AQA Religious Studies A – Christian Practices

1. Key Words			
Believer's Baptism	Service where those old enough to decide for themselves are welcomed into the church	Liturgical Worship	Formal worship with set prayers, hymns and Bible readings
Christmas	Christian festival which celebrates the incarnation (birth) of Christ	Mission	The calling to spread the word of God and evangelise
Consecration	When a priest blesses bread and wine in order to use it for Eucharist	Non-liturgical worship	Worship with no set pattern, may have modern music and sermons
Easter	Christian festival which celebrates the resurrection of Christ	Persecution	Hostility and ill-treatment of a group of people
Eucharist	Service where bread and wine is received by Christians to remember Jesus' sacrifice	Pilgrimage	Going on a journey to visit a holy site
Evangelism	Spreading the word of God through action or speech	Prayer	A communication with God, can be private or during worship
Infant Baptism	Service where babies are welcomed into the church with holy water	Reconciliation	Restoring friendly relations after a conflict or falling out

Key Ideas		
2. Worship + Prayer	**Liturgical Worship** - This form of worship takes place in a church and is led by a priest - **Formal**, **set prayers** are read out - A more **traditional**, and formal form of worship **Non-liturgical Worship** - Also takes place in a church but **less formal** - No set prayers, instead people take turns to preach and read from the **Bible** - Can be modern and appealing to young people	**Prayer** - Prayer means **communicating with God**, either silently or out loud, sometimes through song - It is one of the most important parts of the spiritual life of a Christian and enables them to have a personal relationship with God - **Intercessions** are prayers made on behalf of others - **Thanksgiving** is when people pray to say thank you to God - **Set prayers** are written down and used in liturgical worship - **Informal prayer** is off-the-cuff and often used in **non-liturgical** worship
3. Eucharist + Baptism	**Eucharist** - **Eucharist** and **baptism** are both sacraments meaning special occasions in a Christian's life - In Eucharist a priest **consecrates** (blesses) **bread** and **wine** and the congregation then receives these - **Catholics** believe the Holy Spirit transforms the bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood - **Anglicans** believe the bread and wine are symbolic - Christians take part in this ritual in order to remember the **sacrifice** Jesus Christ made for them by being **crucified** on the cross *"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes"* – 1 Corinthians 11:26	**Infant Baptism** - This is a **formal** service welcoming a new child into the Christian church - **Holy water** is sprinkled over the baby's head - All Catholics **baptise** their children close to birth in order to ensure they go to heaven **Believer's Baptism** - A believer's **baptism** welcomes someone into the church who is **old enough** to decide themselves - They are submerged in a pool of **holy water** - They make promises to stay away from evil - **Baptists** only practice this type of baptism
4. Pilgrimage + Festivals	**Pilgrimage** - A **pilgrimage** is a journey made by a Christian to a holy site - Catholics go on pilgrimage to Lourdes where a vision of Mary was once seen, they believe the water there has healing effects	**Christmas** - **Christmas** celebrates the incarnation (birth) of Jesus Christ - Christians give gifts to commemorate the gift of God sending his own son to the world **Easter** - Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ - Christians celebrate by saying *"he is risen"* and by eating chocolate eggs that represent new life
5. Evangelism + Church in the Community	Christians have a duty to **evangelise** (tell others of the word of God). An example is the **Alpha Course** which is an educational course that tells people more about the life of Jesus.	Christians also have a duty to **help others in the local community**. Two examples of this are **Street Pastors** who help drunk people at night and **Food Banks** that provide food to people in poverty.
6. Reconciliation	- Christians across the world play an important role in **reconciliation** (seeking to restore friendly relations after a conflict or falling out) - An example is **Coventry Cathedral** which was bombed during World War II but now seeks to create peace and reconciliation elsewhere in the world. **The World Council of Churches** also works to help after conflict. - In some places Christians face **persecution** where they are treated badly for their faith. Churches around the world work together to try and overcome this.	