

GCSE Ethics and Society Christianity – Living the Christian Faith

Christian Worship-

- Worship is important because it helps believers express love for God.
- It can be liturgical, non-liturgical, or individual.
- There is a great amount of variety in worship both among and within denominations.

The Sacraments-

- The sacraments are significant Christian ceremonies, which have been recognised by the church.
- The Catholic and Orthodox Churches recognise seven sacraments, the Church of England recognises two (baptism and the Eucharist) and some churches do not officially recognise anyone.

Prayer-

- Prayer can be set, informal or private.
- There are prayers for different purposes, and believers differ in their views on the importance of certain types of prayer.

Pilgrimage-

- Pilgrimage has a very long history and is still important today.
- Jerusalem, Iona, Taizé and Walsingham are important pilgrimage sites.
- Pilgrimage helps believers to understand more about God and their faith.
- It can give believers a strong religious or spiritual experience.

Christmas celebrations-

- Christian celebrations include Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter.
- These celebrations help believers to remember the importance of events in Jesus' life.
- They also help believers to feel closer to God and understand more about their faith.

The future of the Church-

- Parish Churches are the centre of local religious life but they also welcome atheists.
- They preach the Christian faith and help the needy.
- They offer advice and special services for the important events in people's lives.
- The different denominations of the Christian Church are working together through ecumenism to create greater understanding with each other.

The worldwide church-

- The Christian Church seeks to have a positive impact on the world.
- It preaches the gospel around the world.
- It helps the needy and tries to influence debate on many global issues.
- It works for reconciliation.
- Many Christians around the world are persecuted for their faith.
- The Bible teaches that Christians must give **charity to those in need and Christian aid is the official Church charity for carrying out that work.**

Sources of Wisdom

1. "Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name." Matthew 6:9
2. "Go into the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15
3. "I will build my church." Matthew 16:18
4. "Give to the poor." Mark 10:21

Key Terminology

1. **Advent** A season of preparation for Christmas
2. **Alpha** A course by churches and local Christian groups which enables people to find out more about the Christian faith in a relaxed setting.
3. **Anoint** Apply oil to a person's head as a sign of holiness and God's approval
4. **Charity** Giving to those in need
5. **Christingle** A lighted candle symbolising Jesus as the light of the world, often carried by children in church celebration around Christmas time.
6. **Commodity** A useful or valuable thing which satisfies particular wants or needs
7. **Convert** To change from one set of beliefs to another
8. **Denominations** The name given to the main groups within the church
9. **Ecumenism** A movement that tries to bring different Christian denominations closer together
10. **Epiphany** A moment of suddenly revealing something surprising or great
11. **Equality** Treating people in the same way irrespective of differences such as sex, race, education, disability or sexuality
12. **Eucharist** : the ceremony commemorating the Last Supper, involving bread and wine; also called Holy Communion or Mass
13. **Evangelism** Preaching the gospel in order to attract new believers
14. **General Synod** The national group within the Church of England that debates issues relating to Christian belief and practice.
15. **Holy Week** The week before Easter
16. **Intercession** Prayers for those who are suffering
17. **Liturgical** A set form of worship, usually following agreed words
18. **Local church** A meeting place for local believers and the community of believers who gather there
19. **Mission** Sending individuals or groups to spread the Christian message
20. **Missionary** A person who preaches and invites people to convert to the Christian faith
21. **Non-liturgical** A form of worship which is not set
22. **Ordination** The appointment of men and women to professional ministry in the Church
23. **Outreach** An activity to provide services to people in need.
24. **Parish** A community of local believers within a particular denomination
25. **Pentecostalism** A Protestant movement that puts special emphasis on a direct and personal relationship with God through the Holy Spirit
26. **Pilgrimage** A journey to a religious or holy place
27. **Reconciliation** Restoring peace and friendship between individuals and groups
28. **Rites of passage** Events marking key stages in life
29. **Sacrament** An important Christian ceremony
30. **Sermon** A talk or teaching from a church leader
31. **Shrine** A holy place
32. **Spiritual gifts** Gifts given by God to believers e.g. Speaking in 'tongues', a special language
33. **Vigil** Staying awake at night in order to pray; also the name given to the celebration of a festival on the eve before the festival itself
34. **Worship** Believers expressing love and respect for, and devotion to God.