

Key Concepts in Christianity – St Mary’s Bryanston Square

Christians believe that:

1. **TRINITY** God is 3 in 1; God the Father, the creator of the universe, God the Son (Jesus) who came to earth in human form, God the Holy Spirit, who lives inside Christians giving them the power they need to live their lives.
2. **CREATION** God created the world; everything he made was ‘good’ and perfect. He made people in His own image, therefore they are expected to love and value everyone.
3. **OLD TESTAMENT**
 - **SIN** People are created with free will and don’t always choose to be friends with God. Anything that gets in the way of our friendship with God is called ‘sin’. The consequence of ‘sin’ is being disconnected from God. Adam was the first person to ‘sin’ in the Bible.
 - **BLESSING** God chose a special person (Abraham) and his family/ descendants (Israel) to bless *all* people and help them to be friends with God. He promised that if they did this, he would also bless them.
 - **LAW** God gave his people laws (10 Commandments) to show them how they should act if they wanted to be friends with God, because they had gone their own way.
4. **JESUS**
 - **INCARNATION** = God sent His son, Jesus, to bring people back into friendship with God and to show people what God is like.
 - **LIFE** = He showed us how to live a perfect life, so we would know how to live, too.
 - **SALVATION** = He died on a cross to demonstrate the extent of God’s love for us, showing that people could be forgiven for their ‘sin’ whatever they had done. He rose again to show God’s power over death, and lives forever in heaven. Anyone can become a Christian by believing in Jesus and saying sorry for their ‘sin’ (ie going away from God and his ways). Anyone can be forgiven, whatever they have done.
5. **HOLY SPIRIT** God sent the Holy Spirit to earth to live inside believers so that they could participate with God in spreading His word to people all over the world. The Holy Spirit guides Christians and changes them so that they become more ‘holy’ (like God), and gives them the power they need to change and influence the world around them.
6. **WORSHIP**
 - **PERSONAL** ‘Prayer’ is how Christians talk to God and hear from Him – like having a conversation with a friend. They can ask God to help them in difficult situations and to give them what they need. ‘Worship’ is living our lives in a way that puts God first; often they sing and read the Bible to help them to do this. The Holy Spirit helps us understand what the Bible is telling them to do, how to live their lives.
 - **CHURCH** The church is where Christians grow in their faith, and serve each other and people outside the church. Churches are all different, but they all have special festivals and activities they use to help them remember what God has done for us and to help us live a Christian life. The Church of England calls these activities ‘sacraments’ (eg Holy Communion, Baptism, Funerals).
7. **HEAVEN** When a believer dies, they will go to be with God in ‘Heaven’. At the end of time, Jesus will return to the earth and make ‘a new heaven and a new earth’ where everything will be made new again, as it was when God created the earth. This gives Christians hope, whatever circumstances they face.