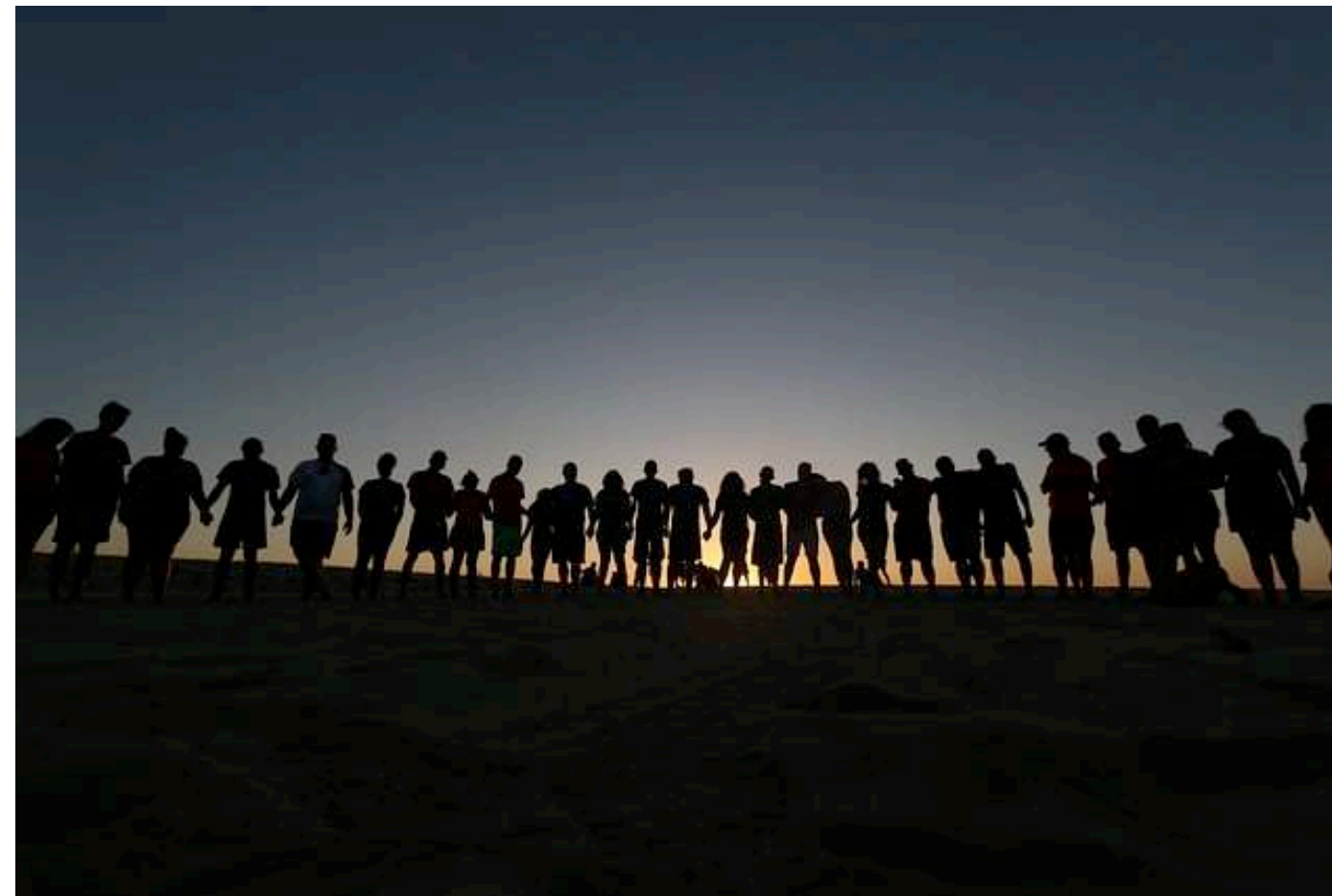


What is the Church?

1. What is meant by 'The Church'?
2. How did it start?
3. What is the difference between a religion and a denomination?
4. What is a sect?
5. What is the Beacon Church, Havant?
6. What should our attitude be towards other denominations / churches?



Religion

The belief in and worship of a superhuman power or powers, especially a God or gods (Google)

Not a building

The Church

The worldwide community of people who love and follow Jesus, who believe in His divinity and resurrection, and who are commanded to share the good news of His salvation to the world



N.B. Not all churches are Christian (e.g. Church of Scientology, Latter Day Saints, Christ Scientist)

Denomination

A religious group that has slightly different beliefs from other groups that share the same religion (Cambridge Dictionary)

The 3 main Christians denominations

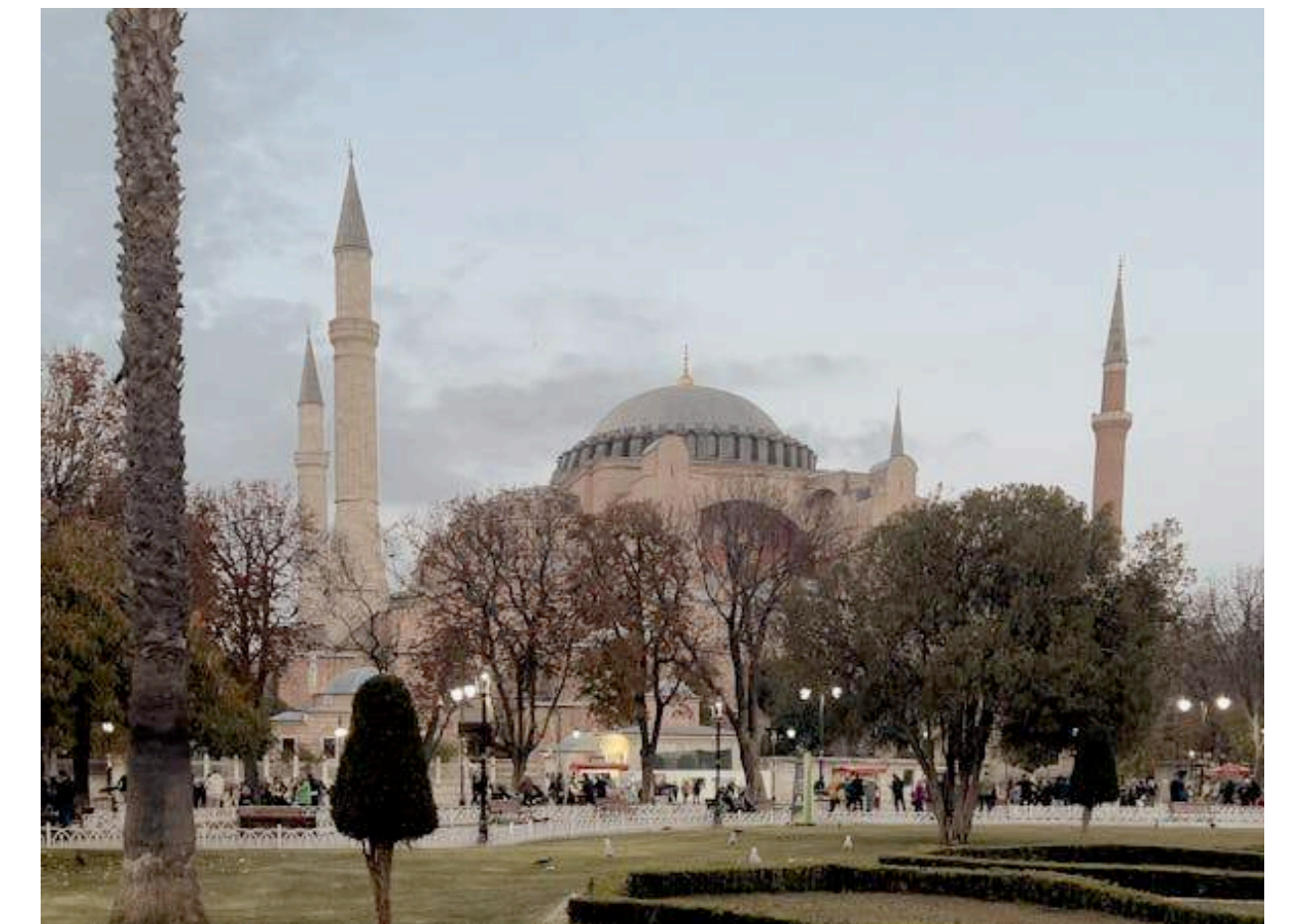
Catholic



Protestant



**Orthodox
(e.g. Greek, Russian)**



According to the UK Christian Handbook, how many different Christian denominations were there in the UK in 1998?

17

Protestant

Anglican (Church of England)

47

Pentecostal (e.g. Assemblies of God, Elim)

Conservative Evangelical

147

Charismatic Evangelical

Methodist

247

Seventh Day Adventist

Baptist

447

Presbyterian / Congregational

United Reform

Quakers

Salvation Army

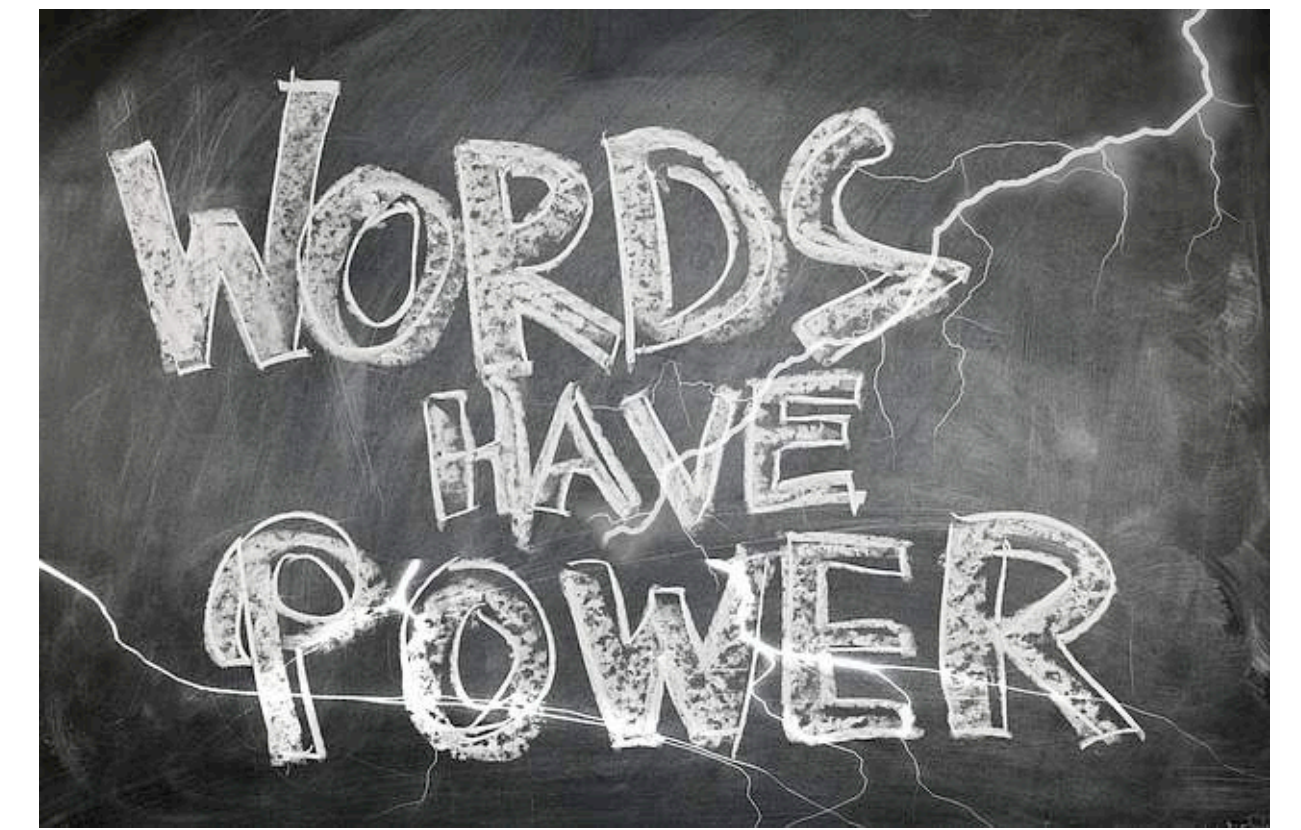
247

Brethren / Plymouth Brethren

Community / House Churches



What is a sect?



Doctrine

A set of beliefs

(*Latin doctor = 'teacher'*)



Heresy (*hairesis* - 'self-chosen opinion')

- Self-chosen doctrines that do not originate from God
- Departure from the fundamental teaching of Scripture

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves (2 Peter 2:1)

Sect

A religious group that has separated from a larger religion and is considered to have extreme or unusual beliefs or customs (Cambridge Dictionary)

Main heresies

1. Jesus (divinity & humanity)
2. Salvation
3. The Bible

Evangelical

Greek: (*evangelion*) (*good news*)

Churches that stress (britannica.com)

- 1.the preaching of the gospel (*evangelion*) of Jesus Christ
- 2.a personal conversion (giving control of your life to Jesus)
- 3.the absolute authority of Scripture (the Bible)
- 4.active evangelism (helping others to become Christians)

Evangelism / Evangelistic (what we do)

Evangelist (the person) (Ephesians 4:11)



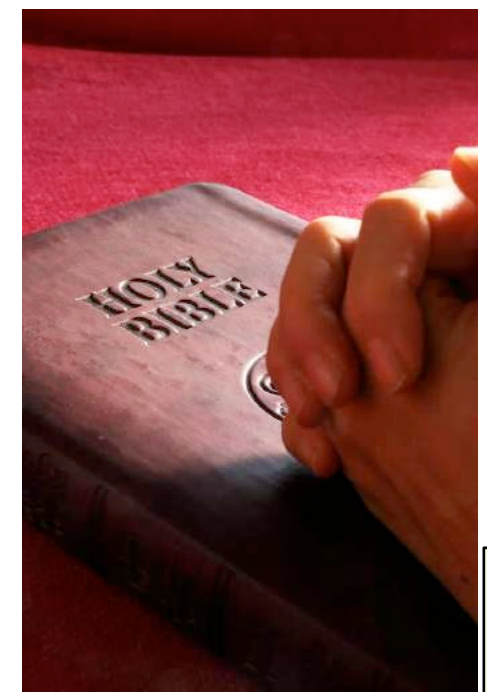
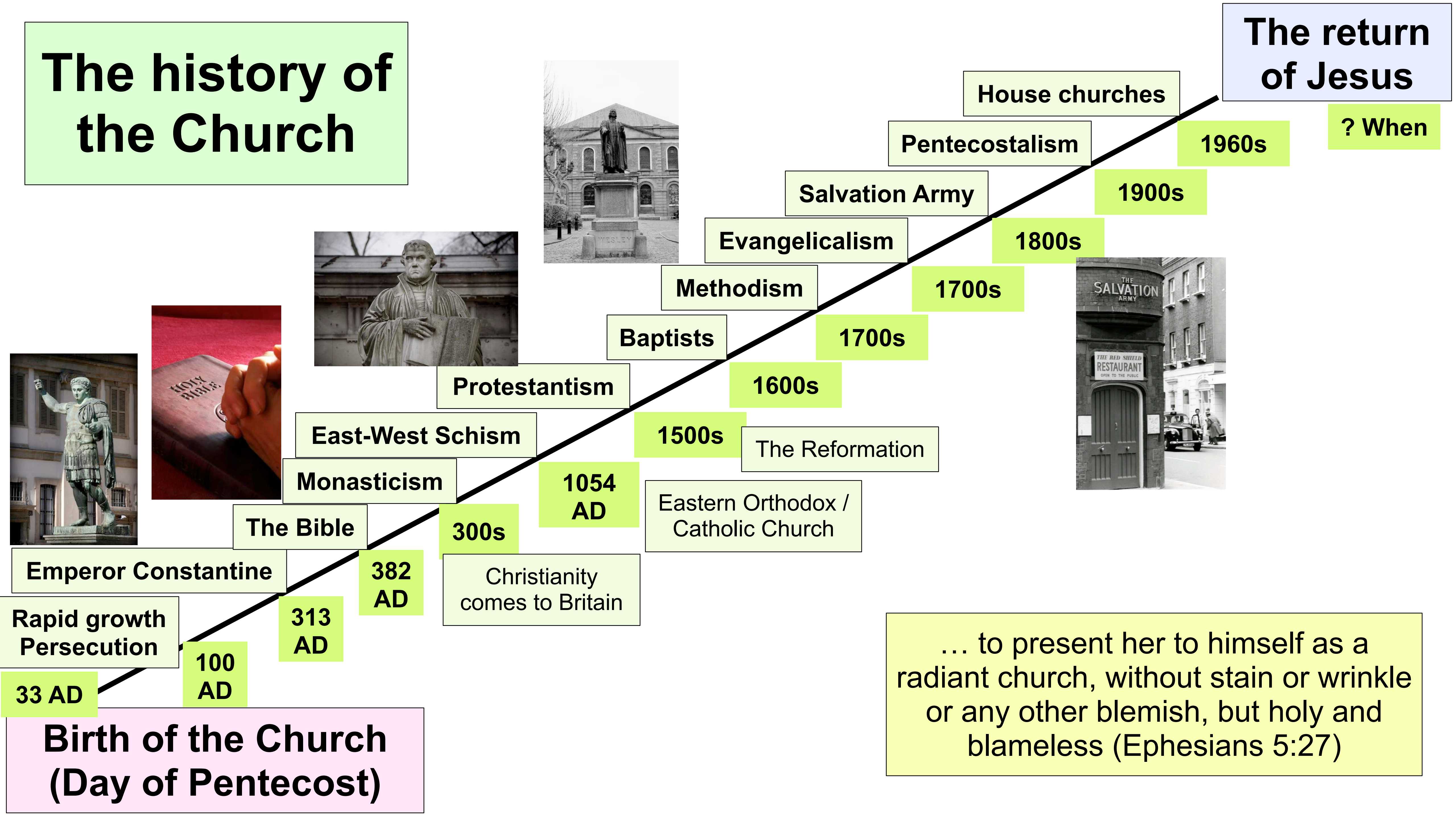
Charismatic (Christianity)

A form of Christianity that emphasises the work of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts as an everyday part of a Christian's life

The history of the Church

The return of Jesus

? When



Emperor Constantine

Rapid growth
Persecution

33 AD

100 AD

313 AD

382 AD

Monasticism

The Bible

300s

East-West Schism

1054 AD

Christianity comes to Britain

Eastern Orthodox / Catholic Church

The Reformation

1500s

Protestantism

1600s

Baptists

1700s

Methodism

1700s

Evangelicalism

1800s

Salvation Army

1900s

Pentecostalism

1960s

House churches

Birth of the Church (Day of Pentecost)

... to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:27)

What is the Beacon Church?

Protestant

Beacon Church,
Community Church

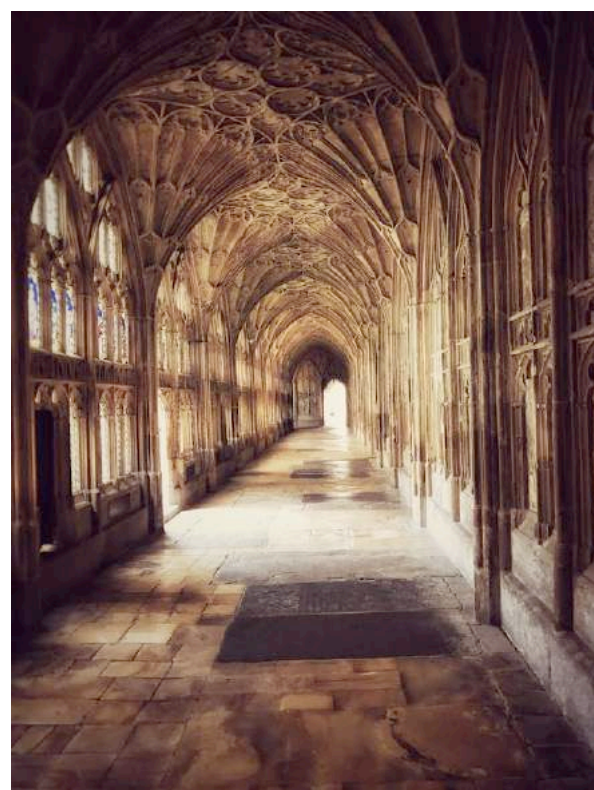
Charismatic
evangelical

The Christian Church

A part of ...

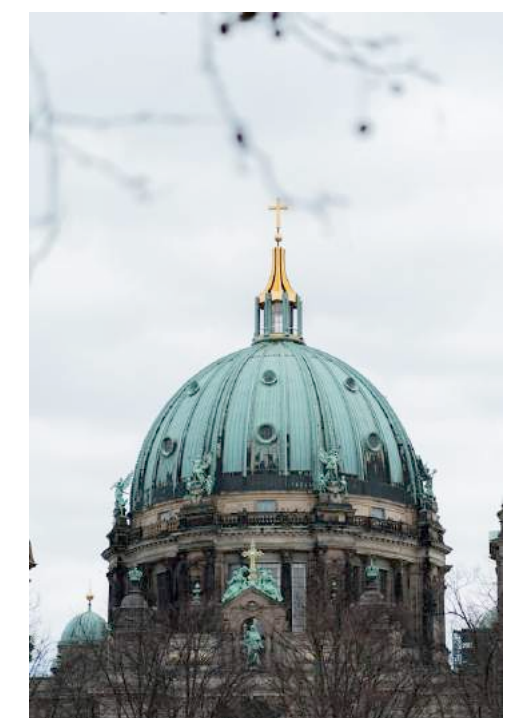
- The churches in Havant
- The UK Church
- The worldwide Church
- The Bride of Christ

What should our attitude be towards other denominations and churches?



- Love and humility
- Non-judgemental
- Willingness to work together
- Unity, not uniformity

- *In essential things, unity*
- *In non-essential things, liberty*
- *In all things, charity (love)*



God's eternal plan for the Church

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was his eternal plan ... (Ephesians 3:10) (NLT)

... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you
(John 17:21)

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples
(John 13:35)