**Christianity Practices revision guide**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Worship:** an act of religious praise, honour or devotion. | |
| Why worship? | To thank God for blessings, ask for forgiveness, seek help for themselves or others, gain strength or to live a more Christian life. |
| Liturgical worship | A church service that is in a set text or ritual. |
| Non-liturgical | A church service that does not follow a set text or ritual. |
| Private worship | When a believer praises or honours God on his or her own. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Prayer:** communication with God, either silently or through words of praise, thanksgiving or confession, or requests for God’s help or guidance. | | **Lord’s prayer** |
| Set prayers | Prayers that have been written down and said more than once, by more than one person, for example the Lord’s prayer. | Our Father in Heaven, hallowed by your name.  Your kingdom come, your will be done,  On earth as in heaven.  Give us this day our daily bread.  Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,  Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen |
| What is prayer? | * Could be in a humble position, kneeling down, maybe with hands pressed together. * Catholics may use a rosary * Orthodox use icons * God may not answer in the way you might wish |
| Importance | * Attending public services * Gives strength in times of trouble * Mediation to find peace |
| Lord’s prayer | * Pattern of praise and asking for one’s needs * Reminder of key Christian teachings * Used by the whole Christian community, at all rites * Many people in the UK know it * Brings unity and spiritual purpose |

|  |
| --- |
| **Sacraments**: rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift of grace for Catholics, Anglicans and many protestants, sacraments are ‘outward signs’ of ‘inward grace’. |
| They are a symbolic action, words and physical elements such as water in baptism or bread and wine in Holy communion. They are special rituals that help to strengthen relationships with God. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sacraments: Baptism** | |
| Baptism | * Initiation into the church, becoming church members. * Forgiveness of sins * Following the example of John the Baptist * A way to receive the Holy Spirit. |
| Infant baptism | * Some believe that all children are born with the original sin and baptism cleanses this. * The infant is welcomed into the church, with Godparents to support. * Rites may vary. ‘I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit’ and water is placed on the babies head. * A cross is drawn on the head, with oil. * The child is often dressed in white. * A candle is lit from the Paschal candle (large, blessed each year at Easter). |
| Believer’s baptism | * Other Christians believe that children are too young to understand the meaning of baptism. * They believe that Baptism should take place, once a mature decision can be made. * It often involves full immersion in water, symbolising cleansing sin and rising up to a new life with Christ. * Bible passages maybe read and the believer may talk about their reasons for baptism. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sacraments: Holy Communion:** A service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine; also called the Eucharist, Mass, Lord’s Supper, the Breaking of Bread and Divine Liturgy. | |
| What is Holy Communion? | * Celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus and is a significant service. * Give thanks to God for his great love by sending Jesus to enable humans to experience God’s love. * Its meaning is interpreted differently depending on the denomination. * Roman Catholic’s believe the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus by divine miracle. * Christians believe it brings them closer to God. |
| Impact | * Centre of live and worship. * They believe they are receiving God’s grace. * Brings believers together in unity. * Give support and encouragement. * Everybody is equal, as they come together. * Reminds them of the people in the world who are suffering. |
| Divine Liturgy | * Recreates heaven on earth. * Much of the service takes place behind a screen, which symbolises the divide between heaven and earth. * The church is filled with incense and candles to help people feel God’s presence. * There are hymns, readings from the Bibles, the priest chants the Gospel. * The creed and Lord’s Prayer are given. * Bread and wine is distributed between the people. |
| Catholic mass | * Three readings from the Bible are read. * Prayers are said for the church, world, local community, sick and dead. * Offerings of bread and wine are taken to the altar. * Lords prayer is said together. * Sign of peace is shared |
| Anglican Church | * Almost identical to the Catholic mass. * Peace is shared at a different point. |
| Non-Conformist | * Prayer of thanksgiving. * Bible readings and a sermon given. * Congregation prays for the world. * Open table, were communion is taken. * Encouraged to go out and serve God. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pilgrimage**: A journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons, pilgrimage in itself an act of worship and devotion. | |
| What is pilgrimage? | * Pilgrims may visit the Holy Land, particularly Jerusalem, to see where Jesus lived. * They may visit shrines connected with saints. * Others may wish to go somewhere quiet to reflect. |
| Role and importance | * Grow closer to God and strengthen faith. * Express sorrow for sin and be forgiven * Reflect upon their lives, when facing crisis or a big decision. * Cure for an illness * Helps others in need * Experience a holy place. * Meet others who share their faith. |
| Lourdes | * South of France, dedicated to Mary, mother of Jesus. * In 1858, Bernadette had visions of Mary, they prayed on the Rosary together and Mary told her the spring had healing powers. * Many pilgrims pray and recite the rosary together and to bath in the water. * It is claimed that 67 miracles and over 600 cures have happened. |
| Iona | * A monastery was set up on an island off the west coast of Scotland. * It is seen as a plan where the veil between the spiritual world and physical world is thin so God’s infinite power can be felt. * Daily services are held in the church and workshops on Christian themes take place. * There is also time for reflection and |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Festivals: a day or period of celebrations for religious reasons | |
|  | * Help remember major events * Christians follow the same festival cycle each year. |
| Christmas | * Commemorates the incarnation of Jesus, the belief that God became human. * Lights represent Jesus being light of the world. * The nativity shows, Jesus was born into poverty. * Carol Services and Bible readings remember God’s promise. * It is seen as a time of peace and goodwill. |
| Easter | * Is the most important Christian festival. * Holy week, remembers the events that happen leading to Easter. * Jesus was crucified on ‘Good Friday’ and placed in the tomb. * Churches are filled with flowers and hymns are sung. * Orthodox go to Church at midnight, with lamps. The Priest announces Christ is risen. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Role of the church in the community | |
| What is Church? | * Assembly of gathering of people. * Original church did not have a building. * Groups of people under the leadership of Jesus. |
| What does the Church do? | * Location to meet, worship, pray, obtain spiritual guidance and socialise. * Prayer meetings, Bible studies, toddler groups or youth clubs. * Social services such as schooling and medical care. More modern is food banks * Showing compassion for those in need * In Coventry, Churches open over the winter months as shelters for the homeless. |
| Trussell Trust | * Foodbank set up in 1997 to help those in need. * Based upon the Christian teachings and the Parable of the Sheep and Goats. * They work to end poverty. * Non-perishable food is donated and shared with people identified as having a need. |
| Oasis Project | * A community hub with an internet café, creative courses, job club, training and a base for meetings. * It also runs a food bank. |
| Local Community | * Parable of sheep and goats shows that Christians should help those in need. |
| Street pastors | * Original main aim was to challenge gang culture. * They support people who are vulnerable, wearing a uniform. * They listen to people’s problems, give guidance and discourage anti-social behaviour. |
| Parish Nursing | * Supports wellbeing * Identifies health problems early. * Volunteers support in time of crisis, supporting NHS. * Encourage healthy living |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Place of mission**: the vocation or calling of a religious organisation or the individual to go out into the world to spread their faith. | |
| **Place of evangelism:** spreading the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness. | |
| Place of mission | * Spread the word of Jesus   *“Go and make disciples of all Nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* Matt 28:19-20   * Could be through ordinary life or organised events or preaching. * Some might go to other countries and do humanitarian work to help the poor or disadvantaged. |
| **Great Commission:** Jesus instruction to followers that they should spread his teachings to all nations of the world. | |
| Alpha-Course | * First aim was to help people understand the basics of Christian faith. * Soon it evolved into helping people discover more about Christianity. * Take place in Churches, homes, universities, workplaces. * Millions of people have taken part in the courses. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Church growth | |
| Christian numbers | * Estimates of up to 2.5 billion Christians in the world. * Christian faith is growing across the world. |
| Christ for all Nations | * Organised open air meetings which attract thousands of people. * Books have been translated into 123 languages and 200 million printed |
| Discipleship | * Training new disciples * Inviting people to meetings, prayer, advertising, using the media (TV, Facebook, Twitter, newspapers and magazine), fellowships meals and social events. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Importance of the worldwide church** | |
| **Reconciliation:** a sacrament in the Catholic Church; also the restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down. | |
| Reconciliation | * Christians believe that when Jesus died and rose again he saved humans from sin. * Church has a role to restore relationships with God. * Coventry is seen as a city of reconciliation and the Cathedral works for reconciliation around the world. |
| **Persecution**: hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs. | |
| Persecution | * Christians are persecuted around the world. * They might be forced to pay extra tax, be stopped from certain jobs, not allowed to build churches, have their homes attacked and even murder. * Early Christians were persecuted. |
| Corrymella | * The community seeks to provide harmony and reconciliation. * People from different backgrounds work together. * It aims to move away violence and distrust. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Christian persecution** | |
| Respond | * Persecution can help develop faith and strengthen conviction as believers. * Jesus suffered too. * *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” Romans 12:21* * *“if someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek as well” Matthew 5:39* |
| Pastor Baber George | * Was imprisoned for being in a gang and converted to Christianity. * He set up new Churches and helped the poor. * He upset Muslims, that lived around him. * He fled for his life, and was supported by Christians. |
| Supporting | * “if one part suffers, every part suffers” I Corinthians 12:26 * Church campaigns to support Christians |
| Barnabas Fund | * Helps Christians who are suffering, discrimination, oppression and persecution and raise awareness. |
| Christian Solidarity Worldwide | * Is a Christian Human Rights organisation that campaigns for religious freedom. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Christian response to world Poverty | |
| Why help? | * Following the example of Jesus. * “it is easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter heaven” * Parable of the Rich man, saw him being in hell for not helping a beggar * Jesus helped outcasts, such as lepers, mentally ill, sinners and tax collectors. |
| CAFOD | * To bring compassion to all people in poor communities. * Increase access to clean water, education and healthcare. * Lobbies governments |
| Christian Aid | * Official relief charity for 41 denominations. * Stop poverty and provide emergency relief. * Fairtrade, climate change and justice * May is Christian Aid month |
| Tearfund | * Also known as Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund * Following the example of Jesus, help those who has experience disaster. * Churches hold fundraising events to free people from poverty. |