

Colours of the Church Year



The Church Year

The Anglican Church, together with the Roman Catholic Church and others, use a calendar that divides the year into different seasons. The tradition has grown up for the seasons to be associated with different colours. The seasons are:

Advent

What Christians celebrate: Jesus will come again!

This starts about the beginning of December. It is a time to look forward to the time when Jesus will come back to earth again. We prepare to meet Jesus by looking at our lives to see what is wrong and needs changing. We also remember when Jesus came for the first time as a baby born in Bethlehem.

Christmas

What Christians celebrate: Jesus was born as one of us.

The Twelve days of Christmas start with Christmas day. This is a time of rejoicing because God sent Jesus to us to be our saviour.

Epiphany

What Christians celebrate: Jesus is for everybody.

This starts with the twelfth day of Christmas and we think of the visit of the wise men to Jesus some time after he was born. We remember that the wise men were gentiles (people who are not Jews) and that they worshipped Him.

Lent and Holy Week

What Christians celebrate: Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

This starts with Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday when many people eat pancakes. Lent is a time when we remember that Jesus went without food for forty days in the wilderness. Many Christians will fast (do without something they like) during Lent. The special day in Lent is Good Friday, the day Jesus died on the cross for us. The season is a time to say sorry for our sins.

Easter

What Christians celebrate: Jesus rose from the dead!

This starts with Easter day itself when we remember Jesus rising from the dead. It is a time to rejoice and is often celebrated with eggs, a symbol of life from something that seems to be dead. Another important day within Easter is Ascension Day to remember Jesus going back to heaven to be with His Father.

Pentecost (Whitsunday)

What Christians celebrate: the coming of the Holy Spirit

Jesus had told his followers to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came to them. Ten days after Jesus' ascension, 50 days after his resurrection, the Spirit came. The festival is often called Pentecost because when the disciples received the Holy Spirit and began to go out and preach about Jesus it was the Jewish festival of Pentecost.

Ordinary Times

These are seasons during the year where there are no special times but they are times when Christians are encouraged to grow in their faith through continued prayer, fellowship and worship.

