

Christian Practices Knowledge Organiser

1) <u>Forms of Worship</u>	
Teaching	Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them"
Liturgical Worship	A set pattern with established rituals. They may use a set service book or prayer book. They will have very formal Eucharist services. (Roman Catholic/Church of England)
Non-Liturgical (Informal) Worship	No set pattern, greater spontaneity (People praying when they want, singing extra parts to song if they feel lead). (Evangelical and Quaker). Quakers will sit in silence and wait.
Individual Worship	Saying prayers or reading the Bible on their own. They may do this every day, can be at home or wherever they feel they need.

2) <u>The importance of prayer</u>	
Why Prayer?	Communication with God (builds a relationship) It's natural part of daily life May be in an emergency situation Jesus prayed to His Father (following his example)
Ingredients of a Prayer	Adoration (praising God) Confession (saying sorry) Thanksgiving (saying thank-you) Supplication (asking for things for yourself and others)

3) <u>The Lord's Prayer</u>	
What is it?	Jesus gave this prayer to his disciples when they asked him how to pray (It contains all the ingredients)
When is it used?	Often recited in a church together. Some individuals say it when they are anxious.
Why important?	Jesus used it. It is a selfless prayer. It contains all the ingredients of prayer. It is used in all Christian traditions.

4) <u>Sacraments</u>	
Sacrament	Sacraments are an outward sign of an invisible and inward blessing by God, for example Baptism and Eucharist.
Catholics	Catholics have 7 sacraments. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance (confession), Anointing the Sick, Holy Orders, Marriage
Quakers	No sacraments as they believe people know their own spiritual experiences with God.
Church of England	Baptism, (Confirmation for some), Eucharist but called Holy Communion.

5) <u>Baptism</u>	
What is baptism?	Initiation in to the Christian church family. It is a sacrament for Catholics and Church of England. Parents choose to have their child baptised and choose God-parents. Baptists believe in adult believers baptism where the person chooses to be baptised.
When does it happen?	Infant – babies have water sprinkled over their head at the font. Oil is also placed on the child to invite the holy spirit in to the child's life. God-parents guide the child in their life. Adult Believers Baptism – full immersion in a pool or sea, old life has died and new life has begun. They will give a testimony to explain why they believe in God. They are following Jesus' example as he was baptised as an adult.
Why important?	Welcomes the baby into the church. Removes Original Sin (Catholic/Church of England). Rite of passage. Adult baptism – following Jesus's example, "spiritual birth – born of water and the Spirit". Born again – new life.

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6) <u>Eucharist (Holy Communion/Mass)</u>	
What is it?	It is a service to remember the death of Jesus and includes bread and wine. It follows the example of Jesus during the Last Supper (meal with his disciples).
Catholics	The bread and wine turn into the Body and Blood of Christ after the priest has blessed them. This is called Transubstantiation. They call it Mass.
Church of England/Non-Conformist	The bread and wine are a symbol of the body of Christ. It is a memorial to Jesus. He said “do this in remembrance of me” to the disciples. They remember the sacrifice Jesus made through his death on the cross and the salvation they now have. They call it Holy Communion.
When does it happen?	For Catholics and Church of England they will do this weekly. Non-conformists may have it monthly and on special occasions (Easter and Christmas).
Why is it important?	Jesus said “do this in remembrance of me” Eucharist – means thanksgiving – It is thanking Jesus for his death on the cross and their salvation. It is a liturgical form of worship and an important part of the set pattern. It brings the community together when they share the bread and wine together.

7) <u>Pilgrimage</u>	
Pilgrimage	A journey to a sacred place, usually as an act of devotion.
Why?	Represents a Christians journey from Earth to Heaven Deepens their spiritual faith Obedient to God To receive a healing To re-dedicate their life to their faith To visit the places Jesus walked (Holy Land)

8) <u>Walsingham</u>	
Why?	In 1061 the Lady of the manor had a dream in which the Virgin Mary asked her to build a replica of the house in Nazareth where Jesus’ birth was announced. In 1150 a priory was built on the site. There is a shine here.
Why go there?	It commemorates the announcement of the birth of Jesus so it is special. It helps people connect with God. They will pray for themselves and others.
What happens?	They attend services in the priory and pray (light a candle). Mass is celebrated at midday each day. They will walk to the shrine. Some Catholics walk the last mile barefoot as an act of penance (asking for forgiveness – it reminds them that Jesus suffered when he walked to the cross barefoot)

9) <u>Taize</u>	
Why?	Roger Schutz founded a community in France in 1940 with monks from different denominations who came to live a simple life of communal prayer. It was a ecumenical group. They focused on peace and reconciliation.
Why go there?	Young people go for curiosity, adventure and to live a simple life (as a retreat). They will go to demonstrate their faith in God and to build their relationship with God as it is quiet and they spend a lot of time focusing on their relationship with God.
What happens?	They join the monastic community (live with the monks) they pray three times a day, pray a lot in private, attend bible study groups and help support the community through gardening etc.

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<u>10) Christmas</u>	
What is it?	Celebrates the birth of Jesus
What happens? Advent	Period of preparation (the month before Christmas day). A candle is lit every Sunday until the 25 th December when the middle candle is lit.
What happens? Nativity	Churches recreate the birth of Jesus through nativity plays. It helps teach the story of Jesus.
What happens? Christingle	Christingle services take place. There is an orange with a candle in it – it reminds that Jesus was the light of the world
What happens? Carols	Carols are sung about the events of Jesus' birth
What happens? Midnight Mass	Communion often takes place at midnight on Christmas Eve to mark the beginning of Christmas
What happens? Presents	Gifts are exchanged because Jesus was a gift to the world and the three wise men gave Jesus gifts upon his birth.
Why important?	Remembering the incarnation (Jesus was God in human form) Celebrates the birth of a saviour. His birth led to people being saved from their sins.

<u>12 The role of the Church in the community</u>	
Church	A place of worship, a social place and a community place.
Activities that can take place Worship	Prayer meetings, Sunday services, baptisms, bible study groups, Sunday school, funerals and weddings
Activities that can take place Social	Coffee mornings, youth club, crèche for babies, fetes, clubs (brownies, cubs) holiday clubs,
Activities that can place Community	Meals for homeless, fitness/slimming classes, foodbank, polling stations, emergency shelters, old people lunches.

<u>11 Easter</u>	
What is it?	The festival that remembers Jesus' death and resurrection.
What happens? Lent	Lent is the 40 days before. Remembers the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying. People often 'give up' something for Lent as a symbol of their spiritual preparation for Easter.
What happens? Maundy Thursday	It commemorates the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. They often have communion on this day. Sometimes the church will wash people's feet as well as Jesus did on this day.
What happens? Good Friday	The day Jesus' death is remembered. Often black will be placed on the altar to recognise the sadness. Often churches perform the passion play (Jesus last day)
What happens? Easter Sunday	Remembers the resurrection of Jesus and the empty tomb. It is the most important day for Christians. Easter eggs are given to symbolise new life.
Why important?	It remembers the resurrection of Jesus (power of good over evil) and it reminds Christians that they too will be resurrected and have a new life with God. It reminds them of the omnipotence of God. Death is not the end.

<u>13) Christianity in Britain</u>	
2011 Census	Christianity is largest religion (59%) Islam second largest (4%) Increasing – no religion 7% chose not to answer Decrease in people calling themselves Christians but Islam increased most.

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<u>14 UK Laws, festivals and traditions</u>	
Laws	In court swear on the Bible to tell the truth. Christian leaders sit in the House of Lords where laws are made. Many of the laws are based on the 10 commandments (Do not steal/kill) but not all (adultery) Sunday – still seen as a day of rest so Sunday shopping is restricted (10-4pm)
Festivals	The UK calendar is based on the Christian festivals (Christmas and Easter holidays). Schools celebrate and remember the Christian festivals. Religious cards are sent (although it could be argued we are becoming secular with festivals becoming more non-religious)
Traditions	Christian hymns are often sung at national events (sporting events). Many people choose to get their child baptised in a church. Weddings and funerals are often religious ceremonies (although more and more people are choosing non-religious legal ceremonies).

<u>15) Church Growth</u>	
UK	Decline in church attendance (Church of England and Catholic) and many churches have had to close (some buildings have been turned in to restaurants/coffee shops/nightclubs) Evangelical Churches have grown in recent years. Some enjoy the more lively worship.
New ideas	Some churches are holding services in coffee shops etc to encourage more people to attend.
World wide church	Christianity is growing in Africa, Asia, and South America.

<u>16) The importance of Mission, Evangelism and Church Growth</u>	
Evangelism	Preaching the gospel to others with the intention of converting them to Christianity.
How might they evangelise?	Sharing the good news with people in their everyday life. Preaching in the street. Giving out leaflets with a Christian message. Being a good Christian and living their life in the hope people will ask them questions.
Why evangelise?	Jesus told the disciples to go and 'witness' They believe people can be saved (salvation) and they want this for people. They want to share their good news.
Mission	Spreading the good news (the mission of the church is..)
Church Mission	To tell others the message of salvation and help Christians live a life of faith and to grow in that faith.

<u>17) Tearfund</u>	
What is it?	Christian charity that wants to end poverty. They help communities around the world escape poverty and disaster.
What do they do?	Provide emergency aid during times of disaster Develop long term projects (seeds/goats/medicine) so that they can help themselves. Develop schools or sports clubs to give children a safe place to live. Offer training and education to people to help them get jobs. Campaign to governments to end poverty.
Why important?	Campaigns against poverty Gives practical help to follow the actions of Jesus (treat others how you want to be treated/ agape/ love thy neighbour) It encourages self-help for the communities.

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<u>18 Persecution</u>	
Bible Told the disciples they would be persecuted	“Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you” “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you”
Bible – how should they respond to persecution?	“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” “Blessed are those who are persecuted for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”
Examples of persecution	Disciples – most were killed. Early Christians – eaten by lions Jesus – was a martyr – died for his beliefs.
Countries	North Korea and Iraq are examples of countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian. They are targeted, tortured and killed and so often hide underground.
Open Doors	Organisation that goes into countries where Christians are persecuted, they sneak bibles in, train leaders, campaign and protest to governments.

<u>19) Reconciliation/ The Ecumenical Movement</u>	
Ecumenical Movement	Churches working together (from different denominations) to promote Christian unity. They might share buildings, work on projects together, run conferences together. Formed the world council of churches.
World Council of Churches	Attempt to bring a common Christian witness across the world. They have a week of prayer every year for Christian unity. Work together in 110 countries.

<u>Practice Questions</u>	
a)	Define evangelism (2)
a)	Identify two ways that Christians might evangelise (2)
a)	Define sacrament (2)
b)	Describe the work of Open Doors (5)
b)	Describe how Christians have been persecuted (5)
b)	Describe ways the church is involved in its local community (5)
B)	Describe what happens at Easter (5)
b)	Describe what happens at Walsingham (5) Taize (5)
b)	Describe what happens during an infant baptism (5)
b)	Describe why prayer is important for Christians (5)
c)	Explain why the Lord’s Prayer is important for Christians (8)
c)	Explain from two traditions the different way The Eucharist is performed (8)
c)	Explain why Christians might support Tearfund (8)
c)	Explain the importance of baptism (8)
c)	Explain why some Christians might go on a Pilgrimage to Taize (8)
c)	Explain why the ecumenical movement is important to Christians (8)
c)	Explain from two different traditions ways in which they worship (8)
c)	Explain why celebrating Christmas is important (8)
d)	“Spontaneous worship is better than liturgical worship” Discuss (15)
d)	“Every Christian should be baptised as an infant” Discuss (15)
d)	“Every Christian should go on a pilgrimage” Discuss (15)
d)	“The Lord’s Prayer is the most important prayer” Discuss (15)
d)	“Baptism is the most important sacrament” Discuss (15)
d)	“Great Britain is a Christian country” Discuss (15)
d)	“Christianity is declining in the UK and doesn’t have as much influence on society anymore” Discuss (15)
d)	“All Christians should go out on to the streets to preach the good news” Discuss (15)
d)	“The ecumenical movement is the way forward for Christianity” Discuss (15)