What should I already know?

Christian concepts such as Lent (the 40 days leading up to Holy Week commemorating Jesus’ time fasting in the desert), Shrove Tuesday (the start of Lent), Ash Wednesday (when ashes from burnt palms from the previous years’ Palm Sunday are placed on believers’ foreheads) are all aspect of Christian preparation for Easter. Advent is the preparation time for Christmas.

Christian charities can demonstrate Jesus’ teaching to love your neighbour (demonstrate Agape)

There are countries where people are persecuted for being Christians and Christians have to suffer if they stand up for their beliefs.

Key Vocabulary and Definitions:

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| Agape | universal and unconditional love, such as the love for strangers, nature, or God. |
| Harvest | Usually celebrated in September when churches are decorated with fruit and vegetables and Christians given thanks to God for the food and crops. |
| Fish symbol |  |
| communion | The Christian service where bread and wine are shared |
| Ten Commandments | A list of ten religious rules that were revealed to Moses |
| resurrection | When Jesus came back to life after His death |
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RE Skills:

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| Explain how the influence people have had on me has affected what I see as important.  Explain how one of the reasons people use to suggest that Christianity is a strong religion today can be counteracted.  Give my opinion as to whether Christianity is a strong religion now and say why I think this. |

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Teaching Sequence

1. To identify who is influential in our lives.
2. To investigate ‘Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?’ (2 lessons.)
3. To express opinions and create a set of commandments.

Blooms Taxonomy – Specific Verbs to Use in Lesson Aims

Knowledge: Describe, find, identify, list, locate, name, recognise, retrieve Comprehension: Classify, compare, explain, infer, interpret, paraphrase, summarise Application: Carry out, implement, use Analysis: Deconstruct, Organise, outline, structure Synthesis: Construct, design, devise, invent, make, plan, produce, Evaluation: Appraise, assess, choose,

Key Knowledge

Year 6 Spring 2 Christianity – Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on earth?

This enquiry draws on all previous learning about the concepts of Christianity that have been studied in earlier enquiries and reflects on their meaning and impact in the world today. Although the background to the Christian religious elements in the unit are largely explained in the planning, some further information is below about certain aspects.

Mothers’ Day: Mothering Sunday began as an explicitly religious event of the 16th Century, with no connection to mothers at all. The word "mothering" referred to the "mother church", which is to say the main church or cathedral of the region. It became a tradition that, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, people would return to their mother church for a special service. This pilgrimage was apparently known as "going a-mothering", and became something of a holiday event, with domestic servants traditionally given the day off to visit their own families as well as their mother church. It has no actual connection to “Mother’s Day” celebrated in the USA which is a non-religious event although Mothering Sunday is now about mothers as well as the church.

Harvest: Usually celebrated in September when churches are decorated with fruit and vegetables and Christians given thanks to God for the food and crops. The items brought to the church are often given to less fortunate people after the service. Judaism also has a harvest festival called Sukkot which is celebrated at the end of the year.

Fish symbol: The Greek word for fish is "ichthys." As early as the first century, Christians made an acrostic from this word: Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter, i.e. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. The fish, unlike, the cross, attracted little suspicion, making it a perfect secret symbol for persecuted believers. When threatened by Romans in the first centuries after Christ, Christians used the fish to mark meeting places and tombs, or to distinguish friends from foes. According to one ancient story, when a Christian met a stranger in the road, the Christian sometimes drew one arc of the simple fish outline in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, both believers knew they were in good company. Current car-sticker and business-card or webpage uses of the fish hark back to this practice, allowing others to see that the person using it is a Christian.