



Worship in Christianity – teachers' notes

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Overview:

Explore worship in Christianity in greater detail with this lesson, designed to last for one hour, which uses Westminster Abbey as a case study. This KS4 lesson compares the long history of worship at the Abbey to worship today, examines where in the Abbey public services take place as well as considering liturgical worship, Holy Communion and special services in more depth. Aligned to the GCSE specifications, the lesson culminates with a series of knowledge-testing questions and a practice GCSE evaluation question.

SLIDE 3: Explore the location of the Abbey through Google Maps.

As a Royal Peculiar, Westminster Abbey is neither a parish church nor a cathedral. Instead it is directly accountable to the monarch. The Abbey was rebuilt in its Gothic style by Henry III in 1245AD. Westminster Abbey was a Catholic monastery until the reign on Henry VIII.

SLIDE 4: Pupils will discuss in pairs what they think worship/Christian worship is share these ideas with the class. Aim to arrive at an agreed class definition for worship.

SLIDE 5: Gather a list of examples on the board. You will refer back to these in a future activity where pupils consider what is public worship and what is private.

SLIDE 6: A long history of Christian worship

SLIDE 7: The film introduces us to the worship at Westminster Abbey from the past to the present.

SLIDE 8: Should you require, further information on Westminster Abbey services can be found at <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/worship-music/services-times>. These include special services at Advent and Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, and Edwardtide.

SLIDE 9: Refer pupils back to the list of examples of worship you collected on the board earlier (slide 5). Pupils can identify the examples as a class (write public or private next to each example), alternatively ask them to create a table and put each example in the correct column.

The number of people attending Church of England Services has dropped in recent years to 2% of the population.

Westminster Abbey

Learning



Details of the Church Statistics report can be found here: <https://faithsurvey.co.uk/uk-christianity.html>

Further statistics can be found on <https://humanism.org.uk/campaigns/religion-and-belief-some-surveys-and-statistics/>

“The 2014 British Social Attitudes Survey found that 58.4% of the population never attend religious services while only 13.1% of people report going to a religious service once a week or more. Of the 16% of people who define as belonging to the Church of England, 51.9% never attend services and in fact only 10.7% of people who identify with the Church of England report attending church at least weekly. More generally, the 2014 BSA Survey discovered that 58.3% of people who were brought up in a religion never attend services, and only 12.8% do so on a weekly basis.”

SLIDE 10: If your classroom PC is connected to the internet you can visit the Westminster Abbey website as a whole class to find out what services are taking place/ have already taken place today <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/worship-music>. If you do not have access to the internet instead you can use the sample service day shown on slide 8. To find the locations of the services on the plan of the Abbey use the plan of the Abbey on slide 10. Again if you are connected to the internet you may like to visit these using the Westminster Abbey digital tour <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/learning/virtual-tours>. Please allow additional time if you are choosing to do this.

SLIDE 11: Services which are taking place at Westminster Abbey today.

SLIDE 12: Different areas of Westminster Abbey.

SLIDE 13: Pupils identify the location of the services performed either today or on the sample day given on slide 9 using the plan of the Abbey. As indicated on slide 9 you may wish to visit these areas using the digital tour if you are able <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/learning/virtual-tours> .

SLIDE 14: Further information about liturgy and The Book of Common Prayer in the Church of England can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources>

You can find out further information about services that take place throughout the year at Westminster Abbey here: <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/worship-music> These include special services at Advent and Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, and Edwardtide.

SLIDE 15: Your pupils may already be familiar with the Holy Communion service. If this is the case, use this slide to check and refresh their knowledge.

SLIDE 16: The painting behind the High Altar at Westminster Abbey is of the Last Supper. At the Last Supper Jesus asked his disciples to perform the Eucharist 'in remembrance of me'.

SLIDE 17: This video clip is just over 8 minutes long (you may wish to only use part of it). Pupils should be able to identify the elements of public and liturgical worship covered in the previous slides.

SLIDE 18: Highlight to pupils the importance of the Christian community coming together to worship God.



SLIDE 19: Answers will include reference to:

1. Any act that honours God or shows God's worth.
2. It allows Christians to show their love for God and learn more about God together. (Other examples acceptable)
3. Liturgical worship.
4. The Bible and The Book of Common Prayer.
5. That the worship has a set form or pattern (from the word liturgy).
6. The Eucharist or Holy Communion, symbolising the Last Supper.

SLIDE 20: Challenge question

You may want to use this as a practice GCSE evaluation question.