

Confirmation – Revision of the course

1. God

How do we know God?

- A. Through the bible
- B. Through the church
- C. Through his creation
- D. Through experiences in life
- E. Through Prayer

What kind of God do we believe in?

- A. God is holy
- B. God is Trinity (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)
- C. God is the creator
- D. God is unique

What three words can we use to describe God's uniqueness?

- A. God is everywhere (Omnipresent)
- B. God is all-powerful (Omnipotent)
- C. God knows everything (Omniscient)

Why is there suffering in the world?

- A. People have rebelled against God's will and purposes
- B. God chooses not to intervene he has given us free-will
- C. There is no reasonable answer, but we do not believe it is God's will – God is love
- D. In Jesus God has entered into human joy and suffering

2. Human Nature & Sin

What is The Fall?

- A. Disobedience to God
- B. Humans have free-will but they have a capacity to misuse their freedom from birth (story of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden). All are sinful
- C. A lessening or marring of the image of God with each person
- D. Disbelief/distrust in God

What is Sin and its effect?

- A. Selfishness
- B. Separates us from God and others that we love
- C. Spreads like a disease!
- D. Is like a poison

What do we believe about sin?

- A. God tried to draw us back through Patriarchs and Prophets
- B. Jesus our Saviour helped by reconciling Man to God
- C. We cannot save ourselves without his (God's) help
- D. Jesus restored human nature by his exemplary life and death
- E. Sin leads to death, but in following Christ we are enabled to have new life
- F. We may suffer and die in our human sinfulness, but we will be raised to new eternal life as we turn to Christ Jesus.
- G. No-one is wholly bad or good

3. Jesus: Life & Ministry

Who was Jesus?

- A. A human being like us
- B. The son of God
- C. A historical person
- D. Jesus was Jewish
- E. His name means God saves/rescues us
- F. The Messiah awaited by the Jews

What did Jesus do?

- A. Proclaimed the Reign of God (The Kingdom)
- B. Taught the meaning of scripture
- C. Healed the sick and worked miracles of healing

Jesus – a window to God?

- A. Called God Father (Dad)
- B. Said that he was one with the Father
- C. Said “I am” in a way that establishes his divinity
- D. Points “The Way” to God (“I am the way, the truth and the life”)

Jesus – God in the flesh (Incarnation)

- A. Jesus was God with us (Immanuel)
- B. Jesus shows us what God is like
- C. Jesus’ death and resurrection were the key moments in his life

4. Jesus: Death and Resurrection

Jesus’ Death

- A. Jesus died on the cross
- B. Jesus freely offered his life to God as a sacrifice
- C. Jesus atoned for our sin
- D. Jesus put himself on the cross in the place of human suffering
- E. Jesus was buried in the garden tomb

Jesus Resurrection

- A. Jesus rose from the dead
- B. The tomb was empty
- C. He was seen by many
- D. They felt his presence

Christian beliefs about this...

- A. We are now brought back to God
- B. Jesus defeated the power of evil
- C. Jesus died as a ransom – he freed us
- D. He died as a sacrifice for us
- E. Jesus ascended into heaven
- F. Jews today are no way responsible for his death.

5. The Holy Spirit

Christianity is a supernatural religion

- A. God speaks to people today
- B. God performs miracles today
- C. Our faith in God provides the Power to change.

Beliefs about the Holy Spirit

- A. It is the third person of the Holy Trinity
- B. The HS is God with us now
- C. The HS brings life
- D. The HS is at work in us

The Holy Spirit brings gifts...

- A. Wisdom
- B. Understanding
- C. Counsel
- D. Inward Strength
- E. Knowledge of the truth
- F. True Godliness
- G. Fear of the Lord

The Holy Spirit...

- A. Lives in believers
- B. Helps us to become more like Jesus
- C. Helps us to understand the bible
- D. Helps us to pray
- E. Comes to us continuously and we should always ask for it
- F. Is the power of God at work in the sacraments

Spiritual Gifts mentioned by St Paul...

- A. Service
- B. Wisdom
- C. Knowledge
- D. Healing
- E. Preaching
- F. Discernment
- G. Speaking in tongues

6. The Church

A worldwide community

- A. The body of Christ, members one of another.
- B. The people of God
- C. One, Holy, catholic, apostolic

Christian beliefs about the church...

- A. Originated from the disciples of Jesus
- B. His disciples deserted him at first but they regrouped and witnessed the resurrection
- C. The first church was formed in Jerusalem
- D. was founded on the day of Pentecost by the power of the Holy Spirit

The early church...

- A. Lived a simple communal life
- B. Could do all that Jesus did
- C. Peter and Paul were important
- D. Spread through the Roman Empire from Jews to non-Jews
- E. Appointed Bishops and Deacons and later Priests
- F. Suffered persecution

Church History...

- A. Christianity became Romanised Under Constantine
- B. Suffered schism and dispute
- C. Was divided by world politics as the Roman Empire crumbled.
- D. Was divided during the 15C Protestant Reformation
- E. The Anglican Church was formed by the reformation of the Roman Catholic Church in England

The Church is...

- A. Holy – of God
- B. Catholic – universal
- C. Apostolic – true to the teachings of the apostles of Jesus

Today there are many different denominations who work together

Orders within the church...

- A. Bishops – overseers of a number of churches (diocese).
- B. Priests – Celebrate the Sacraments, preach and pastor normally in distinct communities
- C. Deacons – servants, pastors (often Priests in training)
- D. Laity – Christians of the church who may be licenced to a special ministry – all Christians have a calling (vocation).

7. The Creeds

Creeds are statements of belief...

- A. Nicene Creed, Apostles Creed date from the 4/5th century
- B. Are points of agreement and Unity, they summarise the universal faith of the apostolic church and are accepted by all truly Christian denominations.
- C. There are creedal statements of the early church in the bible
- D. Nicene is used at the Eucharist Apostles is used at Baptism
- E. Are better understood following a Confirmation Course – a simple but detailed explanation is on the church website!

8. The Bible

The bible is...

- A. A collection of various historic writings, that includes poetry, song, faith stories, prophecy, annals, laws, letters personal and public and the Gospels.
- B. The Gospels give us the words of Jesus and his teachings, his Ministry, healings and history from eyewitnesses.
- C. The bible is the story of God and how he has spoken and acted.
- D. The reading and understanding of the entire bible reveals the over-arching account of Salvation and the story of the covenant.

The bible covers two eras...

- A. The Old Testament, the faith and history of the Jewish people.
From Creation until 400 B.C.
Especially important are the Pentateuch, the first five books.
- B. The New Testament, the life of Jesus, the early church and various letters of the Apostles Peter and Paul etc.
From Christ until A.D. 100
- C. There are many writings from later times which are not necessarily accepted as authoritative for Christians.
- D. Everything necessary for Salvation is contained with the bible

Christians believe...

- A. Jesus is the incarnate word of God. (John 1.1-18)
- B. That the bible is the primary and historical witness to Jesus' life and saving work
- C. The books of the bible were written and collected by people who responded to God's Word
- D. The bible tells the story of how God has spoken and acted in history
- E. God called Abraham and his descendants to a special relationship with him – The Covenant
- F. The Old Testament records the faith history of these peoples – Patriarchs, Judges & Prophets speak for God but the Kings and peoples are unfaithful and stray
- G. God eventually became man in Jesus to save them. This is the 'Good News' = Gospel
- H. Jesus was rejected and executed but was raised from death to life. This resurrection is the climax of God's work of bringing salvation to humanity

9. Living as a Christian

How we live...

- A. There is no system of laws which Christians have to obey – but the moral framework for our life is to love God and love your neighbour as yourself – Jesus commanded this of his followers
- B. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit has helped and continues to help us make moral decisions, thus tradition has a part to play
- C. Anglicans make decisions about what God wants by reference to scripture (bible), tradition and reason. We prayerfully consider what the bible teaches in the light of tradition but using our God-given human faculty of reason.
- D. Anglicans are guided by our Bishops through their counsel both individually in our dioceses and collectively for great moral issues (Lambeth Conference held every ten years)
- E. Jesus particularly valued the marginalised – poor, outcast and sick – so Christians feel special moral obligations towards them.
- F. Christians campaign for political and social action to establish more equitable society. Modern examples – anti apartheid, fair trade, disaster and war relief

Personal integrity

- A. We listen to our conscience
- B. We believe that God forgives those who repent – (turn away from wrongdoing)
- C. God judges our wrong acts (sin)
- D. God sees everything. We should do what Jesus would have done our character seeks to mimic his
- E. All are welcome and equal in Christian society – there is no exception. (1 Cor 12.13)
- F. All who need our help are our neighbour, not just those close by

10. Prayer and Worship

Christian beliefs...

- A. Prayer is standing before God and opening our minds and hearts.
- B. Prayer is not necessarily easy or cosy. The Lord's Prayer helps us
- C. Worship implies giving something its worth per Jesus' example
- D. Jesus prayed frequently, both alone and in the church of his time, thus Christians should do likewise
- E. Jesus prayed before making any big decision, so should we

How we pray...

- A. We pray to The Father, asking to know his will for our lives
- B. We pray through Jesus the Son reminding us of his example and love for us
- C. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, so use your two ears before your one mouth! (Romans 8.26)
- D. We pray alone at any time and if our life is directed towards God it is a form of constant prayer. This helps us gain perspective in quiet moments in secret places.
- E. We pray and offer worship together with other Christians in the community – the church. It is a wholly necessary part of our lives

The Christian Calendar

- A. Traditionally the church had divided the year into special times (festivals) and seasons
- B. This cycle is annual and helps celebrate and retell the story of Christianity and Jesus every year
- C. The year starts in November with Advent which leads to Christmas and Epiphany, recalling the birth of Jesus and its meaning). The most important time is Holy Week and Easter. The death & resurrection of Christ, his return to God at Ascension & the coming of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

11. The Sacraments

What is a sacrament?

- A. A sacrament is symbolic. It is a special ceremony and gesture to communicate deep religious thoughts and feelings at key moments.
- B. A sacrament points to God
- C. There are seven – the most important is Baptism and The Eucharist. The others are Confirmation, Marriage, Confession, Ordination and Anointing the Sick

Christian beliefs...

- A. Sacraments are central to the worship of the church
- B. A sacrament is an outward sign of an invisible grace. It is a dramatisation of something which is happening spiritually within a person.
- C. We need to have faith when we receive the sacraments. It is important that we believe and trust in this gift that God is giving us
- D. a number of sacraments mark out important developments in a person's life
- E. The meaning of *sacrament* is most fully expressed in Jesus himself. He is God (the invisible and spiritual grace) who became flesh (the visible and outward sign)
- F. Sacraments are an expression of change in people's lives and make change happen.

12. Baptism

What happens at Baptism?

- A. A person is welcomed into the Christian Way
- B. It is a commitment to follow Christ made by an individual or by parents
- C. Water is blessed and used as the sign of this spiritual change
- D. New spiritual life begins

The sacrament includes...

- A. A service in church often on a Sunday within a regular service
- B. A greeting for the candidate or parents and Godparents
- C. An expression of thanksgiving
- D. Presentation of the candidate to the people of the church
- E. A solemn renunciation (rejection) of evil and an expression of a desire to follow Christ
- F. An anointing with the oil of Chrism as a sign of membership
- G. A request for baptism
- H. The blessing of the waters which are then used to baptise – wash the candidate of sin
- I. A passing from the death of sin to the life of the Spirit of God
- G. A commissioning to live out the baptised life
- H. The giving of a lighted candle to symbolise the shared mission to take Christ's light into the world

Baptism is...

- A. Something Jesus entered into
- B. An act of spiritual cleansing
- C. An act of identifying with Jesus
- D. An act of belonging to God's Church Family
- E. An initiation ceremony, often called Christening
- F. A death to self and resurrection to life in God

13. Confirmation

What happens at Confirmation?

- A. An adult reaffirms their baptism and confirms their personal faith
- B. A bishop lays hands on the candidate as the apostles did at baptism in bible times
- C. An adult becomes an ambassador for Christ in the Great Commission
- D. Baptism is completed. Baptism and Confirmation were contiguous but became separated by the persecution & growth of the early church

The sacrament includes...

- A. A special service at a cathedral, minster church or the visit of a bishop to the parish church
- B. A greeting for the candidates
- C. A renewal of baptismal promises
- D. A profession of the faith by uniting with the congregation to say the Apostles' Creed
- E. The Bishop asks the Holy Spirit to come and rest upon the candidates
- F. Each candidate is addressed by name as the Bishop says, 'God who is faithful has called you by name and made you his own'.
- G. The Bishop lays his hand on the candidate, saying, 'confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit'.
- H. The congregation prays with the Bishop that the newly confirmed may daily increase in the Holy Spirit.
- I. Chrism oil is used to anoint the confirmed as a sign of The Spirit

Confirmation is...

- A. Something that the Apostles did
- B. A continuation of what was begun at baptism especially for infant baptised
- C. Adults are now normally baptised and confirmed at the same time
- D. Requires considerable preparation in particular a course of study and instruction lasting many months
- E. An adult commitment to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- F. Taking a stand which might be costly in terms of the culture we live within, which is secular and often unsympathetic to Christianity

14. The Eucharist

What happens at The Eucharist?

- A. Worship is offered and bread and wine blessed and shared in accordance with Christ's institution
- B. Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension are commemorated
- C. The Christian community gather around the communion table

Christian beliefs about the Eucharist

- A. For many Christians participation in The Eucharist is the most important act of worship
- B. Jesus celebrated a Last Supper with his disciples on the night before he died. The Eucharist recalls this
- C. Eucharist is a thanksgiving. Jesus gave thanks and Christians do this – the bread and wine representing all the good things of nature. We call to mind what Jesus was about to do (die on the cross) and give thanks for his self-offering. We ask God to make Jesus present again
- D. The Eucharist unites us to Christ's sacrifice on the cross which itself shows us how much God loves us
- E. Christ is objectively present in the consecrated bread and wine and gives himself to us in the community sharing in The Eucharist
- F. There is a degree of mystery about this 'real presence' which has caused much debate amongst the churches

The four Eucharistic actions

- A. *Taking* of the bread and wine
- B. *Giving thanks* over them - the blessing or consecration
- C. *Breaking* of the bread into pieces
- D. The *Sharing* of bread and wine

The Eucharist (Holy Communion or Mass) comprises...

- A. The Ministry of The Word (The Greeting, Penitential Rite, Gloria, Collect, Bible readings, Sermon, Creed)
- B. Thanksgiving of the Community (Intercessory Prayer)
- C. Ministry of The Sacrament (The Peace, The Eucharistic Prayer, the Fraction and distribution, Post Communion Prayers)
- D. The Sending Out (The Blessing, Notices, Dismissal) The word Mass comes from the Latin to be sent out

15. Marriage

What happens at a wedding service?

- A. The priest welcomes everybody and reminds them of the reasons for marriage
- B. Bible passages on the theme of love are read and a sermon is preached
- C. Bride and Groom declare their intention to marry
- D. Vows are exchanged
- E. Wedding rings are blessed and exchanged
- F. The legal registers are signed
- G. The priest offers God's Blessing to the newly married couple
- H. Prayers are offered for the couple
- I. The people are blessed and the wedding party departs

Christian beliefs...

- A. Married love was created by God and as such is sacred
- B. Marriage is for life – this is a reflection of God's love for us
- C. Marriage is protected. Adultery and unfaithfulness are forbidden
- D. When marriages go wrong, the church tries to support the couple and enable reconciliation. It does not however judge others who fail to live up to the ideal. Divorce is permissible according the specific circumstances and a single remarriage possible following full consideration by the church.
- E. Marriage is a public announcement and is not a secret arrangement
- F. Marriage is the proper context for sexual intercourse, which is only proper between consenting adults who are fully committed to each other emotionally and spiritually as well as physically
- G. Marriage is blessed by God. The unconditional love of two becoming as one shows what Christ's own sacrificial love is like

16. Confession

What is confession?

- A. A public and/or private admission of failure to live up to the ideals of Christianity
- B. An act of contrition – saying and feeling sorry for sin (wrongdoing)
- C. A way of unburdening ourselves of our sin towards God and others
- D. An important step towards reconciliation

How do Christians make confession?

- A. At the commencement of almost every Anglican act of worship there is an act of confession – The Penitential Rite. At the end the Priest offers a General Absolution
- B. In prayer before God in secret – self examination is helpful and listening to one's conscience.
- C. In private by way of a formal or informal discussion with a Priest-confessor
- D. During regular conversation with a spiritual director, someone who is a gifted spiritual advisor

What happens in confession?

- A. Prepare before you go to confession. Examine your conscience and motives. Consider your effect on others and the hurt or difficulty that you may have caused others
- B. Go – make an appointment with a priest, familiar or unfamiliar to you
- C. What to say? Use your own words
- D. The priest will listen and then talk to you. You will be offered spiritual advice, encouraged to change and try afresh
- E. Express your contrition – say how sorry you are
- F. Receive Absolution. The priest reminds you of God's love and the constant possibility of a new start
- G. Confession is about growth. It takes courage to come to terms with our own weaknesses and limitations.

17. Ordination

The three ordained offices

- A. Deacon, meaning servant. Maybe a permanent role, or transitional before priesthood. It is a supporting ministry to both Priest and church
- B. Priest, meaning presbyter. An 'elder' who preaches and teaches the Gospel, presides and administers over the sacraments and exercises leadership in conjunction with the bishop
- C. Bishop, successor to the Apostles – focus for unity, authority and oversight.

Christian beliefs about ordination...

- A. All Christians share in the royal priesthood of Christ: we are all called to lives of service
- B. Jesus set apart certain people to preach, heal, teach, forgive sins and exercise authority in the church
- C. Those who feel 'called' have a vocation. This has to be confirmed and tested by the church prior to ordination
- D. Ordination enables a sacramental role of both service and leadership towards the church and community
- E. All ordained persons are principally servants in the manner of Jesus Christ

18. Anointing the Sick

What happens?

- A. This sacrament may be requested by those who are seriously ill & by those who are unwell seeking greater mental or spiritual wholeness
- B. The priest may be accompanied by family, friends & church members
- C. Prayers are offered and the priest lays hands on the sick person, repeat Jesus' example
- D. The sick person is anointed with oil, & blessed. The Eucharist is given

Why the Laying On Of Hands?

- A. Jesus laid hands on people to bless and heal them
- B. Jesus sent out his apostles to anoint the sick and heal them
- C. This practice continued in the early church – St Paul's vision was thus restored (Acts 9.12)
- D. We believe that God's Holy Spirit is released with the laying on of hands to comfort and to heal
- E. Wholeness comes from healing. It is not just physical wellness but is also spiritual and emotional in its characteristic
- F. Healing, like all sacraments has to be accepted with faith and trust in God

19. Life After Death

Christian beliefs...

- A. Death is not the end. It is a gateway through which we must pass to live eternally with God.
- B. Jesus in his resurrection showed that death had been conquered for all those who live and believe in him (John 11.25-26)
- C. Jesus will return to Earth at the end of time and be supernaturally revealed to all. At this time Satan and all powers of evil will be overthrown and done away with for ever.
- D. These are signs of the end: Great Disorder, Natural Disaster, Cosmic, Social and Political Disorder. A number of false Christs' will lead people astray
- E. When Jesus returns he will judge the world. They will have to give account of themselves and will be judged according to their actions – how they have served others.
- F. Those that reject God will in turn be rejected and punished. The final judgement will right the injustices of history.

Heaven and Hell...

- A. Hell (Gehenna) is the burning rubbish dump outside ancient Jerusalem. Hell stands for the state of being finally cut off from God.
- B. When Jesus returns Christians will be raised from the dead to enjoy eternal life with God. (1 Thess 4.16)
- C. They will be given a new spiritual body, free from pain and sickness (1 Cor 15.42-44)
- D. The place Jesus promised he would prepare a place for his followers. The earth will disappear (Rev 21.1) and there will be a new heaven and earth, free of suffering where God will dwell with his people