

Christian practices

Knowledge and revision checklist

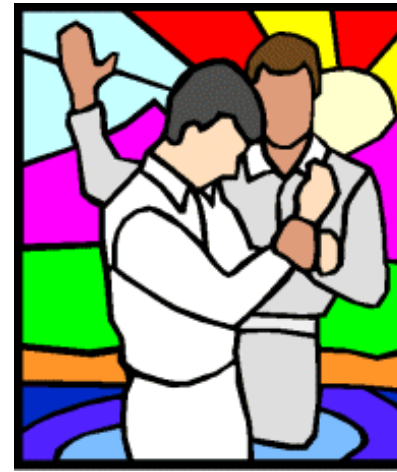
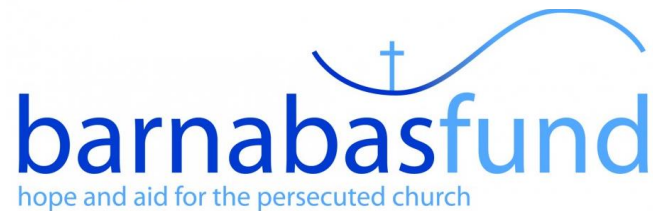
- Worship
- Prayer

Sacraments:

- Baptism
- Holy Communion
- Celebrating Holy Communion
- Pilgrimage
- Celebrating festivals

Role of the church in local communities:

- street pastors and food banks.
- Place of mission and evangelism
- Church growth
- Importance of the world wide Church
- Christian persecution
- Church's responses to world poverty.



World Council of Churches

Christian practices keywords

- ❑ **Worship:** is the act of religious praise, honour or devotion . It is a way for Christians to show their deep love and honour of God.
- ❑ **Private worship:** this is when believers praise or honour God in their own home.
- ❑ **Prayer:** is communicating with Go either silently or through words of praise, thanksgiving or confession or requests for God's guidance.
- ❑ **Informal prayers:** the se are made up by individual using his or her own words.
- ❑ **Sacraments:** these are holy rituals through which believers received a special gift if grace. Some denominations recognise seven sacraments others recognise less.
- ❑ **Baptism:** this is a ritual through which a person becomes a member of the church. It involves the use of water to symbolise washing away sin.
- ❑ **Infant baptism:** this is for babies and young children.
- ❑ **Believer's baptism:** is for people old enough or understand the significance of the ritual.
- ❑ **Holy Communion:** also known as eucharist. This is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection.
- ❑ **Pilgrimage:** is a journey made by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons e.g Lourdes or Iona.
- ❑ **Festival:** is a day or period of celebration for religious reasons.
- ❑ **Christmas:** commemorates the incarnation and the birth of Jesus. Celebration begin on 25th December and lasts 12 days ending on epiphany.
- ❑ **Easter:** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Celebrations begin before Easter Sunday and finish with the feast of Pentecost.
- ❑ **The Church:** is the holy people of God, also called the Body of Christ, among whom Christ is present and active.
- ❑ **A Church:** is a building in which Christians worship.
- ❑ **Food banks:** these give food for free to people who can not afford to buy it e.g The Trussell Trust or The Oasis Project.
- ❑ **Agape:** means love. Biblical word meaning selfless sacrificial and unconditional love.
- ❑ **Street pastors:** are people who are trained to patrol the streets in urban areas. They help vulnerable people by providing a reassuring presence on the street.
- ❑ **Mission:** is a vocation or calling to spread the faith.
- ❑ **Great Commission:** Jesus' instructions to disciples to spread the teachings.
- ❑ **Evangelism:** showing faith in Jesus by example or by telling others e.g Alpha.
- ❑ **Converts:** people who decide to change their religious faith.
- ❑ **Persecution:** means hostility and ill treatment.
- ❑ **Reconciliation:** restoring harmony after relationships have broken down e.g World Council of Churches and Corrymeela Community.



- Worship**
- ❑ **Worship:** is the act of religious praise, honour or devotion . It is a way for Christians to show their deep love and honour of God.
 - ❑ **Private worship:** this is when believers praise or honour God in their own home.
 - ❑ **Collective worship:** offers opportunity for Christians to meet, explore issues, think through questions and worship God together.

Why do Christians worship?

- To praise and thank God
- To ask for forgiveness
- To seek God's help for themselves and others
- To deepen their relationship with God and strengthen faith

Prayer

- ❑ **Prayer:** is communicating with Go either silently or through words of praise, thanksgiving or confession or requests for God's guidance.
- ❑ **Informal prayers:** the se are made up by individual using his or her own words.
- ❑ **Lord's Prayer:** this is a prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples.

Why is prayer important?

- Encourages reflection in the our busy lives
- Enables Christians to talk and listen to God
- Provide strength in difficult times
- Gives a sense of peace
- Helps Christians to accept God's will even if it means suffering
- Helps keep a close relationship with God

Lords Prayer

Christians see it as a model of God prayer

Reminds Christians to:

- Forgive others in order to be forgive
- God is the father of the whole Christian community and can create a sense of community
- Used in worship and nearly always said at Holv Communion. baptisms. marriages and funerals

“ Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today 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 for ever. Amen. ”

The Lord's Prayer

Different forms of worship

Type of worship	What form does it take?	Examples	Why is it important for Christians?
liturgical worship is a church service that follows a set structure or ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • takes place in a church • priest leads the congregation and may perform symbolic actions • formal prayers with set responses • Bible passages are read out, there may be a sermon • music and hymns 	the Eucharist for Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worldwide set order for service that is familiar to everyone • ritual passed down through generations gives a sense of tradition • Bible readings follow the Christian calendar and teach Christian history and faith
non-liturgical worship is a service that does not follow a set text or ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • takes place in a church • often focused on Bible readings followed by a sermon • may also have prayers and hymns but there is no set order, the number and type can change from week to week 	services in non-Conformist churches, e.g. Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services can be planned and ordered to suit a certain theme • non-Conformist churches place an emphasis on the word of God in the Bible
informal worship is a type of non-liturgical worship that is 'spontaneous' or 'charismatic' in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community or house churches meet in private homes and share food • Quaker worship is mainly silent, people speak when moved by God to offer their thoughts or read from the Bible • 'charismatic' worship may involve dancing, clapping, calling out and speaking in tongues 	community or house churches, Quaker worship, charismatic ('led by the spirit') worship of the Pentecostal Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the style of worship in house churches is similar to the worship of early Christians • people can share readings and prayers and can take an active part in church by calling out or speaking without formal training • service may have an emotional impact with a feeling of personal revelation from God

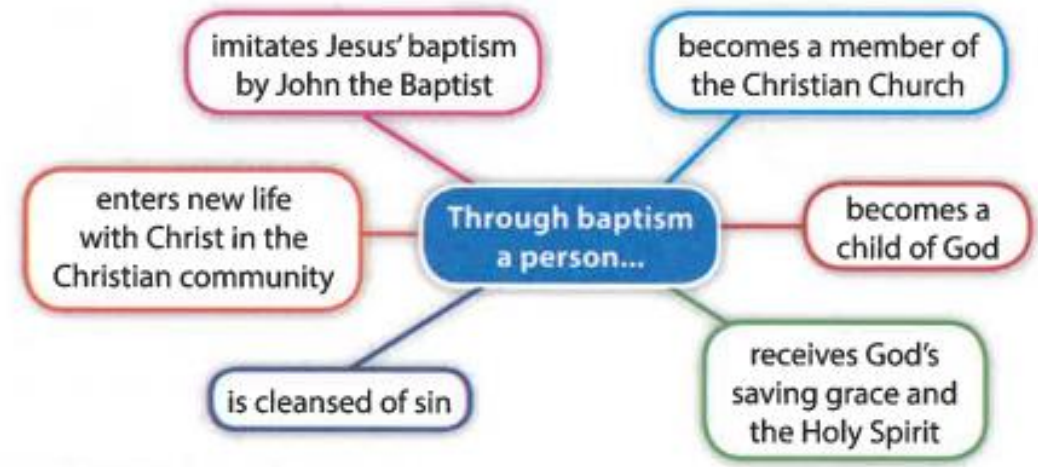
Baptism

☐ **Sacraments:** these are holy rituals through which believers received a special gift of grace. Some denominations recognise seven sacraments others recognise less.

☐ **Baptism:** this is a ritual through which a person becomes a member of the church. It involves the use of water to symbolise washing away sin.





Infant baptism: this is for babies and young children.



Believer's baptism: is for people old enough or understand the significance of the ritual.

Infant baptism and believers' baptism

	Practised by	Reasons why	What happens
Infant baptism 	Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, and United Reformed Christians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes original sin (Catholic and Orthodox belief). Allows the child to be welcomed into the Church as soon as possible. The parents can thank God for their new baby and celebrate with family and friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The priest or minister pours blessed water over the baby's head and says, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' Godparents and parents promise to bring up the child as a Christian. The child is welcomed into the Christian community.
Believers' baptism 	Baptists, Pentecostals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People should be old enough to consciously make a mature decision about their faith. The decision to live a life dedicated to Jesus is what saves a person, rather than the baptism itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person is fully immersed in a pool which symbolises cleansing from sin and rising to new life in Christ. When asked whether they are willing to change their lives, the person gives a brief testimony of their faith in Jesus. The person is baptised 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

☐ **Sacraments:** these are holy rituals through which believers received a special gift if grace. Some denominations recognise seven sacraments others recognise less.

☐ **Holy Communion:** also known as eucharist. This is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection.



Meaning of Holy Communion

- Holy Communion service which celebrates and gives thanks for the death and resurrection. It has different meanings for different Christians.
- **Catholic, Orthodox and some Anglicans** believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. This means Jesus is fully present in the bread and wine. This is a divine mystery that helps believers shar in the saving sacrifice of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- **Protestant Christians** celebrate Holy Communion as a reminder of the last Supper. They don't believe bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. Instead the bread and wine are symbols of Jesus sacrifice which helps believers to reflect on its meaning today.

Orthodox Divine Liturgy	Catholic Mass and Anglican Holy Communion	Holy Communion in the United Reformed Church
<p>Liturgy of the Word:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are hymns, prayers and a Bible reading. • The priest comes through the Royal Doors to chant the Gospel. • There may be a sermon. <p>Liturgy of the Faithful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priest receives wine and bread baked by church members. • Prayers are offered for the church, the local community and the world. • Behind the iconostasis, the priest says the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. • Most of the bread is consecrated as the body and blood of Christ. • The priest distributes holy bread and wine on a spoon. • Prayers of thanksgiving are said. • Unconsecrated pieces of bread are given to people to take home, as a sign of belonging to the Christian community. 	<p>Liturgy of the Word:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three Bible readings, a psalm and a homily. • The Creed is said. • Prayers are said for the Church, the local community, the world, and the sick and the dead. <p>Liturgy of the Eucharist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Anglican Holy Communion, people give a sign of peace to each other. • Offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar. • The priest repeats the words of Jesus at the Last Supper over the bread and the wine. • People say the Lord's Prayer. • In the Catholic Mass, the sign of peace is given at this point. • People receive the bread and wine. • The priest blesses people and sends them out to live the gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service begins with a hymn and prayer of praise and thanksgiving. • Bible readings and a sermon are given. • Prayers for the world and the needs of particular people are said. • The minister repeats the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper. • There is an 'open table' so anyone who wishes may receive Holy Communion. • Sometimes the bread is cut beforehand, other times it is broken and passed around by the congregation. • Wine is sometimes non-alcoholic and is usually distributed in small cups. • The service ends with a prayer of thanksgiving, a blessing, and an encouragement to go out and serve God.

The impact of Holy Communion

For many Christians, Holy Communion is at the centre of their lives and worship. It affects individuals, local communities and the wider society in a number of ways:

Individuals	Communities	Wider society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians receive God's grace by joining in the sacrifice of Jesus. • This helps to strengthen their faith. • They become closer to God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Communion brings the community of believers together in unity by sharing the bread and wine. • This can provide support and encouragement for those going through a difficult time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Communion acts as a call to love others in practical ways. • It encourages Christians to work for equality and justice for all. • Many churches collect money during the service to help support those in need, such as the poor or homeless.

Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is a journey made by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons.

Pilgrimage can give opportunities for:

- Prayer
- Worship
- Devotion

Why go on pilgrimage?

- Meet others of same faith
- Grow closer to God
- Strengthen faith in God
- Forgiven for sin
- Reflect on own life
- Seek cure for illness or disability
- Pray for something special

Places of Christian pilgrimage

Place	Significance	Activities
Lourdes (a town in France)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Mary is said to have appeared in a number of visions to a young girl called Bernadette. • Mary told Bernadette to dig in the ground, and when she did a spring of water appeared. • The water is believed to have healing properties, and a number of healing miracles are claimed to have taken place here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrims go to Lourdes to bathe in the waters of the spring, or to help other pilgrims who are ill or disabled to bathe in the waters. • Pilgrims also pray for healing or forgiveness. • They may recite the rosary together.
Iona (an island off the coast of Scotland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where St Columba established a monastic community in the 6th century AD. • The community now has an ecumenical centre where pilgrims can stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because it is quiet, peaceful and a place of natural beauty, pilgrims can spend time praying, reading the Bible, and reflecting or meditating. • Pilgrims can also attend services in the abbey church, take part in workshops, and visit the island's holy or historic sites.

Festival: is a day or period of celebration for religious reasons.

Christmas

Christmas: commemorates the incarnation and the birth of Jesus. Celebration begin on 25th December and lasts 12 days ending on epiphany.

- Lights:** represent Jesus as light coming into work of darkness.
- Nativity scenes:** show Jesus born into poverty
- Carol service: Bible reading remind of God's promise of a saviour and events of Jesus' birth/
- Midnight mass:** reflects the holiness of the night and the joy Christians feel at Jesus' birth.
- Christmas cards and gives: recall the wise men's gift to Jesus.
- Give to charity:** time of peace and good will as God gave humanity Jesus.



Easter

Easter: celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Celebrations begin before Easter Sunday and finish with the feast of Pentecost.

Holy week: week before easter Sunday remembering events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion including arrest and trial.

- Good Friday:** Jesus crucified . There are special services and processions lead by person carrying a cross.
- Saturday night:** some churches hold special services to celebrate resurrection. Orthodox Christians walk with candles in process then enter dark church as if they were going to Jesus' empty tomb. Priest announces 'Christ is risen' to which people answer. He is risen indeed'. Catholics and Anglicans have vigil that begins in darkness before Pascal candle is lit to symbolise Christ's resurrection. Ends with Holy Communion.
- Easter Sunday:** church are filled with flowers and special hymns are flowers and special hymns are sung to rejoice Jesus' resurrection. Services are held at sunrise and shared breakfast including eggs to symbolise new life.



The Trussell Trust

- Charity running over 400 food banks in UK
- Provides emergency food, help and support to people in crisis
- Non perishable food donated by Churches, supermarket, schools, businesses and individuals.
- Doctors, health visitors, social workers identify people in crisis and issue them with a food voucher



The Oasis Project

- Community hub run by Plymouth Methodist Mission Circuit.
- Provides internet café, creative courts, job club, training opportunities, meeting place and food bank.
- Spiritual and practical help is given to those in need because of illness, learning disabilities, domestic violence, substance abuse, low income and housing problems.



Importance of helping in the local community

- Jesus taught that Christians should help others by showing agape love towards them e.g. **parable of Sheep and Goats** teaches Christians they should give practical help to people in need.
- Helping in the local community by providing food banks and other services include **The Trussell trust** and **The Oasis Project**.
- Two examples of Christian organisations that provide practical help: **Street Pastors** and **Parish Nursing Ministries UK**.
- 'Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead' (James 2:17)

Church

- ❑ **The Church:** is the holy people of God also known as Body of Christ among whom Christ is present and active. is a journey made by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons.
- ❑ **A Church:** is a building in which Christians worship.

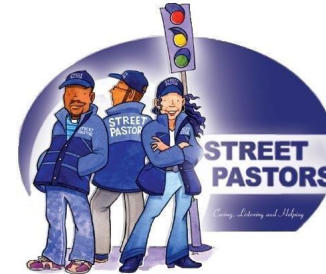
What does the Church do?

Individual churches:

- Educate people about Christianity e.g. Bible study.
- Meeting places for prayer and worship
- Activities for young people e.g. youth clubs
- Places where Christians socialise and obtain spiritual guidance.

The Church:

- Supports local projects e.g food banks
- Provides social services e.g schooling and medical care.
- Helps those in need
- Campaigns for justice



Street Pastors

- Initiative started in London in **2003** by the Christian charity the **Ascension Trust**.
- Adult volunteers are trained to patrol the streets in urban areas.
- Main aim was originally to challenge gang culture and knife crime in London.
- The focus then widened to respond to drunkenness and anti social behaviour and fear of crime
- Street Pastors work closely with police and local councils
- They listen to peoples problems and advise them on where they might get help and discourage anti social behaviour.
- Similar group called **School Pastors** was set up in 2011 to discourage illegal drug use bullying and anti social behaviour in schools.

Parish Nursing Ministries UK

- Christian charity that supports whole person health care through local church.
- Provide churches with registered parish nurses who promote wellbeing in body, mind and spirit among community.
- Nurse help provide early diagnosis of health problems.
- They train and coordinate volunteers to help combat loneliness or provide support during times of crisis.
- Gives additional help to the NHS.
- Encourage exercise and to have good diet.
- Focus on whole person including listening if asked and also direct people to specific services if needed.

Great Commission: Jesus' instructions to disciples to spread the teachings.

- Jesus gave a *Great Commission* to his disciples to spread the world of the *Gospel* and make disciples of all nations through **baptism**.
- **Baptism:** this is a ritual through which a person becomes a member of the church. It involves the use of water to symbolise washing away sin.
- Holy spirit at Pentecost gave the disciples the gifts and courage needs to carry out the great commission.

- **ALL** Christians have a duty to spread the gospel and tell others of their faith.
- Some Christians become missionaries or evangelists.
- The aims of missionary work and evangelism are to persuade others to accept Jesus as their saviour and to extent the church of all nations.

Alpha

Evangelism: showing faith in Jesus by example or by telling others e.g Alpha.

- It was started in London by Anglican priest with the aim of helping church members understand the basics of the Christian faith.
- The course is now used as an introduction for those interest in learning about Christianity, by different Christian denominations in Britain and abroad.
- Organisers describe it as an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. Courses are held in homes, workplaces, universities, prisons and churches.

Place of mission and evangelism

□ **Mission:** is a vocation or calling to spread the faith.

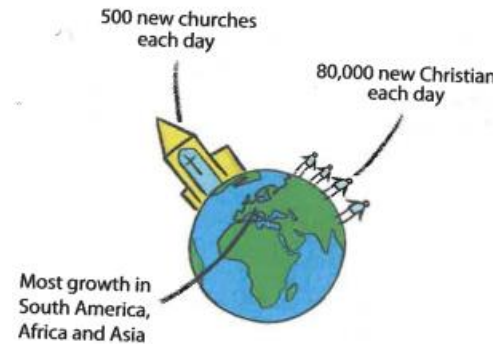
□ **Great Commission:** Jesus' instructions to disciples to spread the teachings.

□ **Evangelism:** showing faith in Jesus by example or by telling others e.g Alpha.

□ **Converts:** people who decide to change their religious faith.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them'. (Matthew 28)

Evangelism, mission and growth of the church.



Great Commission: Jesus' instructions to disciples to spread the teachings.

- Jesus gave a *Great Commission* to his disciples to spread the world of the *Gospel* and make disciples of all nations through **baptism**.
- **Baptism:** this is a ritual through which a person becomes a member of the church. It involves the use of water to symbolise washing away sin.
- Holy spirit at Pentecost gave the disciples the gifts and courage needs to carry out the great commission.
- **ALL** Christians have a duty to spread the gospel and tell others of their faith.
- Some Christians become missionaries or evangelists.
- The aims of missionary work and evangelism are to persuade others to accept Jesus as their saviour and to extent the church of all nations.

Growth of the Church

Converts: people who decide to change their religious faith.

- Growing rapidly in South America, Africa and Asia but **NOT** in USA, Europe or Middle East (where Christians have been persecuted)
- Church's mission is to make disciples not just new believers meaning new Christians are expected to spread the faith.
- **Evangelism** should therefore be followed by training for new **converts** in the way of following Jesus.
- Every Christian has a role in encouraging fellow believers.

They might do this in the following ways:

1. Advertising and using media such as Facebook, Twitter or Premier Christian Radio
2. Praying for others to accept God
3. Sharing what God has done for them and others
4. Inviting people to Christian fellowship meals, social events and meetings.

Worldwide Church

□ **Persecution:**
means hostility and ill treatment.

□ **Reconciliation:**
restoring harmony after relationships have broken down
e.g World Council of Churches and Corrymeela Community.



World Council of Churches

Working for reconciliation

Reconciliation: restoring harmony after relationships have broken down e.g World Council of Churches and Corrymeela Community.

- For Catholics sacrament of reconciliation also helps to restore peoples relationship with God
- Christians believe the humans were reconciled to God through Jesus' death and resurrection which helped to restore the relationship between God and humanity which was broken by sin of Adam and Eve (**original sin**).
- Sermon on the Mount teaches that Christians should be reconciled to each other
- Reconciliation is therefore an important part of the work of the Church.

This can be done by:

1. Restoring relations between individual people
2. Working for peace between different religious groups e.g Catholics and Protestants during the **Troubles in Northern Ireland**.
3. Working for peace between nations at conflict.

While we were God's enemies we were reconciled to him through the death of his son (Romans 5:10)

- The **Irish Churches Peace Project** brings Catholics and Protestants together in Northern Ireland.
- The project aims to develop peace and understanding between these two denominations.

- After the bombing of Coventry Cathedral in World War II, local Christians showed forgiveness to those responsible, and the cathedral became a world centre for peace and reconciliation.
- The cathedral is home to the **Community of the Cross of Nails**, which works with partners in other countries to bring about peace and harmony.

- The **Corrymeela Community** brings together people from different backgrounds, including people of different faiths or political leanings.
- They meet at a residential centre in Northern Ireland to build trust and explore ways of moving away from violence so they can work together constructively.

- The **World Council of Churches** works for reconciliation between different Christian denominations and members of other faiths.
- For example, the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace initiative supports inter-religious dialogue and cooperation.

Church's response to persecution

Persecution: means hostility and ill treatment.

What is persecution?

International Society for Human Rights estimates 80% of all acts of religious discrimination today are aimed at Christians.

This persecution happens around the world by particularly in countries such as

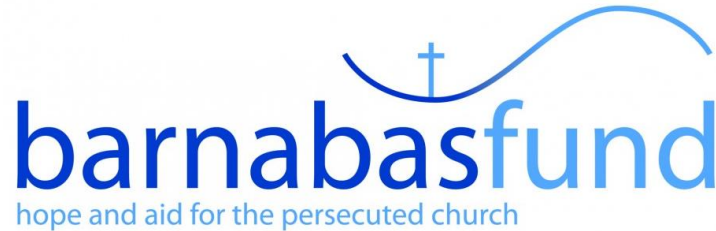
- North Korea
- Somalia
- Iraq
- Syria.

What might persecution involve?

- Being forced to pay extra tax
- Job discrimination
- Being forbidden to build churches
- Attacks on Christian homes. Churches and families including murder.

Ways the Church has helped persecuted Christians

- Christians have smuggled Bibles into the USSR (Russia) to strengthen and give comfort to persecuted Christians
- **The Barnabas Fund** sends money to support people persecuted for their faith
- **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** campaigns for religious freedom for all.



Some Christian Responses to persecution

Response	Supporting quote from scripture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For some Christians, persecution can have a positive effect, as it strengthens their faith and conviction. • It also allows them to share in the suffering of Jesus. 	<p>“I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings” (Philippians 3:10)</p> <p>This quote shows that one way Christians can get to know Jesus is by sharing in his suffering.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church believes it is important to act against persecution, by supporting persecuted Christians wherever possible and campaigning on their behalf. 	<p>“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26)</p> <p>This quote refers to the Church. It shows that helping individual Christians also helps the whole Church.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians are encouraged to show love and forgiveness towards their persecutors. 	<p>“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21)</p> <p>This quote shows that Christians should respond to evil with love.</p>

Church's response to persecution and poverty

Charity	Examples of their work
Christian Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports projects to encourage sustainable development. • Provides emergency relief, such as food, water, shelter and sanitation. • Campaigns to end poverty alongside organisations such as the Fairtrade Foundation, Trade Justice and Stop Climate Chaos.
Tearfund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with over 90,000 churches worldwide to help lift people out of poverty. • Supplies emergency aid after natural disasters and conflict. • Provides long-term aid to help communities become more self-reliant, such as education or new farming equipment. • Supported by donations, fundraising events and prayer from churches in the UK.
CAFOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with local organisations to train, supply and support communities to work their own way out of poverty. • Gives short-term aid such as food, water and shelter during conflicts and disasters. • Lobbies UK government and global organisations for decisions that respect the poorest. • Encourages Catholic schools and parishes to pray, give money and campaign for justice.

Church's response to poverty

□ **Poverty:** is about not having enough money to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter.

Ways the Christians help those in poverty

Christians help those in poverty because Jesus taught these was important in several different parables:

- **Parable of Rich Man and Lazarus** shows rich man who ended up in hell for ignoring beggar. Rich Man is told to give everything to the poor.
- **Parable of Good Samaritan** teaches importance of helping all people
- Jesus helped outcasts such as lepers, tax collectors and sinners.