

Christian community

Christians are part of a global community of more than two billion people. Christianity is the most popular religion in the world. When babies are born they are welcomed into the Christian faith from the very start. A new baby will be baptised/christened and give their Christian names. Christians attend Church as part of a community, usually for Sunday service. Sunday is the Christian day of rest, this is when Christians will gather to pray and sing hymns together. Children may attend Sunday school and whilst the service is going on, children will read Bible stories about Jesus' teachings and learn prayers. Christians will celebrate important festivals such as Christmas and Easter with friends and their community. Christians don't just share with others at festivals – a central part of being a Christian is to help others in the community all year round. Churches host youth clubs and Church halls are often used for community activities. Christians also volunteer at charities and collect for those in need.

Being made in God's image

Christians believe that we are made in the image of God, this affects how we see God, the world and one another. **Genesis 1:26-27:**
'Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.'

Key Vocabulary:	
values	Something that is important, worthy, or useful to an individual.
God's image	Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God.
dilemmas	A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives.
sacrifice	Give up (something valued) for the sake of other considerations.
commandment	A religious law, in particular one of the Ten commandments in the Bible.
prophecy	A statement that something will happen in the future: in Christianity, it is someone who can receive a message from God.
congregation	A group of people gathered in church to worship God.

What do Christians believe?

Christians believe that there is only one God, whom they call Father as Jesus Christ taught them. Christians recognise Jesus as the Son of God who was sent to save mankind from death and sin. Christians believe that there is a life after earthly death. While the actual nature of this life is not known, Christians believe that many spiritual experiences in this life help to give them some idea of what eternal life will be like. Christian values include;

- Grace: Giving people more than they deserve.
- Hope: a conviction that God is always present
- Peace: not just the absence of fighting but positive well-being
- Service: meaning is found in service rather than self-centredness
- Justice: for all (not 'just-me').
- And love, joy, and faith.

What do Humanists believe?

Humanists believe that human experience and rational thinking provide the only source of both knowledge and a moral code to live by. They reject the idea of knowledge 'revealed' to human beings by gods, or in special books. Humanism is a positive attitude to the world, centred on human experience, thought, and hopes. Key Humanist ideas are:

- There are no supernatural beings.
- The material universe is the only thing that exists.
- Science provides the only reliable source of knowledge about this universe.
- We only live this life - there is no after-life, and no such thing as reincarnation.

Human beings can live ethical and fulfilling lives without religious beliefs.