

Living our Lives

Christians seek to follow Jesus Christ in their life's day by day: to let his teachings guide our actions, and to let him shape our outlook at the deepest level.

We study the Bible to help us do this. At one point, Jesus sums up God's teaching through the Bible as a whole as loving God and loving one's neighbour – not just the person who lives next door, but whoever happens to come into contact with us.

For Christians, love for others means recognizing the incalculable value of every human life in the sight of God, and wanting each person to know this too.

Belonging to the Church

The relationship Christians have with God through Jesus Christ unites us with all other people who share that relationship. That's what Christians mean by the Church – all Jesus' followers together, throughout history and around the world today.

Christians find their place in the one Church of Christ by belonging to a particular church community here and now. That community often gathers weekly, to worship and pray together, to listen to God's Word in the Bible, and to share Holy Communion. It usually provides other opportunities to meet in smaller groups for fellowship and study. It baptizes new disciples and helps them grow.

Together, Christians seek to show God's love in practical ways and respond to the needs of the community around them.



Diocese of Canterbury
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What is Christianity?



Understanding Christianity

At the heart of Christianity is the relationship between God and people. We believe that God created the world and made us in his image, and that in Jesus Christ, God's Son, we discover the fullness of that relationship. Christians use various words to describe how this happens: believing, trusting, following, turning to Christ, being united with him. Through Christ, we believe we can know God and worship him with joy, that we belong to a new community (the church), and that we are called to share in his work in the world.

Christianity affects all of our life – what we believe in our hearts, our membership of the community of the Church and how we live our daily lives.



Believing the Faith

There's lots of historical evidence that a man called Jesus of Nazareth lived in first-century Israel-Palestine and died by crucifixion. Christians believe that through his death, God dealt once for all with the endlessly self-destructive behaviour of human beings that separates them from God.

We also believe that God raised Jesus from death, destroying the power of death itself. This enables us both to live without the fear of death in this life and, after death, to have eternal life.

For Christians, in Jesus we meet God himself: the eternal Son of God, always in relation with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.



Like to Know More?

There's plenty of material online, but it can be hard to know what's reliable. Try exploring some relevant pages from the Church of England's website.



The best way to find out more, though, is to talk to actual Christians. You may know some, but you can also contact your parish priest or another leader from the community here – alternatively you can just show up at a service or other event. You'd be most welcome.

