

What do the Monastic Traditions within the Church of England show us about living in community? Christianity

Name of Unit: “What do the Monastic Traditions within Christianity show us about living in community?”	Faith: Christianity
Key Stage in which this unit should be taught: KS2	Recommended Year Group (if specified :)
Previous Learning: An appreciation of what it means to live as part of a Christian community and with Christian commitment.	
AT1 Learning About Religion focus: Practices and Ways of Life	AT2 Learning From Religion focus: Identity, Diversity and Belonging
What this unit teaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are monastic communities of men and of women within the Church of England. • Living in a monastic community is a particular way of living out the Christian faith followed by some people. • There are different models of monastic life, some active, some contemplative. • Living in community with others offers challenges, as well as opportunities. • Christian commitment takes different forms for different people. 	
Key RE Vocabulary: Convent, Contemplative, Divine Office, Habit, Liturgy, Monastery, Religious Order, Vocation, Vows.	Cross-Curricular Links: English PSHE History Philosophy Music ICT
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciating the value placed on relationships with others and with God and understanding what it means to belong. • Considering what is of ultimate value to themselves and to others through studying key Christian teachings and beliefs. • Considering how religious beliefs lead to particular actions. • Raising awareness of how cooperation within and between different communities and cultures can serve the common good. 	Sensitivities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are monastic traditions in the Church of England, as well as in other Christian traditions, such as the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. • There are similarities and differences within monastic traditions as well as between them. • There may be a need to challenge stereotypes which exist about the monastic traditions.

What do the Monastic Traditions within the Church of England show us about living in community? Christianity

Possible Further Thinking and Extension Activities:

Visitors from, visits to and links with monastic communities; Collective Worship which draws on monastic traditions; Lives of those associated with monastic communities such as St Teresa of Avila and St Francis of Assisi.

Things you should know

Some people choose to express their Christian commitment by joining and living within a monastic community; these communities have different areas of focus; there are links between beliefs and actions expressed by individuals and the communities to which they belong.

What do the Monastic Traditions within the Church of England show us about living in community? Christianity

Learning Objectives	AT1	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points to Note:
<p>Lesson 1</p> <p>Pupils should: AT1 – Practices and Ways of Life</p> <p>Use religious and other language accurately to describe, compare and evaluate what practices and experiences may be involved in belonging to Christian monastic communities and other groups.</p> <p>AT2 – Identity, Diversity and Belonging</p> <p>Ask questions about identity and what it means to belong. Suggest answers which refer to individuals or groups, including monastic communities which have inspired and influenced individuals and/or communities.</p>			<p>What is a monastic community?</p> <p><u>Introduction:</u> Share with children a wide and diverse range of depictions of monastic communities - and individuals from within them – using carefully chosen images (see Points to Note). Ask them to describe what they see. Using Post Its of different colours, invite them to record a) what kind of person or people they can see? b) what characteristics they think they might have? c) what they imagine they might say or think? d) what questions they would like to ask them? Share and discuss their responses; if appropriate, create a class wall display using the images and those responses. Record children’s work by photographing it and storing the images in online files.</p> <p><u>Main Activity:</u> Choose one monastic community (which if possible, is local to your school). Some other examples might include: www.altonabbey.com and www.csmvonline.org.uk There are also some Catholic monastic communities which provide some useful online and other resources and these include www.buckfast.org.uk or www.quidenhamcarmel.com Set up opportunities for children to investigate the key features of your chosen community and to build up a profile of it in whatever format is appropriate – booklet, display, website etc. It may be helpful for children to work in groups, looking at different aspects such as its history, its daily life, its members, its vows, its values etc and what it involves to belong to or to join it.</p>	<p>Children need to be made aware that these can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • male or female • Anglican and non Anglican • in England and around the world • active or contemplative • traditional and non traditional in some aspects, such as dress, age of members etc. <p>NB Challenge stereotypes</p> <p>Resources: http://www.anglicancommunion.org/community/religious-communities.aspx https://botw.org.uk/Society/Religion/Christianity/Anglican/Religious_Communities/</p>

What do the Monastic Traditions within the Church of England show us about living in community? Christianity

			<p><u>Plenary:</u> Share these findings and make them available to others.</p>	<p>Sensitivities: Remember to use the term: Christians believe.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

What do the Monastic Traditions within the Church of England show us about living in community? Christianity

Learning Objectives	AT1	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points to Note:
<p align="center">Lesson 2</p> <p>Pupils should: AT1 – Practices and Ways of Life</p> <p>Use religious and other language accurately to describe, compare and evaluate what practices and experiences may be involved in belonging to Christian monastic communities and other groups.</p> <p>AT2 - Identity, Diversity and Belonging</p> <p>Ask questions about identity and what it means to belong. Suggest answers which refer to individuals or groups, including monastic communities which have inspired and influenced individuals and/or communities.</p>			<p align="center">What does it mean to live in Christian community?</p> <p><u>Introduction:</u> Now that the children have already established a detailed profile of your chosen monastic community, set up opportunities for them to highlight issues faced by those living within it. In preparation for this, children could be invited to think about similar issues which they face in the communities to which they belong, such as their class at school, their clubs or teams or even their own family setting.</p> <p><u>Teaching Activities:</u> <i>Most children will:</i> be able to develop key questions for members of a monastic community about the opportunities and challenges they face within that context – for example, ‘what do you value most about dedicating your life to God in this particular way?’ and ‘how do you deal with living in community with someone you don’t like?’ Once these questions have been established, children may be able to put them to a member of a local monastic community, either in person or via other means.</p> <p><i>Some children will not have made so much progress and will:</i> be able to identify some of the opportunities and some of the challenges related to living in community in general – for example, benefiting from the support and company of others and being able to share the responsibilities of life, but also having to consider the needs of others as well as your own and being unable to act independently. Once these lists have been established, children could be asked to place these in rank order and justify their conclusions.</p> <p><i>Some children will have progressed further and so will:</i> be able to develop questions for members of a monastic community which explore the opportunities and challenges they face in a more complex way - for example ‘why did you choose an active, rather a</p>	<p>Points to Note:</p> <p>Resources: Pens and paper or IT equipment, such as cameras etc to record statements, questions and responses.</p> <p>Sensitivities: Some children may be living in very difficult and profoundly challenging circumstances so care needs to be taken to ensure they are not upset or disturbed in any way by the tasks set.</p> <p>If members of a monastic community are directly involved in responding to and working with the children, care should be taken to</p>

What do the Monastic Traditions within the Church of England show us about living in community? Christianity

		<p>contemplative order?’ and ‘how did you explain your choice to your family and friends?’. Children should be encouraged to develop questions which will encourage and promote extended and reflective answers.</p> <p><u>Plenary:</u> Children could organise their findings and present them as piece of written work, a magazine article, a PPT, a film clip or whatever is possible for them. Their work should demonstrate their ability to answer the key question posed in the title of the unit.</p>	<p>establish the protocols acceptable to all the parties involved.</p>
--	--	---	--