

RELIGION AND THE CHURCH

Religious Diversity 1

- Britain is a Christian state and most people living in Britain are Christian.
- Britain: one of the most religiously diverse populations in the Europe.
- British free to choose their religious beliefs.
- Christianity main religion,
- Large communities of Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Jews, and smaller communities of Baha'is, Buddhists, Jains and Zoroastrians.

Religious diversity

2001 census:

- Christian (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 71.6%,
- Muslim 2.7%,
- Hindu 1%,
- other 1.6%, (Jews 0.5%)
- unspecified or none 23.1%

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- Church and State never dissociated
- The Church of England is the Established (Official) Church
- Variety of Christian Denominations: Methodists, Baptists and the United Reformed Church



History

**Until 1530' Britain was Catholic
Rallied Protestantism in 16th
Century**

**Henry VIII needed the
agreement of the pope to
divorce from Ann Boleyn
1533 Act of Supremacy:
Henry declared to be "The only
Supreme Head on earth of the
Church of England."**

**England broke from the
Roman Catholic Church to
form the Anglican Church.**

Reformation

- *The church of England Independent from Rome and the Pope*
- *Dissolution of monasteries*
- *Confiscation of goods*
- *Prosecution of Catholics*

Catholicism vs Protestantism

	Catholics	Protestants
Pope	Heads the church, Vicar of Christ	No human is infallible and Jesus alone heads up the Church
Big Fancy Cathedrals	“humanity must discover its unity and salvation” <i>within a church</i> .	All Christians can be saved, regardless of church membership.
Saints	Pray to saints (holy dead people) in addition to God and Jesus.	acknowledge saints, but don't pray to them
Celibacy & Nuns	Catholics only	Priests/Pastors can marry
Scripture	Tradition & bible	Only the word of god
Interpretation	Only the pope can interpret the bible	Individual Interpretation
Confession of sins	To God through priests	To God through Jesus

Confession of Sins



CONFESSION OF SINS

Predestination

- All men predestined by God to be doomed or saved after death
- God's decision not to be altered by human deeds
- God's grace not to be bought by confession
- Individual alone in the eyes of God
- Catholicism : a series of intermediaries between God and man Vs Individual responsibility

Contemporary Issues 1

- The Monarch retains the title Defender of the Faith and is still the Supreme Governor of the Church
- The Church of England has a legislative role
- Twenty-six bishops (including the two Archbishops) sit in the House of Lords and are known as the Lords Spiritual.

Contemporary Issues 2

- Conservatism
- Disagreement
- Thatcher's social policy and Blair's policy over Iraq
- Ordination of women priesthood
- Religious remarriage of divorced couples

Jews

- Violent persecution in the Middle Ages (York massacre 1190)
- Expelled by Edward I in 1290
- Allowed back in 1657 in exchange for finance



Muslims

- 1890 first mosque on British soil
- Pakistan and Bangladesh
- Places of worship and welfare
- Marriages celebrated by imams not valid
- Muslim schools granted state funding
- 8 muslim MPs and 12 muslim Peers
- 9/11 and the 2005 London Bombings

Terrorist Attacks

- 2005 London bombings: a series of coordinated bomb blasts that hit London's public transport in rush hour
- 52 people were killed & also the 4 bombers: British Muslims, three of Pakistani and one of Jamaican origin motivated by Britain's involvement in the Iraq War and other conflicts

Sharia courts operating in our cities

MUSLIM LAW IS HERE IN BRITAIN

SECRET courts imposing
Islamic law in Britain
are spreading across
Britain.

By David Patten
Muslims following in their
own law.

The 100-year-old...
The...
The...
The...

- British media has been criticised for propagating negative stereotypes of Muslims and fueling anti-Muslim prejudice

Comment on the following

