

What is the Trinity and why is it important for Christians?

Wonderful words

Trinity: The Christian belief that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; three in one

Holy Spirit: the third person of the Trinity; God's power on earth

Messiah: a saviour from God promised in the Hebrew texts

John the Baptist: Jesus' cousin, a prophet for told of the coming Messiah and who baptised people in readiness for this.

Believer's Baptism: a ceremony that welcomes a young person or adult into the Christian Church who has made the choice for themselves to become a Christian.

Father: the first person of the Trinity, who created everything

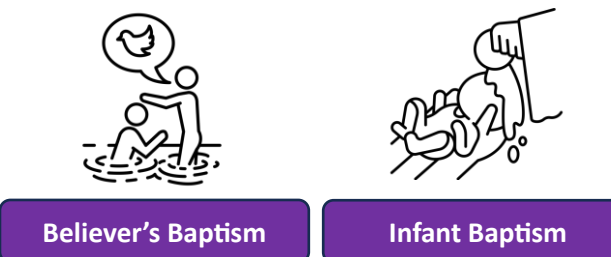
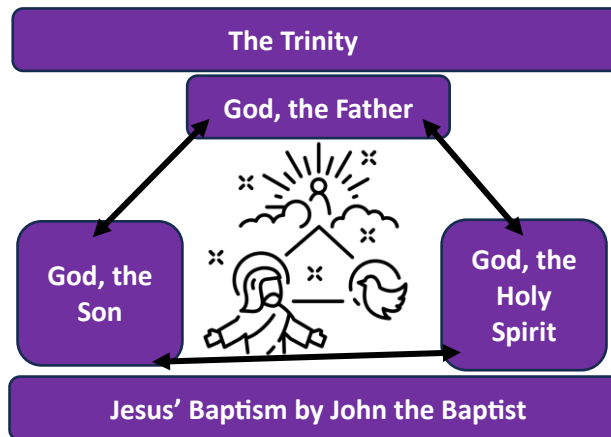
Jesus: The second person of the Trinity or the Son; God in the flesh

Scripture: the title given to the writings of Christianity, the Bible

Infant Baptism: a ceremony that welcomes a baby into the Christian Church

Denomination: a branch of the Christian church

So how does it all work?



Important information

At the time of Jesus many people were waiting for someone to come from God who would save them and to heal the rift between them and God and they called this person the **Messiah**.

Jesus' cousin was a man called **John the Baptist**. He told the people about the coming Messiah and baptised them, so they were ready for the Messiah's arrival. This is why he is called John the Baptist. The water symbolised the washing away of sin.

Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan to show that Jesus was the Messiah, and this story can be found in **scripture**. At Jesus' baptism a dove appeared, and God's voice was heard to say that Jesus was his son, and he was pleased with him.

These events show the Christian belief in the **Trinity**, a belief in God the **Father**, God the son, Jesus, and God the **Holy Spirit**. This is a very important belief for Christians.

When people join Christianity, they are baptised using water just as Jesus was. Different Christian groups or **denominations** will perform baptism differently. Some will have an **infant baptism** for a baby, and some will wait until a person can decide to become a Christian themselves and this is called a **believer's baptism**.

How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim?

Wonderful words

Prophet: a messenger sent from Allah

Muhammad: the Prophet who received Allah's message to the world.

Allah: God

Fasting: giving up food and drink for a religious observance

Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah to be made once in a life time if possible, this is the 5th Pillar of Islam

Qur'an: the Muslim holy book, for Muslims the final revelation from Allah

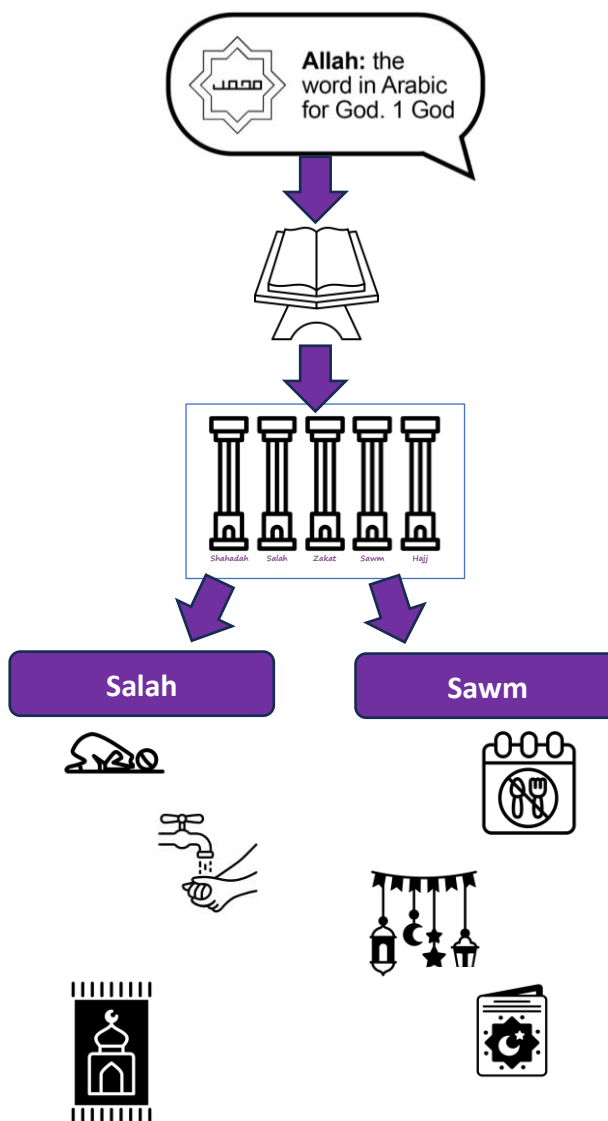
Salah: ritual prayer carried out 5 times per day, this is the 2nd Pillar of Islam

Shahadah: The Muslim declaration of faith. It includes the beliefs that Allah is the only God, and that Muhammad is Allah's messenger.

Sawm: fasting from food or liquids during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan, this is the 4th Pillar of Islam

Zakah: giving of charity usually 2.5% of income, this is the 2nd Pillar of Islam

So how does it all work?



Important information

The words Islam, Muslims and Salaam all share the same root SLM which means peace. Islam means to submit to Allah by trusting him with everything they have.

To help Muslims to know what to do they will read the **Qur'an** which was given to **Prophet Muhammad** on the Night of Power. The first chapter of the Qur'an tells Muslims all about Allah. The belief in the oneness of Allah is called tawhid.

This belief is also said by Muslims when they say the **Shahadah**, their statement of belief which is also the first of the Five Pillars of Islam. The pillars are actions Muslims try to complete to worship Allah.

One pillar is called **Salah**, and this is when a Muslim will pray five times a day facing the Kaba in Makkah. Another is called **Sawm**, and this is when a Muslim is **fasting** during the month of Ramadan, if they are able to.

Muslims will also give money to charity, and this is known as **Zakah**. This is 2.5% of their wealth and helps the poorest people in society. At least once during their lifetime a Muslim should go on a holy journey or pilgrimage to the city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia. All of the five pillars show that a Muslim is submitting to Allah by doing what he wants them to do.

For Christians, when Jesus left; what was the impact of Pentecost?

Wonderful words

Pentecost: the day when the Holy Spirit came to earth.

Holy Spirit: the third person of the Trinity, God spiritually active in the world

Disciples: the followers of Jesus

Lord's Prayer: the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to use.

Tongues: being able to speak different languages, a gift given to the disciples on Pentecost

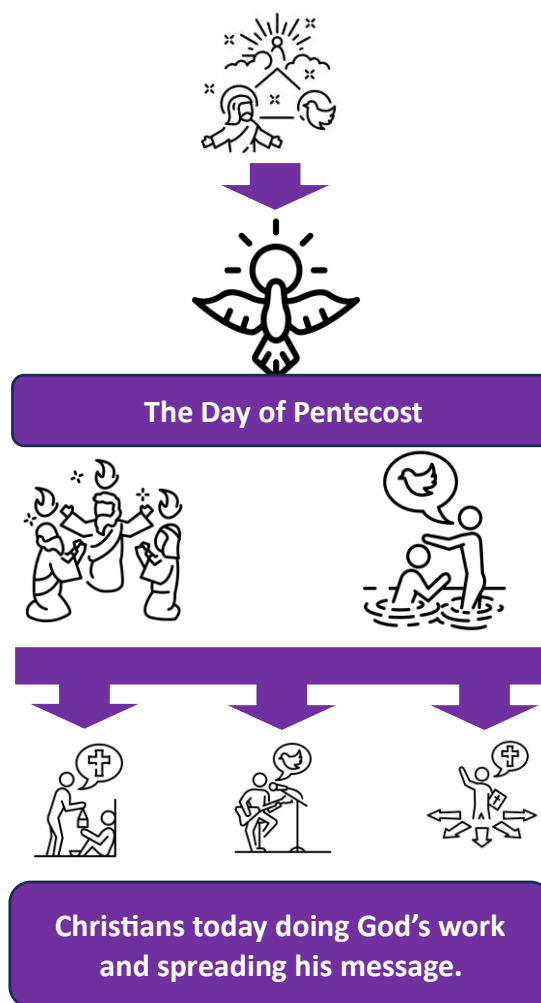
Acts: the book in the New Testament that contains the story of the early Church and the spread of God's message

Trinity: The Christian belief that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three in one

Apostles: the twelve followers of Jesus who went with him during his earthly ministry

Baptised: the act of washing that welcomes a person into the Christian Church

So how does it all work?



Important information

After Jesus' resurrection he spent time with his **disciples** and told them to wait in Jerusalem and then he went back to Heaven to be with God.

The book of **Acts** in the New Testament tells Christians about the events on the day of **Pentecost** when the **Holy Spirit** was received by the disciples, and this enabled them to speak in **tongues**. This amazed the people who saw it as the disciples were speaking the different languages of all the visitors in Jerusalem. This was important as the disciples could tell everyone about God and Jesus.

Many of the disciples who received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost were **baptised** to show that their sins had been washed away and they were part of the Christian community. After the day of Pentecost, the disciples followed the example of the **Apostles** and did God's work and spread his message of forgiveness.

Christians today follow this example and guided and supported by the power of the Holy Spirit to carry on this work and spread the message in the UK and around the world, just as the book of Acts tells people the disciples did.

The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the **Trinity**, a key Christian belief of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Why do Christians call the day that Jesus died 'Good Friday'?

Wonderful words

Salvation: being saved or rescued so that Christians are no longer away from God

Jerusalem: the city where the Jewish Temple was located.

Resurrection: Jesus' return to life after dying

Forgiveness: when someone is stopped being blamed or punished for something they have done

Crucifixion: the way Jesus was put to death by nailing him to a cross

Palm Sunday: the first day of Holy Week when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey

Disciples: the followers of Jesus

Sin: an act which goes against the God's laws

Easter: the Christian festival which remembers the resurrection of Jesus.

Calvary: the hill outside Jerusalem on which Jesus was put to death.

So how does it all work?



The Fall – God and humans are apart.



Holy Week



Salvation – God and humans are at one with each other.

Important information

The most important festival for Christians is **Easter** and it is a time when they remember the **crucifixion** of Jesus on Good Friday and his **resurrection** on Easter Sunday.

Holy Week is the title given to the last week of Jesus' life and begins on **Palm Sunday**. On this day Christians remember how Jesus entered the city of **Jerusalem** on a donkey. The events of Holy Week include Jesus and his **disciples** sharing a meal which is called The Last Supper, his trial, crucifixion and resurrection.

In the big story of the Bible, Christians believe that the Fall led to a split between humans and God and that Jesus died so that people would receive **forgiveness** for the **sins** they have committed. This belief is that Jesus' death led to the **salvation** of humanity so they can be with God as they were during the Creation and before the Fall.

Good Friday is called good because, by the act of Jesus being crucified on **Calvary** and by defeating death and being resurrected on Easter Sunday, he restored the relationship between God and humanity. His act of sacrifice although sad became good because Christians believe anyone can be saved and go back to God.

Wonderful words

Hindu: a follower of Hinduism, sometimes referred to as **Sanatan Dharma**, the eternal teaching

Brahman: a formless, ultimate reality, one energy or consciousness in the universe, the source of everything

Deity: Brahman channeled into different forms

Namaste: bowing slightly and putting hands together

Shiva: the destroyer of things so new things can begin

Aum: the sacred symbol that describes Brahman; the first sound of creation

Atman; the spark of Brahman in every living creature

Lakshmi: the deity of wealth and prosperity

Vishnu: the sustainer of all living things

Brahma: the creator of things who created the universe, people and creatures

So how does it all work?

Aum



Brahma



Vishnu



Shiva



Lakshmi

Important information

The **Hindu** tradition is diverse and ever changing and according to the 2021 Census, 1.7% of the population of the UK are Hindus.

The ultimate reality is known as **Brahman** who is the source of everything in the universe. The **atman** is a spark of Brahman in every living creature and the **namaste** welcome is a way of recognising the spark of Brahman inside every living creature. The **Aum** symbol represents Brahman but also the first sound in the creation of the universe.

Brahman can be found in many different forms, known as **deities**. For many Hindus the three most important deities are known as the **Trimurti**. **Brahma** is the creator deity who is responsible for the creation of the universe. **Vishnu** is the preserver deity who maintains the universe and **Shiva** is the destroyer deity so that new things can begin in the cycle of life and death.

Another important deity for Hindus is **Lakshmi**, at Diwali many Hindus will put statues of Lakshmi outside their homes in the hope that she will visit the home and bring the family good fortune for the new year.

How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people?

Wonderful words

Freedom: not being in prison or in slavery, being able to do what you want

Torah: the Jewish holy book made up of the five books of Law

Yom Kippur: the Day of Atonement

Orthodox: a group of Jewish people who follow the Torah without changing it as it is given by God

Pesach: called Passover in English, a time when Jewish people remember their escape from slavery in Egypt

Shabbat: a day of rest for Jewish people, the seventh day of the week

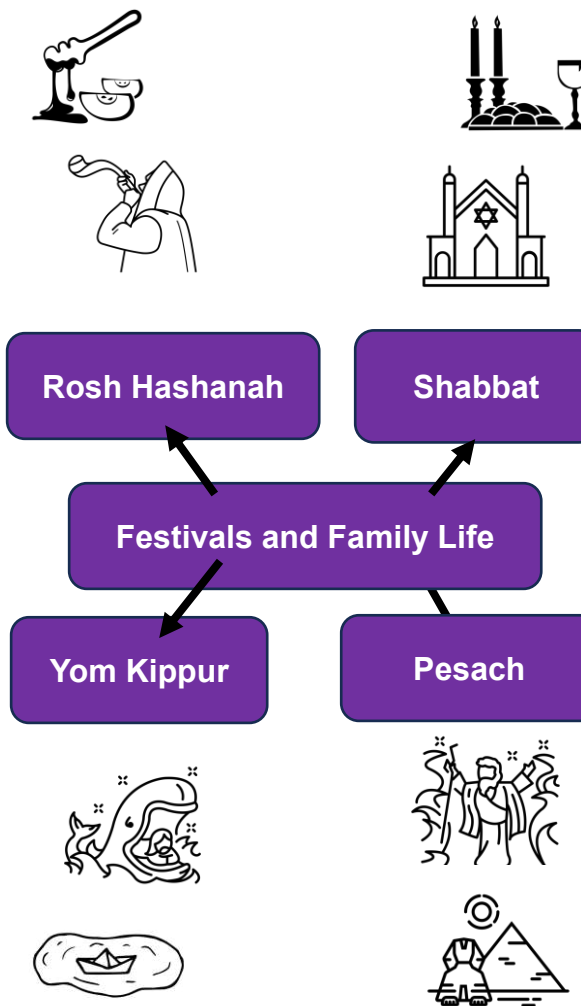
Rosh Hashanah: literally means 'Head of the Year' and marks a new year in Judaism

Shema: a Jewish prayer

Progressive: a group of Jewish people who take the Torah very seriously but will adapt the teachings for the present day

Forgiveness: when someone is stopped being blamed or punished for something they have done

So how does it all work?



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Important information

Jewish people will rest on **Shabbat**, the seventh day of the week because in the **Torah** they are told that as God rested on the seventh day of Creation, they should also do this.

The Torah contains the Ten Commandments, and the fourth commandment is to rest on Shabbat. In the UK today there are different groups of Jewish people, **Orthodox** Jewish people follow the Torah without changing and **Progressive** Jewish people will follow the Torah but adapt it to the present day.

Jewish people have many festivals to help them remember key events in Jewish history. **Rosh Hashanah** may be celebrated differently depending on where the family have come from, but for all Jewish people it is a celebration of the Jewish New Year.

Ten days after Rosh Hashanah is **Yom Kippur**, this is when Jewish people set aside a day to ask for **forgiveness**. Many Jewish people will fast on Yom Kippur which focuses on the meaning of the day. At the end of Yom Kippur, the final prayer will end with the **Shema** an important saying for Jewish people.

One of the most famous stories in the Torah is of Moses when he led the Jewish people to **freedom** from slavery in Egypt. This is the festival of **Pesach** which is remembered by a special meal.