

The History of the Church 4 : The Modern Church - Themes

- Church & State
- Discerning the Faith
- Evangelism
- Challenges



The Modern Church : Timeline

- 1789 – French Revolution begins
- 1807 – Abolition of Slave Trade in British Empire
- 1829 – Catholic Emancipation in Britain
- 1858 – St Bernadette at Lourdes
- 1870 – Papal Infallibility declared & end of Papal States
- 1914 to 1918 – First World War
- 1917 to 1991 – Russian Revolution & Soviet Union
- 1939 to 1945 – Second World War
- 1946-56 : Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Qumran
- 1948 – World Council of Churches established
- 1962 to 1965 – Second Vatican Council
- 2013 Pope Benedict XVI resigns & Pope Francis I elected – first Jesuit & S American Pope

1. Church & State : Temporal Power



- Loss of Papal States 1861 / 1870 with a united Italy
- Lateran Treaty 1929: Pope Pius XI recognises Kingdom of Italy & Vatican State created & Catholicism made sole official religion

1. Church & State : French Revolution (1789-99)



- Church property inc monasteries expropriated
- 30,000 clergy exiled or killed
- Christian calendar replaced with Revolutionary one
- 1793 atheist Cult of Reason then replaced with deistic Cult of the Supreme Being (1794)
- 1801 Concordat. Napoleon : “ I am sure that the Catholic religion is the only one that can make a stable community happy “

1. Church & State : Nazi Germany

- 1920: “No Catholic can accept the Nazi programme without denying his faith.” (Bishop von Galen)
- Germans : 54% Protestant & 40% Catholic but Nazis had largest vote in 1932
- 1933: Concordat between the Holy See and the German Reich – Catholic Centre Party votes for Hitler taking full authority.
- German Christian Movement – Nazi-sponsored. (But also dissident “Confessing” Church)
- 1937: Mit Brennender Sorge (“With Burning Anxiety”) Encyclical against National Socialism . Pope compares Hitler with Nero.



1. Church & State :

Church Opposition to Hitler

Maximilien Kolbe (executed 1941) Dietrich Bonhoeffer (executed 1945)

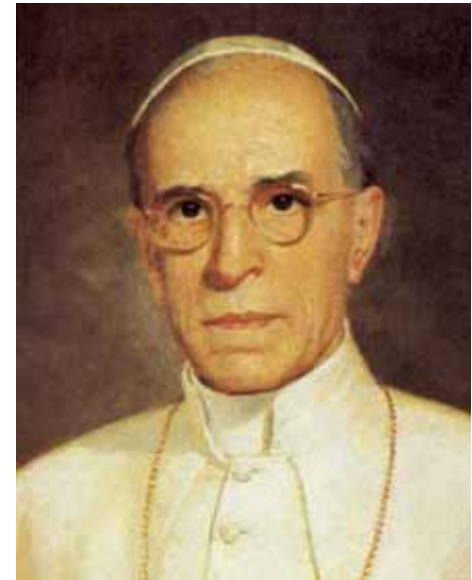


- *"Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly."*

Albert Einstein

1. Church & State: The Papacy & the Jews

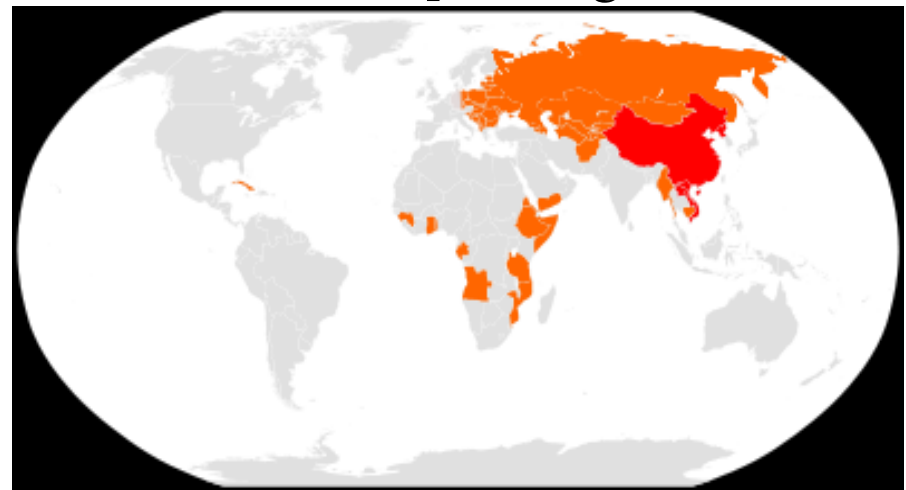
- Pope Pius XII (1939-58) : much criticised for approach over the Jews
- In 1942 said: “Through no fault of their own & solely because of their race, they have been condemned to death & progressive extinction.”
- 5000 Jews were hidden in Church buildings in Rome
- In 1945, Chief Rabbi in Rome converted to Catholicism
- Israeli Consul in Rome : *“The Catholic Church saved more Jewish lives during the War than all the other churches, religious institutions & rescue organisations put together — saving some 400,000 Jews from certain death.”*



1. Church & State:

Communist USSR : 1914 v 1939

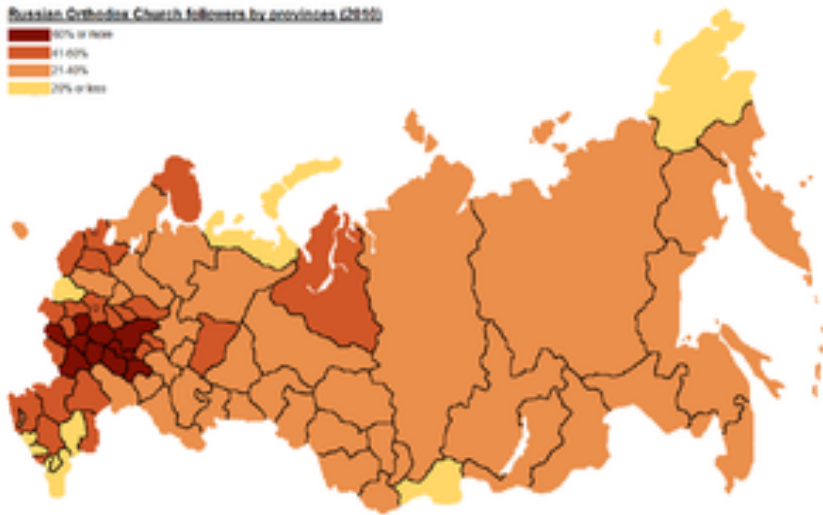
- The Soviet Union: official aim is to eliminate religion & propagate atheism
- 163 bishops reduced to 4
- 51,105 priests reduced to a few hundred survivors
- 54,174 churches reduced to a few hundred
- 57 seminaries reduced to none
- 37,528 parish schools reduced to none
- By 1985 under 7000 churches & 18 monasteries remained. Khrushchev closed c 12,000 churches
- Communist States included : E Europe, China, Vietnam, N Korea, Ethiopia, Angola



1. Church & State: Post-Communist (1991) Russia

Russian Orthodox Church followers by provinces (2010)

90% or more
71-90%
51-70%
20% or less



- Glasnost (early 80s) : From 800 seminarians (1964) to 2,300
- 2010 survey : 75% Russians identify with Russian Orthodox Church
- 160 Dioceses : 207 Bishops
- 30,142 parishes : 28,434 priests & 3,625 deacons
- 788 monasteries : 386 for men & 402 for women

1. Church & State : Persecution Today

- Christians persecuted by Moslem (eg Iran, Saudi Arabia) & atheistic (eg China, N Korea) States (est 1 million victims today)
- 200 million Christians in 60 countries denied rights
- Vatican reports 75% of people killed due to religious hatred are Christian.



2. Discerning the Faith : Intellectual Climate

Name	Dates	Ideas
Rene Descartes	1596-1650	God implants the idea of God in peoples' minds. To doubt is to think. To think is to be.
Blaise Pascal	1623-1662	Need to show religion is not contrary to reason & is worthy of veneration
Denis Diderot	1713-1784	Atheist. World is just a collection of molecules. Knowledge only comes via the senses.
Immanuel Kant	1724-1804	God, freedom & immortality are not accessible through reason only through conscience.

2. Discerning the Faith : Intellectual Climate

Name	Dates	Ideas
Charles Darwin	1809-1882	Evolution by natural selection
Karl Marx	1818-1883	Religion as the opium of the people that had been used by the ruling classes to give the working classes false hope for millennia
Friedrich Nietzsche	1844-1900	To be conscious of the lack of divine purpose is to find freedom. It is necessary for the external God to die.

2. Discerning the Faith : Faith & Reason

- In *Fides et Ratio* (1998) Pope John Paul II writes :“ *Faith and reason are not only compatible, but essential together. Faith without reason leads to superstition. Reason without faith leads to nihilism and relativism.*”
- “ *Everything is reduced to opinion... no longer seeking to ask radical questions about the meaning and ultimate foundation of human, personal and social existence.*”



2. Discerning the Faith : The Churches Compared

Belief	Catholic	Orthodox	Protestant	Anglican
Creeds	Nicene / Apostles	Nicene	Nicene / Apostles	Nicene / Apostles
Sources of Doctrine	Bible (inc Apocrypha) / Church Fathers / Councils / Popes	Bible (inc Apoc / Tradition / Councils	Bible	Bible / Church Fathers
Mary	Immaculate Conception / Mother of God / Assumption	Mother of God - Theotokos	God-Bearer / model Christian	God-Bearer / model Christian
Eucharist : Transubstantiation	Yes	Yes	Mostly No : memorial only	No (39 Articles) but Real Presence
Purgatory	Yes - purification	No	No	No
Church	Catholic / Pope	Orthodox	Baptised	Monarch / Invisible Church

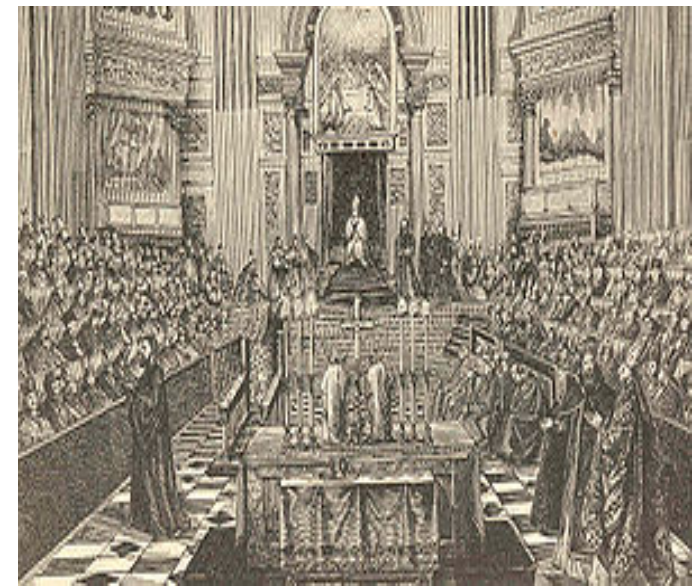
2. Discerning the Faith : Marian Apparitions

- Guadalupe, Mexico 1531 (10 million)
- Laus, France 1664 – 1718 (120,000)
- Miraculous Medal, Paris 1830
- Lourdes, France 1858 (5 million)
- Good Help, USA 1859
- Fatima, Portugal 1917 (4 million)
- Banneux, Belgium 1930s
- Akita, Japan 1973
- Medjugorje, Croatia 1981 (est 30 million since 1981 but still under investigation)



2. Discerning the Faith : Vatican I

- Invoked by Pius IX : 1869 -1870
- Present : 737
- Discussed :
 - canons on the Faith & constitution of the Church
 - decreed the infallibility of the pope when speaking *ex cathedra*, i.e. when as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church.
 - Only infallible pronouncement : Assumption of Our Lady (1950)



2. Discerning the Faith : Vatican II



- Invoked by Pope John XXIII. It met from 1962 to 1965.
- Present : up to 2625 inc many observers from other churches. 86 international observers.
- The Council called for a renewal of the Roman rite of liturgy “– use of vernacular
- Issued pastoral decrees on :
 - the nature of the Church and its relation to the modern world
 - promotion of Scripture and Biblical studies
 - pastoral decrees on the necessity of ecumenism

2. Discerning the Faith : *Humanae Vitae* (1968)



- *Humanae Vitae* by Pope Paul VI in 1968 re-affirms the traditional teaching of the Catholic Church on married love, responsible parenthood, and the continued rejection of artificial methods of birth control. Natural family planning methods are allowed.
- It rejected the majority advisory report on the subject
- Pope John Paul II : "*Christ has come not to judge the world but to save it, and while He was uncompromisingly stern towards sin, He was patient and rich in mercy towards sinners*".

2. Discerning the Faith : War & Peace

- Pope John XXIII issued *Pacem in Terris* in 1963 during the Cold War
- Addressed to “all men of good will”
- Conflicts "should not be resolved by recourse to arms, but rather by negotiation".
- The importance of respect of human rights as an essential consequence of the Christian understanding of men.
- “Every man has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life...”



2. Discerning the Faith : Catholic Social Teaching



*Pope Leo XIII : first
Pope in a film (1896)*

- Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) : *Rerum Novarum* (1891)
- State's role to promote social justice
- Sanctity of human work / Dignity of workers
- Fair / living wage
- Condemned extreme capitalism & communism
- Defended private property
- Right to join trade unions / collective bargaining
- Pope John Paul II issued *Centesimus Annus* in 1991 which deals with the unjust distribution of goods, environmental issues & favours free market over communism

2. Discerning the Faith : Catholic Social Action Worldwide

- 92,847 Primary schools
- 43,591 Secondary schools
- 5,246 hospitals
- 17,530 dispensaries
- 577 leprosy clinics
- 15,208 homes for the elderly, chronically ill & with physical / learning disabilities



2. Discerning the Faith : Catholicism – Bl. Mother Teresa

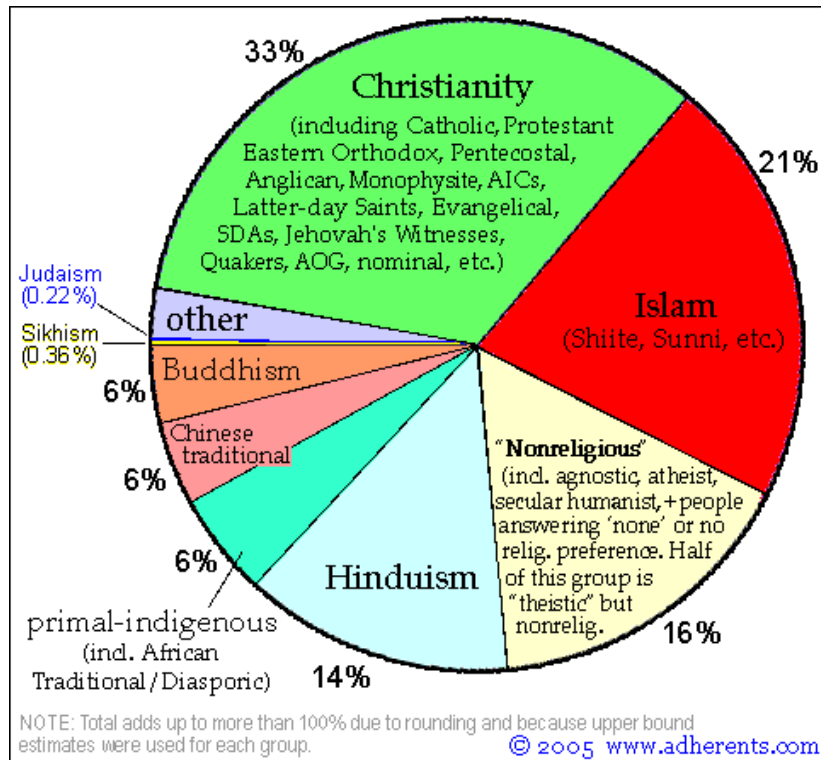
- “My mission is to be with the poorest of the poor”, “Love until it hurts”, “Do something beautiful for Jesus”
- 450 centres in 100 countries
- 90,000 lepers treated
- 500,000 families fed each year
- 27,000 die with dignity
- Each Sister : 2 cotton saris



3. Evangelism : Religion Worldwide

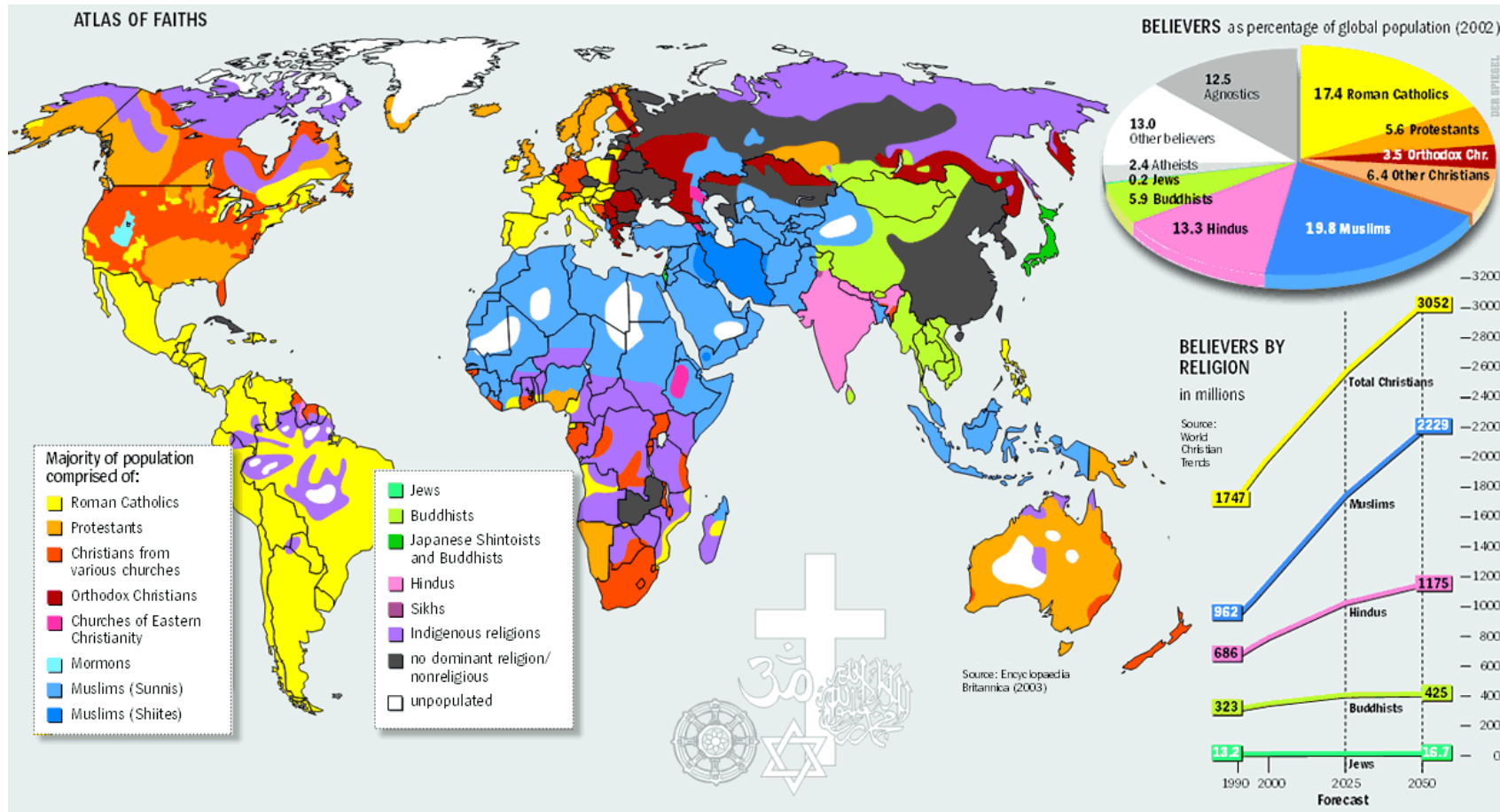
All Religions

Christianity



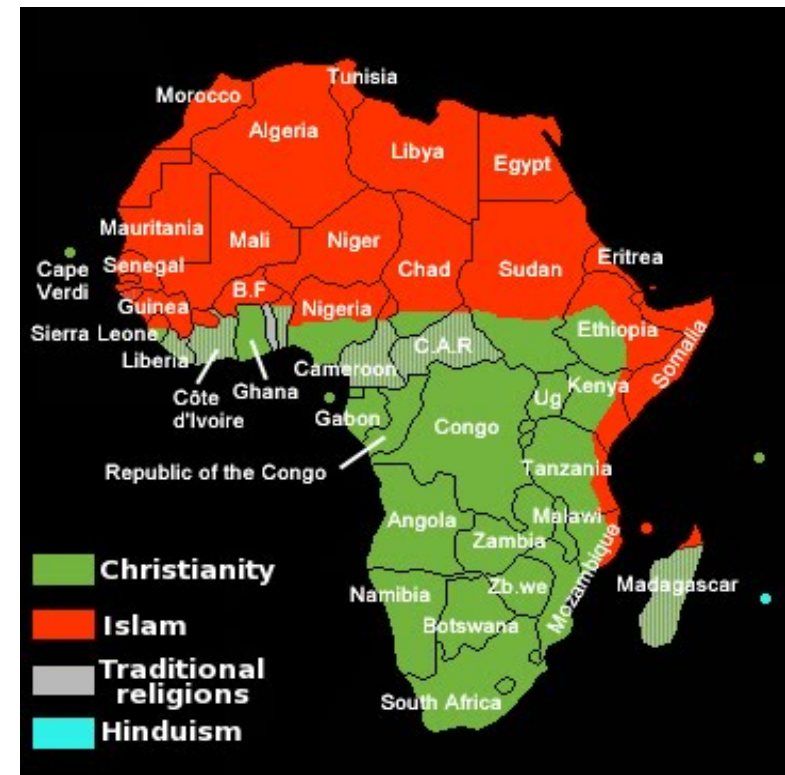
- Catholic - 1.2 billion
- Protestant - 590 million
- Eastern Orthodox – 230 million
- Oriental Orthodox – 80 million

3. Evangelism : Religion Worldwide



3. Evangelism : Africa

- 40% Christian & 45% Moslem
- Increase in Christians from 8.7 million in 1900 to c 390 million (33% growth 2000-2007)
- 147 million “Renewalists (Pentecostals / Charismatics) in 11,500 denominations (2000)
- 158 million Catholics – 16 Cardinals & 400,000 Catechists (2009)



3. Evangelism : China

The Lord's Prayer



- Communist suppression of religion (Mao : “ religion = poison”) from 1947 -1980s
- Underground “House” Churches & (now) Official Churches
- Est 67 to 150 million Christians : c 5 -13% population. “More churchgoers than in Europe”.
- “Love the country, love your religion”
- “In church people feel warm & welcome...they really want to join the community”

3. Evangelism :

Catholicism – today & 1970



- 1.214 billion adherents (654m) : 17.5% world
- 413,418 Priests (419,728)
- 54,665 Brothers (79,408)
- 713,000 Sisters (1,004,304)
- 120,616 Seminarians
- 221,055 Parishes (191,398)
- 49,172 Parishes – no resident priest
- 92,847 Primary schools (89,112)
- 43,591 Secondary schools (25,552)
- 41,000 Permanent Deacons (5,500 in 2004) – mainly Americas & Europe

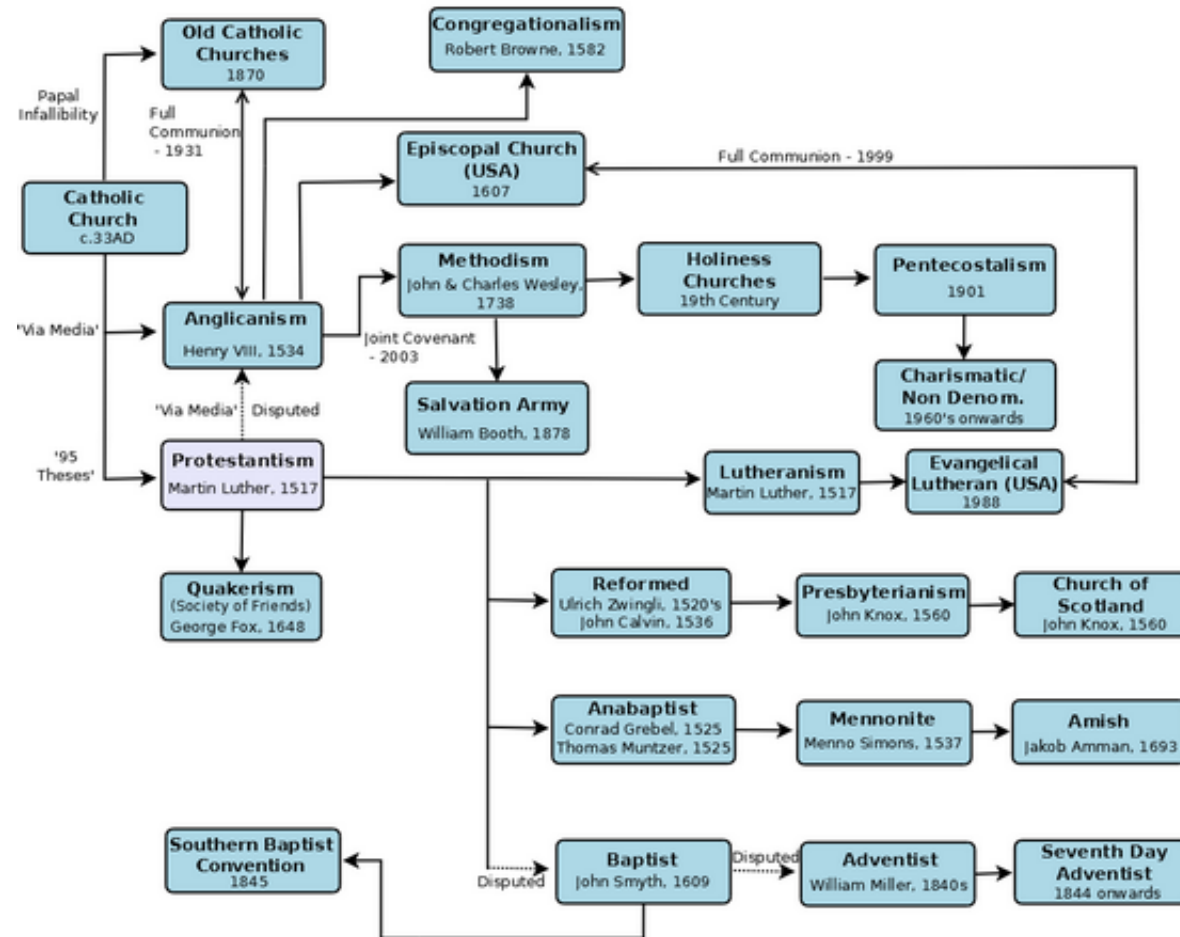
3. Evangelism : Protestant Churches

- Common : 5 “Solas” :
 - By Scripture Alone
 - By Faith Alone
 - By Christ Alone
 - By Grace Alone
 - Glory to God Alone
- Estimated 590 million Protestants:
 - Pentecostal – 130 million
 - Baptist – 100 million
 - Methodist – 75 million
 - Reformed – 75 million
- Anglican / Episcopalian – 85 million
- Estimated 33,000 Protestant denominations



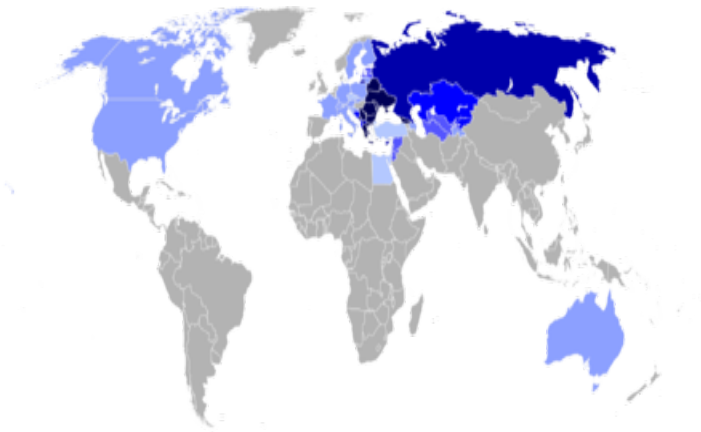
3. Evangelism : Protestant / Reformed Denominations

Protestant Denominations



3. Evangelism :

Eastern Orthodox Churches

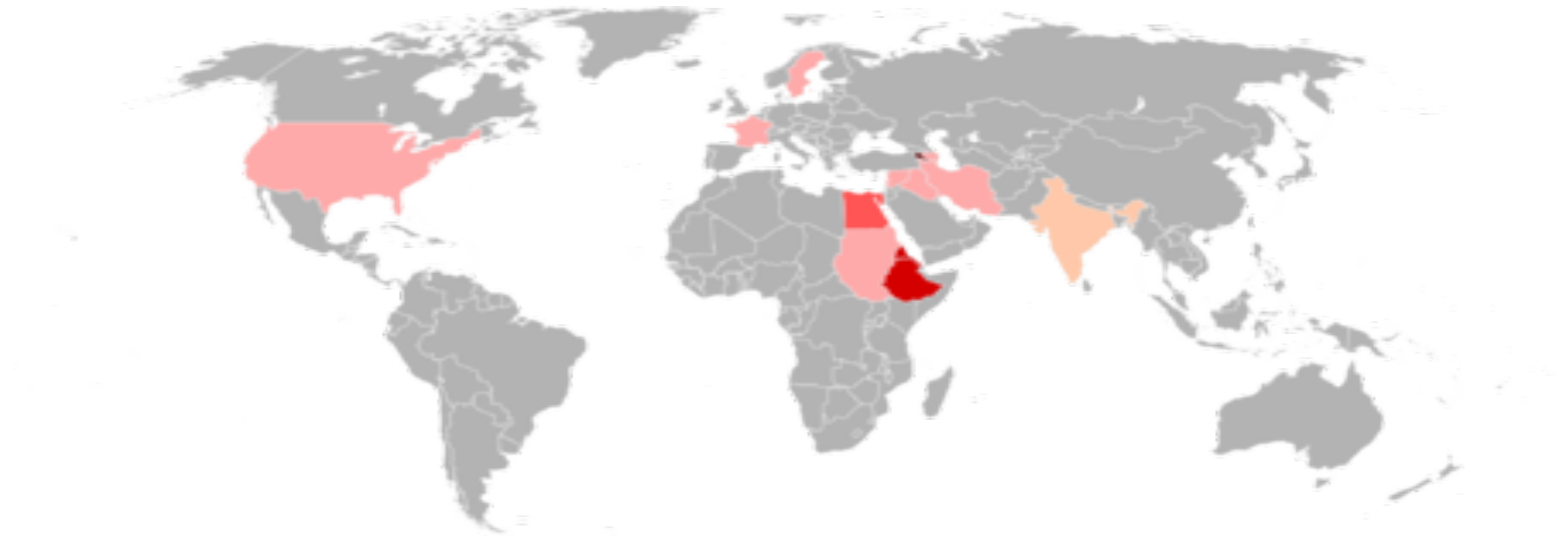


- Eastern Orthodox : 15 independent churches across Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe & the Middle East
- c 230 million adherents
- Close links to Putin's Government : “in symphony”
- Tensions with Catholic Church when it created a Diocesan structure in 2002
- 2011 declaration of shared position on family, marriage & abortion with Evangelical Churches
- Possible peaceful coexistence with Islam

3. Evangelism :

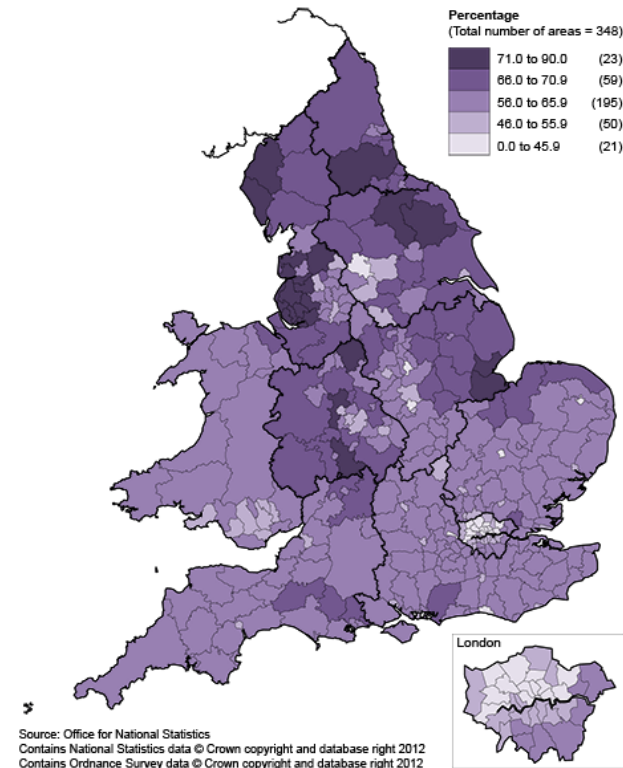
Oriental Orthodox Churches

- Oriental Orthodox :
Armenia, Ethiopia ,
NE Africa etc
- c 82 million adherents



3. Evangelism : 2011 UK Census

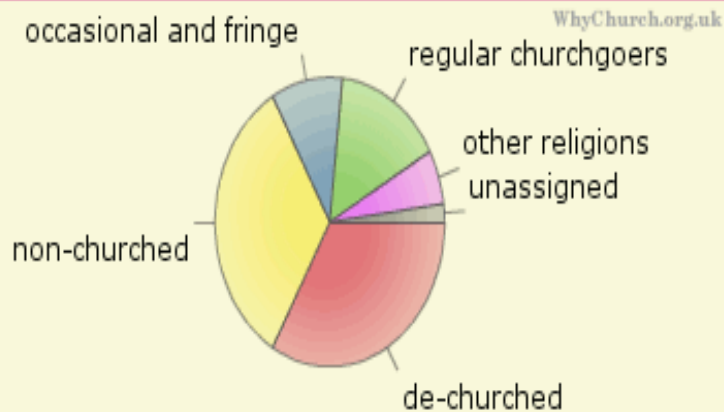
- 59.3% Christian (down from 71.7% in 2001) : 33.2 million
- Catholic s remain at 9% : 5 million
- 4.8% Muslim (up from 2% in 2001) : 2.7 million
- Hindu : 1.5% : 817,000
- Sikh : 0.8% : 423,000
- Jewish : 0.5% : 263,000
- Buddhist : 0.4% : 258,000
- Highest Christian % in NW (Knowlsey, Merseyside : 80.9%)
- No religion : 25.1% (up from 14.8%) : 42.5% Norwich & 42.4% Brighton



3. Evangelism :

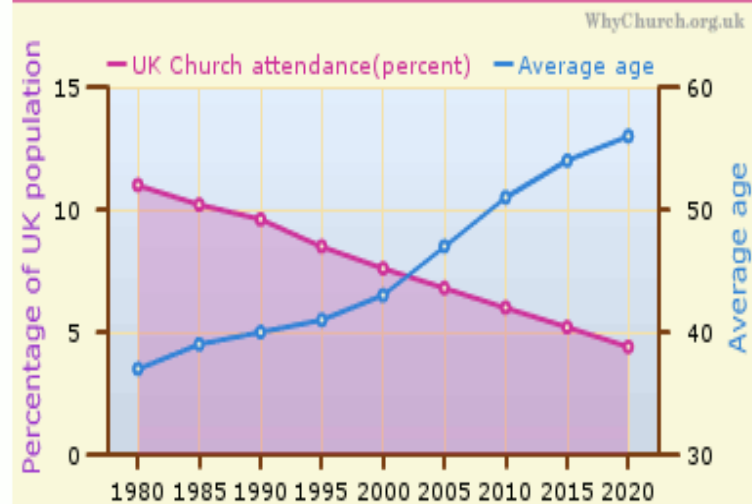
Churchgoing in the UK

Pie chart of Churchgoing in the UK



Source: Tearfund report on Churchgoing April 2007

Trend of UK Church attendance



Source: Religious trends 5, Brieley 2005 Table 12.9.1

4. Challenges

- Ecumenism : “Christians should celebrate as at least they are much closer to overcoming past divisions.”
- But ordination of women an issue for Catholic & Orthodox churches. (Women Bishops an issue for Anglican Church.)
- Gay marriage & Gay clergy
- Dialogue with other faiths but persecution of Christians eg Sudan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia
- Sex abuse scandals
- Decline in religious practice (esp youth) & vocations in Europe but significant growth in Africa & Asia
- Growth of western materialism, relativism & secularism
- “New”Technology – Speed of Change

4. Challenges : The Way Forward?

- Follow St Francis of Assisi :
 - Poverty : *for* the poor, weak & marginalised. Modest frugality & transparent financial policies
 - Humility : *for* humanity, dialogue, hospitality, new ideas *not* power, bureaucracy, inquisition
 - Simplicity : *for* Good News, Gospel-based, listening, learning *not* dogmatism, legalistic, moralistic, all-powerful Canon Law



Hans Kung : article in The Tablet May 13



4. Challenges : Alpha

- Began in 1977 at Holy Trinity (C of E), Brompton
- 10 week course on basics of Christianity : Jesus, Holy Spirit, Prayer, Church, Life & Death
- Supported by Anglican, Protestant & catholic Churches : “What unites us is infinitely greater than what divides us” (Fr Cantalamessa)
- By 2008 : 33,500+ courses in 163 countries attended by 15 million + (2.5 million in UK)
- Courses for Youth, Students, Seniors (75+), Forces, Workplaces, Prisons
- Criticism : too Charismatic? Too little on Sin?

The Modern Church : Quiz

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. When was Papal Infallibility defined? | 1. 1870 |
| 2. Which Pope wrote Rerum Novarum in 1891? | 2. Pope Leo XIII |
| 3. Which organisation was founded in 1948? | 3. The World Council of Churches |
| 4. Which significant Roman converted in 1945? | 4. The Chief Rabbi of Rome |
| 5. Approximately how many Protestant denominations are there? | 5. 33,000 |

**“We are an Easter People &
Alleluia is our song!”**

