in discussion groups.

- **Taizé worldwide**

As a sign of support, some of the brothers have gone to live among the most oppressed and poorest people of the world. Today they work in Africa, Asia, North and South America. The initiative began in 1962 when the brothers began visiting Eastern Europe to help those close to their own borders. In 1978 the community also launched the "pilgrimage of trust on earth", involving mass gatherings of young people and visits on every continent.

Taizé is still a place where all the different types of Christians can go, bringing together people from all denominations and cultures. It is a sign of hope in a divided world and its spirituality has brought new life to Christian churches throughout the world.

C) Explain why pilgrimage is important to Christians (8)

## Festivals:

### Purpose of festivals?

- † To remember important events in the history of the religion.
- † To confirm faith and strengthen belief.
- † To teach the children of the community and join the community together



### • Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus.

The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said 'God has blessed you.' She told Mary she would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a baby boy to be called Jesus. He would be called Jesus because it means saviour.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem for the census when they arrived they couldn't find anywhere to stay. An inn keeper offered them a stable and that is where Mary gave birth.

The Angel Gabriel appeared to some Shepherds and said 'do not be afraid. I have good news; a Saviour has been born for you.' The Shepherds travelled to see Jesus

A bright star shone over the stable and the Wise men followed it to visit the baby Jesus. After King Herod asked them where he was. He planned on killing all baby boys as he was fearful of a new King. An angel appeared to Joseph that night and warned him that they must leave Bethlehem.

### • Easter celebrates the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

**Palm Sunday**- Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds waved palm leaves at him, to welcome him as a king. Jesus spent these days in Jerusalem teaching about God, telling stories and performing miracles.

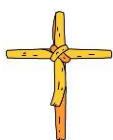
**Wednesday**- Jesus visited the Temple in Jerusalem and saw it was being misused. He got very angry.

**Thursday Evening**-Jesus had his Last Supper with the 12 Disciples. He told them that he was going to die the next day, and that they should remember him, with Bread & Wine.

**Thurs night/ Fri morning**- Jesus and the disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Judas betrayed Jesus, and he was arrested.

**Good Friday**-Jesus was taken to trial, in front of Pontius Pilate. He was found guilty of 'blasphemy' and sentenced to death, by crucifixion.

**Easter Sunday**-Jesus' mother & followers returned to the tomb, but it was empty. An Angel appeared and said that Jesus had risen.



Symbol of Jesus being crucified on the cross for all mankind.



It symbolises the meal Jesus shared with his disciples.



The paschal candle is a sign of the light of life.



This is a reminder of Christ coming back to life.



This is a symbol of a new beginning and cleansing of sins.



## Persecution:

When Rome was the greatest empire in the world, being a Christian was often seen as a crime. If you were a Christian in the Roman Empire, you would have been persecuted. Methods included: Crucifixion-Person is nailed to a wooden cross and left to hang there until dead. People would gather at the bottom of the cross, and shout and jeer at the 'believer'. Thrown to Lions-Christians were placed in an arena with no form of defence and ripped apart by wild animals, preferably lions. Sometimes they were placed in the arena and burnt alive. Set on Fire-Christians tied to a wooden post and set on fire - usually in forums (Roman market squares). Emperor Nero used some as 'human torches' to light his villa.



**Persecution today-** There are places where Christians must keep their beliefs hidden and where living the Gospel means facing beatings, imprisonment, discrimination and abuse. While North Korea remains the most difficult place in the world to be a Christian, persecution is growing most rapidly in Africa, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

### Open Doors is supporting those facing persecution by:

- Distributing Bibles and Christian resources.
- Training Christians and church leaders.
- Supporting victims of violence and disaster. In 2015, Open Doors served 403,007 people through community development projects.
- Taking every opportunity to highlight the persecution of Christians in over 50 countries worldwide - and on almost every continent.

*"But whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."*

*"If we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He will also deny us."*



**Open Doors**  
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

The ICTHUS (fish) symbol was used initially in Christianity as a symbol to indicate who it was safe to talk about Jesus without fear of persecution

## Christianity in the UK:

In January 2016 it was reported that the Church of England's weekly attendance had fallen to its lowest ever level-below 1 million. Attendance at evangelical (non-liturgical) churches has grown.

Christianity is a world religion and is growing successfully in other parts of the world. For example, Asia, South America and particularly Africa.

Churches are still important	Churches are no longer important

## Mission and Evangelism:

**'Whoever denies me on earth, I will deny before my Father who is in heaven.'**

A missionary is someone who goes out to spread the word of God. On their mission they evangelize. Evangelism is speaking to anyone anywhere about The Gospel.

Jehovah's Witnesses travel in pairs because Jesus sent out 72 pairs to spread the word of God and **'make disciples of all nations.'** Jehovah's witnesses aim to convert people in order to save their souls.



Mormon missionaries serve in pairs to teach The Gospel (stories about Jesus) and baptise believers. Most missionaries are under 25 and are sent by the church to serve in an area of need. Missionaries are unpaid and might be sent to spread the word on the streets or sent abroad to provide aid in countries like Africa.

**Why might mission and evangelism be challenging in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain?**

## Charity:

### **Tearfund**

Tearfund is a Christian charity committed to following Jesus where the need is greatest. They believe God has called them to serve those living in poverty, regardless of race, gender, nationality or religious belief.

Teachings such as 'love one another because 'love comes from God' inspires those working for Tearfund as they believe God hasn't given up on anyone and neither should they.



**Long Term Aid-** installing water tanks, building schools, supporting people to build their own businesses for a **more secure future.**

**Short Term Aid-** Shelter, assistance with hygiene and sanitation to prevent disease, food and fresh water.

### **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid follows the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love your neighbour and work for a better world. Jesus identified with the poor, excluded, weak, sick and oppressed. They follow teachings such as **'love your neighbour'** which influences them to support people in over 60 countries worldwide regardless of race or religion.



**Long Term Aid-** educate about HIV/Aids, provide tools for work and educate about more efficient farming methods.

**Short Term Aid-** provide hygiene kits, blankets and shelter.

## Ecumenical Movement:

The ecumenical movement aims to **unite** all Christian denominations; they hope that despite their different practices they can unite with common values.



**'Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them.'**

Key Christian Beliefs	What could an ecumenical church include?	What might it have to leave out?	What common value/quote do different denominations share on this issue?
Sacraments - baptism, marriage, Eucharist, confirmation, anointing the sick, penance/reconciliation, ordination			
Liturgical worship			
Non-liturgical worship			
Features in a church			
Holy days/festivals			
Charity work			
Mission and Evangelism			