

# Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE

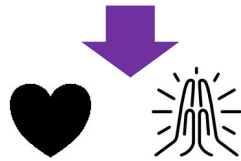
## Christianity concept map (KSI)

The Lancashire Syllabus for RE revisits key concepts in different contexts. For Christianity the three key ideas are God (creator and sustainer), Jesus (God incarnate), and the Church (a community of believers).



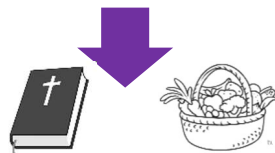
### God the Creator

Christians believe in one **God** who created the world and is active in continuing to sustain it.



### Christianity teaches that God is good.

For Christians, God is like a loving **father**. This means that they can talk to God through **prayer**. They believe that God is an active presence in their lives and in the world and so God can hear and answer their prayers.



### Christianity teaches that God created all things.

The Biblical book of **Genesis** teaches Christians that God made the world and 'saw that it was good'. Because of this, they believe that they should **care for the world** and be grateful for all that God has given them. Christians express thanks for **creation** at the festival of **Harvest**.



### Incarnation

Christians believe that God became incarnate in the person of **Jesus**. Christians are guided by his example and teachings as told in the **Gospel** accounts.



### The gospels teach that 'God so loved the world' that he came down in human form.

Christians believe that **Jesus is God** incarnate. The Bible says that he was born into a human family, but that he was recognised as **special** from the moment of birth. The story of his birth is celebrated at **Christmas**.



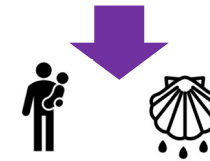
### Jesus is a source of hope for Christians.

Jesus is referred to as 'the **Light of the World**'. His birth is seen as a sign of hope for humanity. This hope is remembered during the time of **Advent** when Christians prepare for Christmas. Light is symbolic and a feature of Christmas celebrations such as Advent and **Christingle**.



### Salvation

The Christian **Church** is a community united in the belief that they are offered salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.



### Christianity teaches that Jesus came to save all people.

The Christian community welcomes new members. Many churches have special ceremonies of **baptism** to welcome new life into the Church family. Water is used as a sign that the person is cleansed of sin and entering a **new life** as part of the Church community.



### Christians believe that God is worthy of worship.

Christian communities gather to celebrate key events and **worship** God. Symbols are often used in Christian worship and act as a reminder of important beliefs – eg. **the cross** is a reminder of the **death and resurrection** of Jesus. Water, light, wine and bread are also symbolic.

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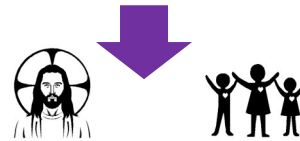
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### Christians believe that God is active in human history.

The **Nicene Creed** teaches that "He has spoken through the **prophets**. These stories can be found in the **Old Testament** (including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jonah). Christians believe that God continues to speak to people and **guide and inspire** them in the world today. Some of these people in turn inspire others.



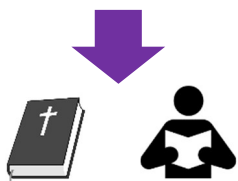
### Many people who met Jesus believed that he was special.

A group of followers known as the **disciples** believed that he was the promised **Messiah (Christ in Greek)**. Christians today learn about Jesus from the stories in the **New Testament** and try to follow the example of Jesus by the way they live their lives– this may include **mission or charity work**.



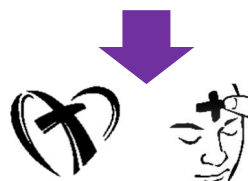
### Christianity teaches that God is active in the world through the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that the **disciples** were filled with the Holy Spirit at **Pentecost**. The disciples taught the **gospel** ('good news') about Jesus Christ to others and Christian communities began to form. Today, different Christian communities (**churches**) exist all over the world.



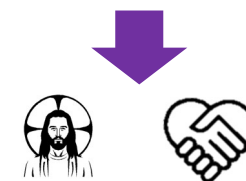
### The Bible is a source of guidance for Christian life

The Bible is seen as **the word of God** – although Christians have different views about what this means (some take this literally, others do not). The Bible is a collection of books written by different authors over a period of time. It contains different genres of writing with differing aims and purposes. The Bible is a **source of wisdom and authority** for Christian life.



### Christianity teaches that God's love for the world is demonstrated through Jesus

Christians should follow the teachings and example of Jesus by living a life based on love. This type of love often involves making sacrifices. Christians believe that Jesus was both **fully human and fully divine**. This means that he was able to resist greed and temptation. Christians remember this during the season of **Lent**.



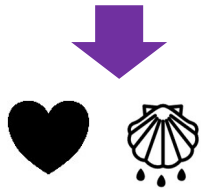
### Christians try to put the teachings of Jesus into practice

Jesus often taught through **parables**. These stories continue to be a source of guidance for Christian life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They have inspired individuals and communities to help those in need. **Love for all** and **forgiveness** of those who have made mistakes are key messages in the teachings of Jesus.



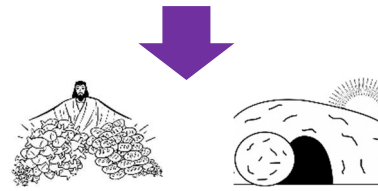
### Christianity teaches that God is merciful

The Bible teaches that God created a world that was good, but humans disobeyed God's command (the **Original Sin**) when they ate from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil (**The Fall**). Human greed causes them to sin and brings evil and suffering into the world. However, Christianity teaches that **God is willing to forgive those who are sorry**. In the same way, humans should forgive one another.



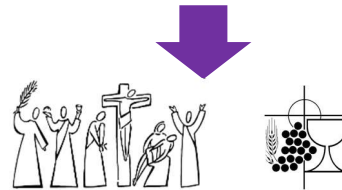
### Christianity teaches that God is benevolent

Christianity teaches that God loves people, even when that love is undeserved. This is known as **God's grace**. Some Christian denominations hold special rituals called **sacraments** which are seen as visible symbols of God's invisible grace. Different Christian communities have different beliefs about the sacraments. Some believe they are an important part of Christian life and others do not believe they are needed because God's love can be known without human rituals. An example of this is **baptism**. Some denominations baptise infants as a symbolic cleansing of **original sin**, others prefer adult baptism, and some do not have baptism at all.



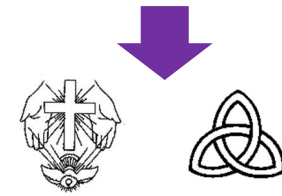
### Christians believe that Jesus' miracles were signs of his divinity

According to the gospels, Jesus performed numerous miracles. These are seen as proof that **he was God incarnate** as he had power over nature. **The resurrection of Jesus may be seen as the ultimate miracle**. Some Christians may go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land to visit the places where Jesus performed these miracles.



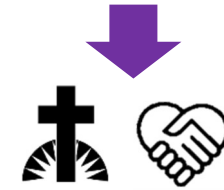
### Christians believe that the death of Jesus is not the end of the story

The last week of Jesus' life is remembered during **Holy Week**. Christians believe that Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples before being arrested and crucified. The symbol of the **cross** and **crucifix** are frequently used in Christianity to remind believers of the suffering that Jesus went through in order to save humanity. Good Friday is 'good' because it offers **salvation** and **eternal life**. Easter is a celebration of the **resurrection**. Many Christian communities hold services of **Eucharist** with bread and wine, following the words of Jesus in the gospels to 'Do this in remembrance of me'.



### Christians believe in one God in three persons – the Trinity

Christians believe that **God the Father** created and continues to sustain the world. He became incarnate in the person of Jesus - **God the Son** - to teach and save. **The Holy Spirit** is believed to be God's power at work in the world today. The Trinity is a complex idea and is often expressed through art and symbolism.



### Christians believe that death is not the end of the journey

The death and resurrection of Jesus teaches Christians that **the relationship between God and humanity that was damaged in the Fall has been restored**. This means that sins can be forgiven, and all people can be saved. This does not mean that they can do whatever they want. **Christians should try to live according to the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. They believe that they will be judged according to how they have lived**. If they make mistakes they should **confess** and try to make amends to those they have wronged. Because Christians hope to be forgiven by God, they should also forgive others.