

**WHO?
WHAT?
WHY?**

**ART SHOW & COMMUNITY
ART INSTALLATION**

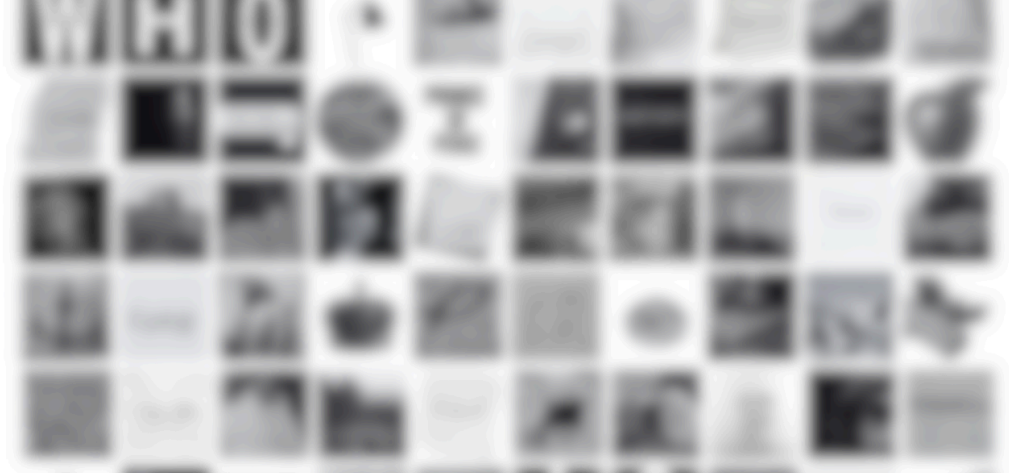
**The Basics
of Christianity**



**JULY - SEPTEMBER
ST MARY'S CHURCH
RHOSSILI
10 AM - 3 PM**

Artist statement

A SHORT WORD FROM THE WONDER OF WELLBEING GOWER



Who, What, and Why: The Basics of Christianity

has been created by The Wonder of Wellbeing Gower.

This art show invites you to **investigate**, be **curious**, look with **intention**, go **deeper**, **take notice**, look **closer**, and **discover** more.

At first glance, what you'll encounter here are the basics, the first questions many people ask:

Who is God?

Who are Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the devil?

What is church? What is sin? What is the Bible?

Why do people pray?

Why is it called Christianity?

Why are there different expressions of worship?

These are the foundations, the simple facts, the starting points.

Each artwork offers an introduction, a glimpse, a doorway into understanding these ideas in their most essential form.

But as you move through the exhibition, something begins to shift.

With the aid of a magnifying glass, both literal and metaphorical, you are invited to explore beyond the surface, notice the details, and question assumptions. To linger a little longer.

There are many parts to each piece but there are meanings, mysteries, and perspectives that even we cannot fully uncover in this art show alone.

And that is where the beauty lies.

This is where wonder begins and curiosity grows.

This is not a journey with clear end points or simple answers.

It is a journey of discovery one that begins the moment you pick up the magnifying glass and choose to seek.

And in truth, it has only just begun.



How to take part?

**“SEEK AND
YOU WILL FIND”
- MATTHEW 7:7**

Begin with this programme.
It is your guide for the experience.

You are welcome to start anywhere,
choosing whichever artwork draws your
attention first.

Find the page that corresponds with
your chosen piece and take a moment
to explore.

Read the key ideas and use the
magnifying glass to uncover the finer
details displayed on the board.

After engaging with the artwork, move
to the flip chart and easel. Take time to
reflect on the questions presented, and
use a marker to add your own thoughts,
responses or reflections.

When you have finished, we invite you to
explore the additional resources
available at the back of this book.

These have been provided to help you
continue your journey and dive deeper
into the themes and questions you have
encountered.



**"GOD IS LOVE.
WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE
LIVES IN GOD, AND GOD
IN THEM"
– 1 JOHN 4:16**

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

If God is our Creator,
then our lives have
purpose, meaning, and
value.

Understanding God
helps answer life's
biggest questions:

- Why am I here?
- Does my life matter?
- Is there hope beyond suffering?
- What is true and good?

WHO IS God?

*CREATOR, SUSTAINER OF THE UNIVERSE, HEAVENLY
FATHER*

SUMMARY

The eternal God who created all things and
desires a relationship with humanity.

ABOUT

- Creator of the universe
- Source of life
- Judge of justice and righteousness
- Provider and protector

Characteristics

- Loving
- Holy
- Just
- Faithful
- All-powerful

Key Significance

- Created the world
- Established promises (covenants) with His people
- Sent Jesus to help people find forgiveness, hope, and spiritual renewal

Mission Statement

To bring people into relationship with Him and restore
His creation.





WHO IS

Jesus?

SON OF GOD, MESSIAH, SAVIOUR, ANNOINTED ONE

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

– JOHN 3:16

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Jesus matters because He offers forgiveness, hope, healing, and a way back to God. He shows:

- What God is really like
- How to love others
- How to live with purpose
- How death is not the end

SUMMARY

God in human form who came to reveal God's character and provide salvation.

ABOUT

- Reveal God's nature
- Teach truth
- Heal and restore
- Died and rise again to save humanity
- Welcomed the rejected

Characteristics

- Compassionate
- Humble
- Loving
- Holy
- Forgiving

Key Significance

- Performed miracles
- Executed on the cross under false accusations
- Rose from the dead (resurrected)
- Opened the way to restoring a positive relationship with God

Mission Statement

To invite people to follow God's guidance in their lives.





WHO IS THE Holy Spirit

HELPER, ADVOCATE, COUNSELLOR

**"BUT WHEN HE, THE
SPIRIT OF TRUTH,
COMES, HE WILL GUIDE
YOU INTO ALL THE
TRUTH."
– JOHN 16:13**

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The Holy Spirit matters because faith is not meant to be lived alone.

The Holy Spirit:

- Provides guidance in decisions
- Brings comfort during difficulties
- Helps people grow in character to become more like Jesus
- Gives strength when life feels overwhelming

SUMMARY

The presence of God actively working in and among
His people today.

ABOUT

- Guide into truth
- Comfort and strengthen
- Convict and transform
- Empower people for God's purposes

Characteristics

- Wise
- Comforter
- Powerful
- Encouraging
- Often represented through symbolism: dove, fire and wind

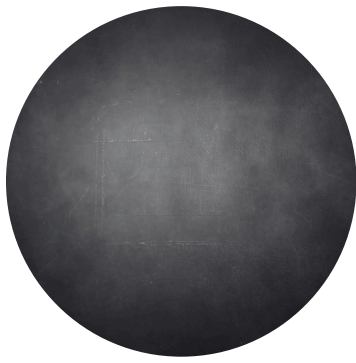
Key Significance

- Inspired the writings of the Bible
- Empowered the early church to live as Jesus lived
- Continues to transform lives today

Mission Statement

To help people know God, become like Jesus and fulfil their purpose.





WHO IS THE Devil

ADVERSARY, ACCUSER, TEMPTER

**"THAT ANCIENT SNAKE CALLED THE DEVIL, OR SATAN, WHO LEADS THE WHOLE WORLD ASTRAY. HE WAS HURLED TO THE EARTH, AND HIS ANGELS WITH HIM."
– REVELATION 12:9**

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Understanding the Devil helps explain why people experience temptation, deception, and spiritual struggle. Knowing about the Devil:

- Encourages discernment
- Reminds people that evil is real
- Helps people recognize harmful influences
- Highlights the importance of choosing truth over deception

SUMMARY

A spiritual embodiment of all chaos and rebellion against God who seeks to oppose God's purposes.

ABOUT

- Deceive
- Tempt
- Accuse
- Distract people from God

Characteristics

- Deceptive
- Prideful
- Destructive
- Rebellious
- Self-seeking

Key Significance

- Tempted Adam and Eve
- Tempted Jesus
- Continues to oppose God's work

Ultimate Outcome

Defeated through Jesus and destined for final judgment.

Mission Statement

To separate people from God through deception and rebellion.



"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
– Romans 3:23

Q What is Sin?

A Sin is anything that goes against God's character, will, or design. It can be something we do, something we say, something we think – either personally or as society.

Q Is everyone a sinner?

A Yes. No one is perfect, and everyone falls short of God's standard at times. Why it matters: If everyone struggles with sin, then everyone needs grace, forgiveness, and understanding—not just "bad people."

Q Why is sin such a big deal?

A Sin damages relationships:
With God; with other people and with ourselves.
It is the cause of hurt, injustice and brokenness seen in the world.

Q Can sin be forgiven?

A Yes. Christians believe that through Jesus Christ, anyone can receive forgiveness, no matter what they have done.

Q What should I do if I sin?

A The Bible teaches that we should admit our wrongdoings; ask God for forgiveness; turn away from the harmful behaviour and seek to make things right where possible.



WHAT IS

Church?

FAQ

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
– Matthew 18:20

Q What is Church?

A The Church is not primarily a building—it's the community of all people who follow Jesus and seek to worship God together.

Q Why do Christians go to church?

A Christians gather together to worship God; learn from the Bible; support one another and serve their communities. Faith was never meant to be lived alone. Church provides encouragement, accountability, and belonging.

Q Do I have to go to church to be a Christian?

A A person becomes a Christian through faith in Jesus, not by attending a church building. However, Christians believe that being part of a church community enables you to grow as a follower of Jesus and to live out faith in everyday life.

Q Why are there so many different churches?

A Different churches do some things differently, such as how they worship or organise services often responding to different cultures, music, personalities and learning styles.

Q What is the purpose of the Church?

A The Church helps people know God; grow in faith; care for others and share God's love in community.



WHAT IS THE

BIBLE?

FAQ

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."
- 2 Timothy 3:16

Q What is the bible?

A The Bible is a summary of God's interaction with humanity. Inspired by God and written by human authors, it isn't just a manual but also offers a connection to the living God.

Q Why do Christians read the Bible?

A Christians read the Bible to learn about: God; Jesus; faith and how to live well. The Bible helps people understand God's character and guidance for everyday life.

Q Is the Bible just one book?

A No, the Bible is a collection of 66 books written by different authors over centuries. Divided into the Old Testament (before Jesus) and New Testament (life of Jesus and early Christianity), they include history, poetry, prophecy, letters and teachings.

Q Who wrote the Bible?

A Christians believe that the Bible was inspired by God but written by many different human authors over hundreds of years. These authors included prophets, kings, disciples, and other followers of God.

Q Why is the Bible important to Christians?

A The Bible is important to Christians because they believe it is the Word of God. It teaches them about God, Jesus, and how to live a faithful life. Christians use the Bible for worship, prayer, guidance, and learning about their faith.



WHY DO CHRISTIANS Pray?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” - Philippians 4:6

01

TO TALK & TO LISTEN

Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Christians pray because they believe God listens to them and helps them feel closer to God.

02

TO THANK GOD

Christians thank God for their family, friends, food, health, and other good things in their lives.

03

TO ASK FOR HELP

Christians pray when they need help with problems, worries, or important decisions.

04

TO SAY SORRY

Christians pray to ask God for forgiveness when they have done something wrong.

05

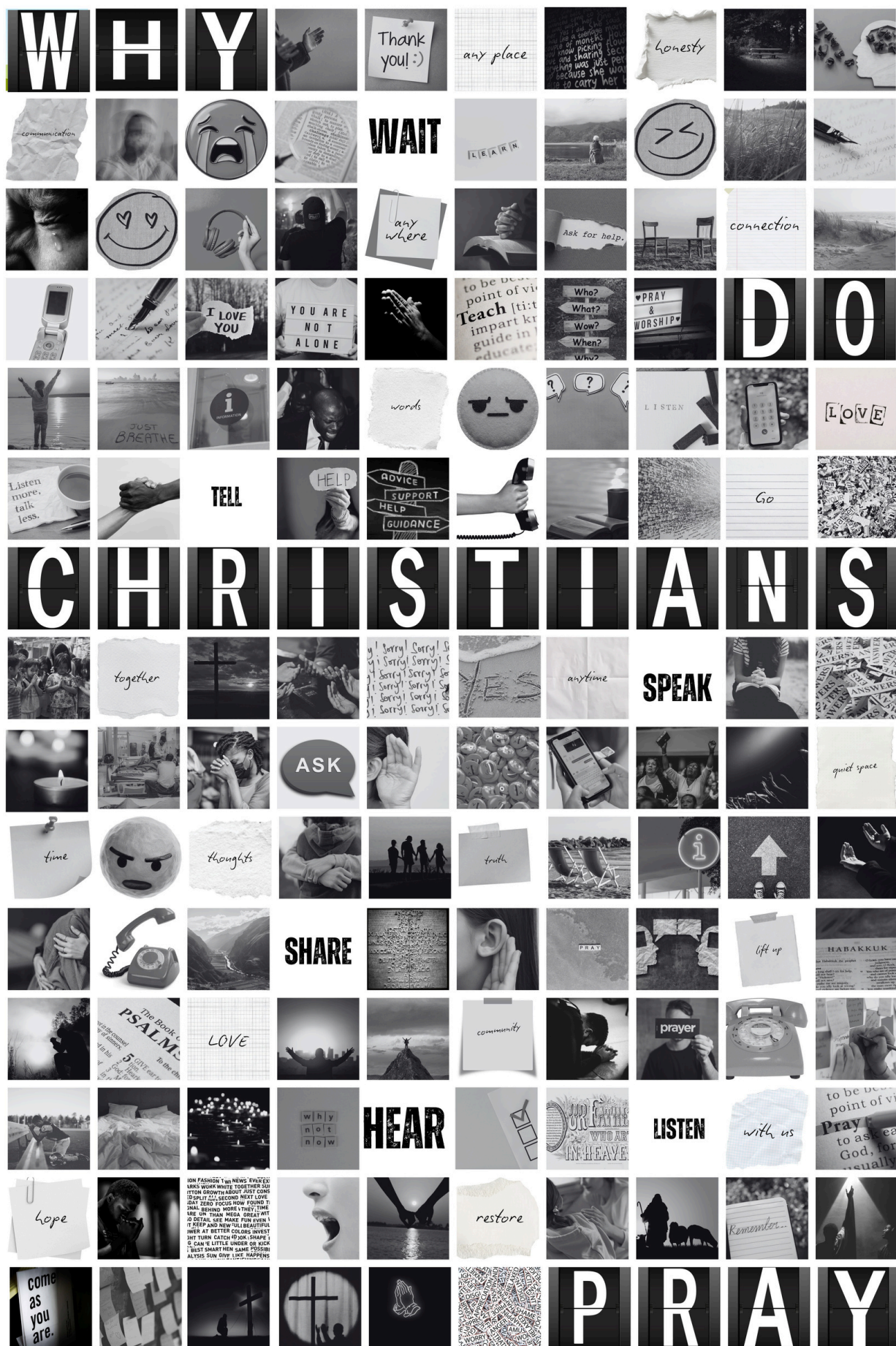
TO PRAY FOR OTHERS

Christians pray for people who are sick, sad, lonely, or need help.

06

TO KNOW PEACE AND COMFORT

Prayer can help Christians feel calm, supported, and hopeful during difficult times.



WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS OF Worship?

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.” – Psalm 100:1-2

01

PEOPLE WORSHIP IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Christians are different, so they express their faith in different ways. Some enjoy quiet prayer, while others prefer singing and music.

02

DIFFERENT CHURCH TRADITIONS

There are many Christian denominations, such as Anglican, Baptist, and Pentecostal. Each has its own style of worship.

03

DIFFERENT CULTURES

Christians around the world worship in ways that reflect their culture. They may use different languages, music, clothing, and traditions.

04

DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORSHIP

Worship can include prayer, singing, reading the Bible, art, dance, music, and helping others. Christians use different forms to show love for God.

05

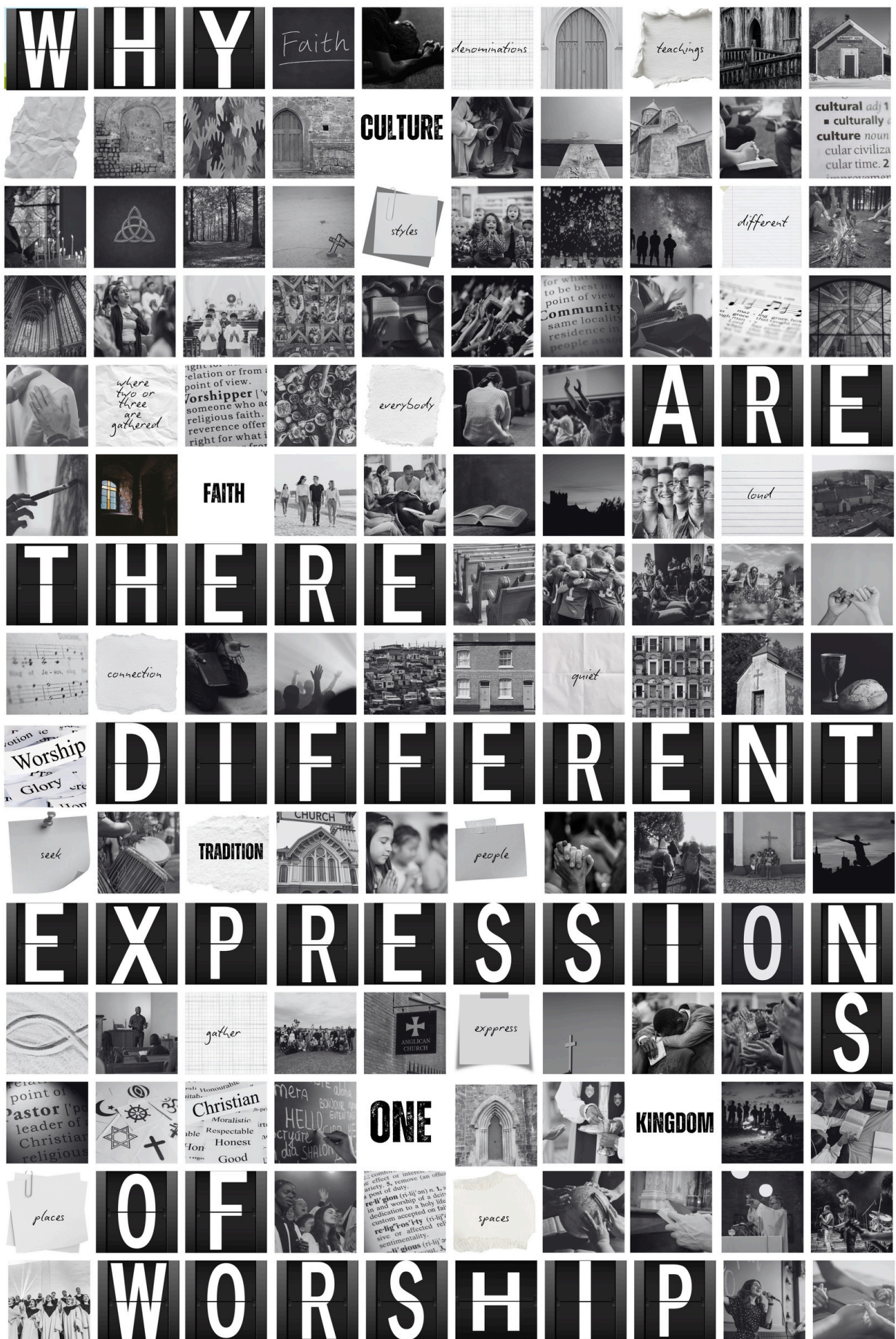
PERSONAL PREFERENCES

Some people feel closer to God through quiet reflection, while others prefer lively services with music and celebration.

06

TO CONNECT WITH GOD

Although the styles may be different, the purpose is the same: to worship God, follow the teachings of Jesus and become equipped by the Holy Spirit.



WHY IS IT CALLED

Christianity?

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

01

IT IS NAMED AFTER JESUS CHRIST

Christianity gets its name from Jesus Christ, the central figure of the religion.

02

"CHRIST" IS A TITLE

"Christ" isn't just a surname - It means the 'Anointed One' who was to bring in God's kingdom.

03

FOLLOWERS ARE CALLED CHRISTIANS

People who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ are called Christians.

04

THE NAME BEGAN LONG AGO

The word "Christian" was first used nearly 2,000 years ago to describe followers of Jesus.

05

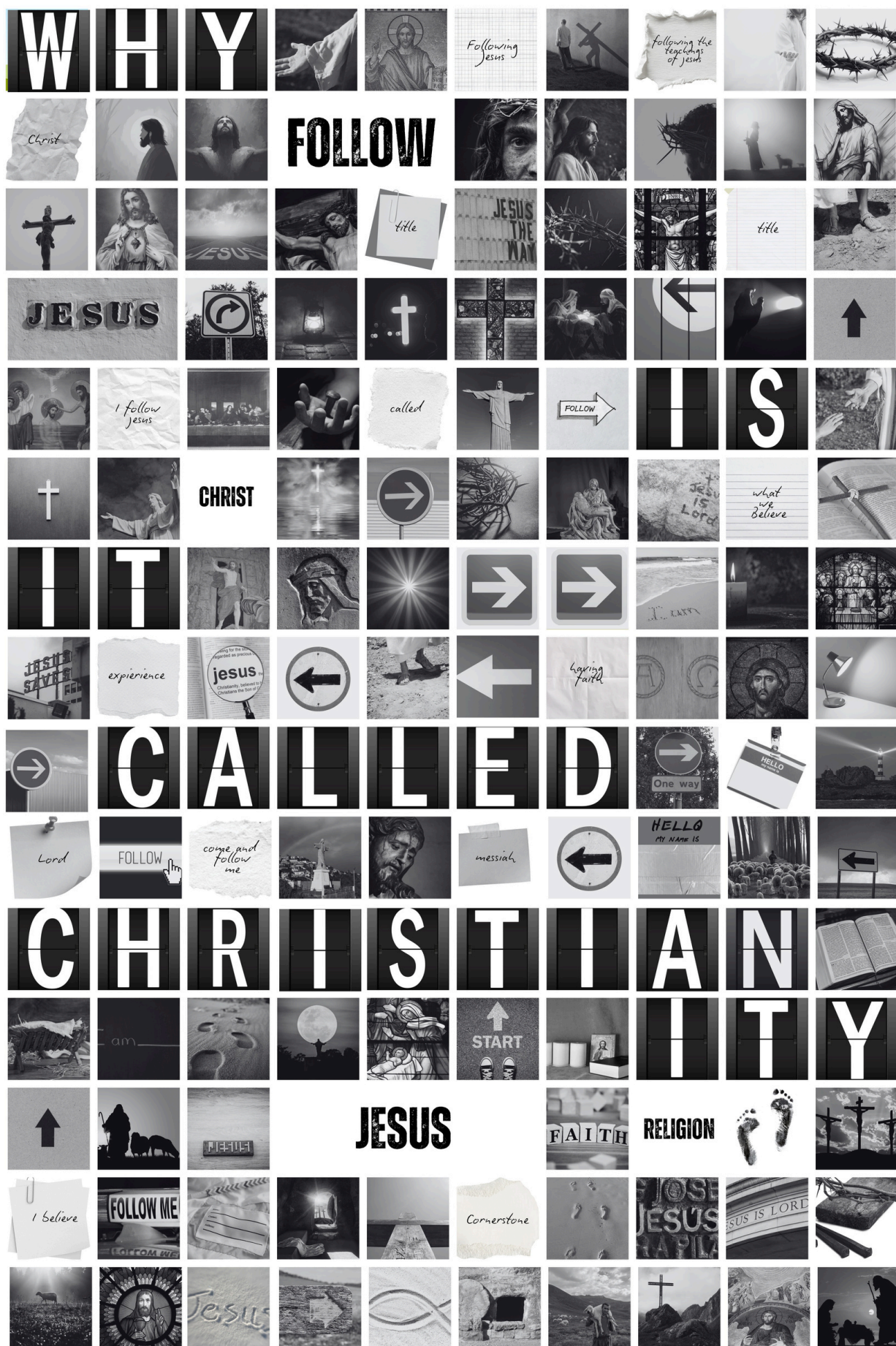
CHRISTIANITY IS BASED ON JESUS' TEACHINGS

Christians try to follow the teachings, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

06

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

Because Christians follow Christ, their religion is called Christianity. In Britain it has shaped our laws, healthcare, education and architecture.



A TIME FOR PERSONAL

Reflection



If Jesus were sitting next to
you right now, what would
you ask Him?

What do you believe He
would say in response?

We know that we have only **scratched the surface** when **exploring Christianity**, and there is so much more that could be discovered. However, we hope that something from this experience, even a small idea, thought, or insight has stayed with you and has been meaningful in some way.

As part of our art exhibitions here at St Mary's and with The Wonder of Wellbeing Gower, **we hand this part of the exhibition over to you.** We believe that reflection is an important part of the journey, so we invite you to take a moment to pause, think, and respond to the questions below.

Now that you have seen the artwork and experienced a small glimpse into the why, what, or who (or perhaps all three) consider the following and go ahead and write your thoughts on the flip chart provided.

If Jesus were sitting next to you right now, what would you ask Jesus?

Thinking about the questions, **what do you believe He would say in response?** Take your time this is just an opportunity to reflect, wonder and explore.

HOW DO I BECOME A “CHRISTIAN”?

Respond

Being a Christian is not about being perfect or following rules; it is about knowing God through faith in Jesus, receiving forgiveness, and learning to follow His way with God's help, through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Many people break this down into three simple steps:

- **Admit:** Everyone makes mistakes and falls short of God's perfect way. This is called sin. Admit that you need help and cannot fix everything on your own.
- **Believe:** Jesus showed God's ultimate love by dying on a cross. His sacrifice paid the price for your mistakes. He then came back to life, proving He has power over death and offers you a new start.
- **Confess:** Thank Jesus for His sacrifice. Ask Him to forgive your mistakes and tell Him you want Him to be the leader (Lord) of your life.

WHAT NOW?

Becoming a Christian is much more than a fresh start. It is the beginning of a new relationship and, like all relationships, it takes time and effort to build. The same is true as you begin a new life as a Christian, a follower of Jesus. Just as you would get to know a new friend, it is important to get to know God. Tell a Christian you know, contact a local church, or reach out to us to help you explore more.

HELPFUL TIPS

Read Mark's Gospel in the New Testament about the life of Jesus from an eyewitness – for a free copy, scan the QR code on the next page. Spend time chatting to God about anything and everything. Find a church community by visiting a few, researching online, through word of mouth, or reach out to us.

WANT A CHAT?

Vicar Peter Lewis

peterlewis@churchinwales.org.uk

07944 056 335

“If you declare with your mouth,
'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your
heart that God raised Him from
the dead, you will be saved”
– Romans 10:9

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. MAY YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE DEEPLY LOVED, GREATLY VALUED, AND TREASURED IN GOD'S EYES, AND MAY YOU FIND HOPE, PEACE, AND JOY ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH.

THE WONDER OF WELLBEING GOWER

Connect

We are passionate
and dedicated to
creating inviting
spaces

We hope people
find renewal,
hope and
connections

A chance to explore
the stunning beauty
of Gower

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Shoreline

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beinggower



Alpha



Linktree



SHORELINE IS... a seeker friendly course for all who are spiritually curious and would like to explore Christian faith through gentle practices in outdoor settings across Gower beaches.

ALPHA IS... an 11-week community space designed to help people explore the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, no-pressure setting. It is open to everyone, regardless of background or past beliefs.