

**Faith Groups: <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/diversity/publications/pdf/hmlandregistryculturaldiversity.pdf>**

Faith	Place of worship	Holy Book	Festivals
<p><b>Christianity</b> God is a trinity of 3 persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. All have equal divine status. The doctrine of the Virgin Birth (veneration of Mary, the mother of Jesus by Catholics)</p>	<p><b>Church</b></p>	<p><b>Bible:</b> in two parts: Old Testament: roughly equivalent to the Hebrew Bible. New Testament: includes the Gospels (Jesus' life and teachings), letters of St Paul and other saints</p>	<p><b>Christmas:</b> celebrates the birth of Jesus, 25<sup>th</sup> December in Western Christendom and on 6<sup>th</sup> January in Eastern Christendom. <b>Lent:</b> a 40 day preparation for Easter, during which time some Christians impose restrictions on themselves, such as eating less or "giving something up". <b>Easter:</b> commemorates the death (on Good Friday) and resurrection (on Easter Sunday) of Jesus. Exact dates, in late March or early April, vary from year to year.</p>
<p><b>Islam</b> Allah: also honour a succession of prophets from Abraham and Moses, through Jesus (not a divinity) to Muhammad. Muslims are required to follow the "Five Pillars of Islam": Five daily ritual prayers, at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and night.</p>	<p><b>Mosque</b></p>	<p><b>Quran:</b> contains the revelations given by God to Muhammad.</p>	<p><b>Eid ul Fitr:</b> (abbreviated as Eid, sometimes Eid <i>al-Fitr</i>) marks <u>end of Ramadan</u>, the month of fasting. <i>Fitr</i> means "to break" and therefore symbolizes the breaking of the fasting period and of all sinful habits <b>Eid ul Adha:</b> Eid ul-Adha is celebrated as a commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to <u>sacrifice his son</u> (Ishmael) for (Allah) God. It also marks the <u>end of the Pilgrimage</u> or Hajj for the millions who trek to Mecca.</p>
<p><b>Hinduism</b> Personified by many gods, regarded as manifestations of attributes of one supreme God; 3 main gods: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva</p>	<p><b>Temple</b></p>	<p>4 Holy Books: <b>Vedas</b> collection of Sanskrit, Bhagavad-Gita (Mahabharata epic)</p>	<p><b>Holi or Phagwah:</b> an annual festival taking place over two days <u>marking start of spring</u> and falls on Full Moon, also called the Festival of Colours. Day 1: a bonfire is lit at night to signify burning <u>Holika</u>, day 2: people go around until afternoon throwing coloured powder and water at each other, and invite each other to their houses for feasts and celebrations in the evening. Festival ends a few days later (fifth day of full moon) with lots of colour. <b>Diwali:</b> (<u>Hindu</u>, <u>Jain</u>, <u>Sikh</u> and <u>Buddhist</u> festival) "Festival of Lights," it symbolises the <u>victory of good over evil</u>; lamps are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for mankind</p>
<p><b>Judaism</b> One God and assert</p>	<p><b>Synagogue</b></p>	<p><b>Torah:</b> The Old Testament of</p>	<p><b>Hanukkah:</b> (Hebrew 'dedication') annual festival celebrated on <u>eight successive days</u>. Begins on the 25th day of 3rd month of</p>

<p>this daily in their prayers.</p>		<p>the Bible contains the sacred Jewish writings. The first five books comprise the Torah and reveal the will of God. They are central to the Jewish faith.</p>	<p>the Jewish calendar, corresponding approximately, to December in the Gregorian calendar. Also known as the Festival of Lights / Feast of Dedication, Hanukkah commemorates the <u>rededication of the Temple</u> of Jerusalem by Judas Maccabeus in 165 BC after it had been profaned by the King of Syria, overlord of Palestine. <b>Yom Kippur:</b> (Hebrew: 'day of atonement') holiday falling on the tenth day of the 7th month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year (September / October). The culmination of observing <u>10 days of penitence</u>, begins with Rosh Hashanah, (the New Year) the most sacred of Jewish holidays. Yom Kippur: a day of <u>confession, repentance, and prayers for forgiveness</u> of sins committed during the year against the laws and covenant of God. It is also the day on which an individual's fate for the ensuing year is thought to be sealed.</p>
<p><b>Sikhism</b> One God, word revealed through 10 major prophets / "Gurus". Salvation achieved through union with God through devotional worship. Until that union is achieved, Sikhs believe they must live through many reincarnations..</p>	<p><b>Gurdwara</b></p>	<p><b>Adi Granth:</b> Punjabi – the Original (or first) book often called Guru Granth Sahib – hymns and poems. They include texts from followers of other faiths such as Islam and Hinduism.</p>	<p><b>Baisakhi:</b> Sikh festival, also New Year's Day in the <u>Punjab</u>, usually 13<sup>th</sup> April (occasionally April 14). It celebrates the <u>founding of the Sikh religion</u>, in late 15th century, by <u>Guru Nanak</u>, said to have begun his missionary travels on this day. It's the official birthday of the Sikh faith in 1699 when the 10<sup>th</sup> Guru, Gobind Singh, establish the brotherhood of Sikhs, the Khalsa. Members were ordered to adopt the additional name of Singh (lion) or Kaur (lioness / princess) and to follow a code of conduct practicing equality, kindness, righteousness, courage, steadfastness, and leadership. Also harvest festival in northern India <b>Diwali:</b> see Hinduism</p>
<p><b>Buddhism</b> No belief in a creator God, nor worship of gods. A doctrine of the 4 Noble Truths</p>	<p><b>Temple</b></p>	<p>no sacred book (<b>Pali Canon</b> is a collection of scriptures)</p>	<p><b>Vesakha Puja / Wesak / Buddha Day:</b> Lay people come together at monasteries, houses are decorated with lanterns and garlands, and temples are ringed with oil lamps <u>celebrating birth of Gautama Buddha</u> his enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree in Bodhgaya and his final passing away. Buddha means 'one who is awake' and has become enlightened (a blessed state in which the individual attains Nirvana – the transcendence of desire and suffering.) It denotes a person who has attained the supreme wisdom and compassion of Enlightenment.</p>