

ABOUT
BEING AN
ANGLICAN



*A guide to
more effective
church membership*

What is an Anglican?



A Person who belongs to.....

...the Anglican Church

- Member of the ANGLICAN COMMUNION; derived from the Church of England and sharing with it traditions of faith and order as set forth in its Book of Common Prayer.
- Its TRADITIONS include attitudes that are:
 - Protestant and Catholic
 - ancient and reformed
 - liberal and conservative
- THE EARLIEST SETTLERS brought the Anglican faith to the American wilderness. It spread rapidly as the country expanded westward.

...a Church with few "musts"—
POINTING OUT, NOT DICTATING,
the response to God.

Anglicans find the
FULLEST EXPRESSION
OF CHRISTIANITY in

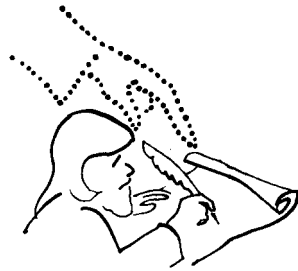
- THE SCRIPTURES -the Word of God
At work among us. See p. 4 —————→
- CREEDS - ancient summaries of
Christian belief. See p. 7 —————→
- SACRAMENTS - outward and visible
signs of inward and spiritual grace,
ordained by Christ. See pp. 8 & 9 —→
- MINISTRY - the orders of ordained
ministries. See pp. 10 & 11 —————→

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH



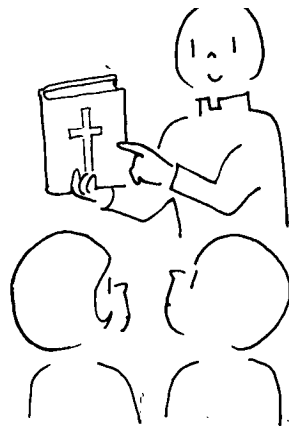
There are **3**
BASIC SOURCES
Of Anglican Church
Beliefs:

- ✓ Scripture (the primary source of doctrine)
- ✓ Reason (gifts of the Holy Spirit)
- ✓ Tradition (wisdom of generations past)



1. HOLY SCRIPTURE --written by the Holy Spirit

The Old and New Testaments contain the essence of Christian doctrine. They reveal God to humankind, and tell of our response to God in history. The Bible helps us to know God's will, revealed supremely through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The **Scriptures are the word of God**, proclaiming that Jesus—both God and person—is Christ the Messiah.





2. REASON

--helps us to penetrate the full depths of God's Truth.

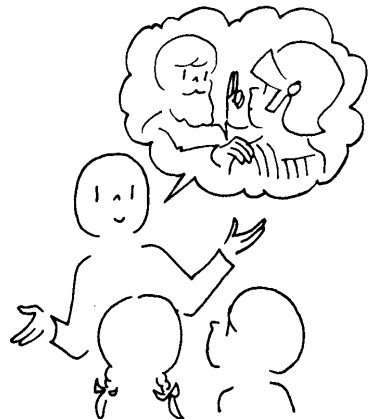
The Anglican Church does not control interpretation and practice. Instead, members are encouraged to use reason to explore and comprehend God's works; to make responsible moral decisions under the guidance of Scripture, the ordained ministry, and in response to sincere prayer.



3. CHURCH TRADITION

--helps us to penetrate the full depths of God's Truth.

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BASIC ANGLICAN CHURCH BELIEFS

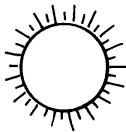
--Interpretation of the faith varies somewhat from parish to parish, but within the framework of these basic guidelines...

THE HOLY TRINITY

God is 3 persons in one.

GOD the FATHER

--infinite, good, omnipotent.



GOD the SON

--the joyous union of both God and person; whose life, death, and resurrection set us free from bondage to sin and death.



GOD the HOLY SPIRIT

--God's power of love moving within us in mysterious and unexpected ways.

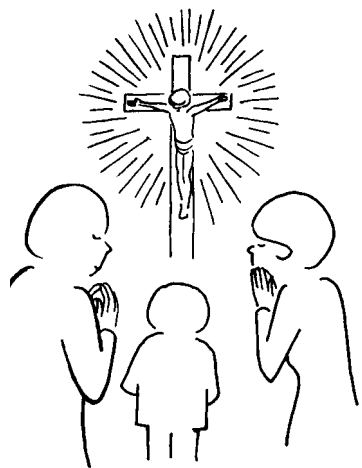


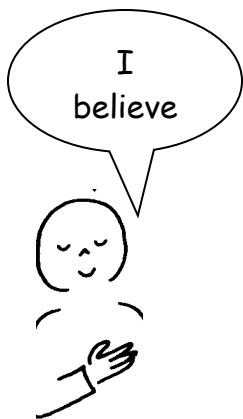
SALVATION

--the end of our separation from God; the beginning of a new life, lived according to God's will

--gained by us because of Christ's sacrifice

--every Christian should witness to Christ's sacrifice - and express the living truth of this sacrifice to the world (evangelism)





CREEDS summarize the Christian faith; they clearly express our faith in the Holy Trinity.

- **APOSTLES' CREED**—creed of the early Roman Church, dating from the 2nd century.
- **NICENE CREED**—Eastern in origin, dating from the 4th century.
- **ATHANASIAN CREED**—sometimes called the "Quicumque," meaning "whosever" in Latin.

THE CHURCH

--the people of God, as well as the Body of which Christ is the head, and all baptized people are the members.

ONE—one Body under one Head, Christ.

HOLY—the Holy Spirit dwells in it and in its members.

CATHOLIC—universal; holding the faith for all time, everywhere, for everybody.

APOSTOLIC—continuing in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship.

WORSHIP

--a joyous response to God's love

--an expression of hope for Salvation

--a chance to praise God and receive strength and forgiveness

--a way to share faith with other believers

HOW ANGLICANS WORSHIP

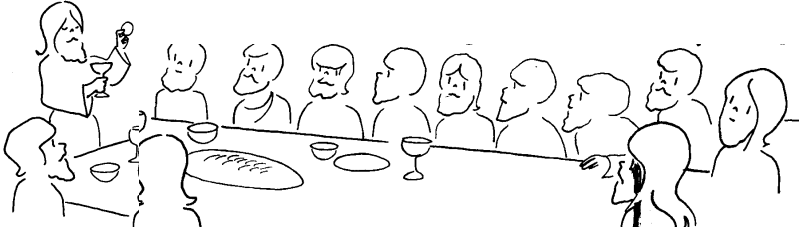
The Anglican Church is liturgical, i.e., it has formal rites for public worship (drawn from past ages as well as from the present)

4 BOOKS USED:

- **BIBLE**—regularly read throughout the church year
- **BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**—contains calendar of church year, services, prayers, etc.
- **HYMNAL**—contains hymns and chants
- **THE BOOK OF OCCASIONAL OFFICES**—The texts vary little from parish to parish
- **METHOD OF CONDUCTING SERVICES**—may vary greatly, from very plain services to those with great ceremony and splendor

The SACRAMENTS

"outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace"



THE 2 SACRAMENTS of the GOSPEL

These sacraments were instituted and ordained by Jesus

BAPTISM

"Gateway to the family of God"

Baptism is administered once to each person—usually as an infant. Water is poured on the head of the child is immersed in water, to symbolize the washing away of sins. The Holy Trinity is called upon to strengthen the new church member. Baptism is a pledge of repentance and obedience to divine will. It's a sign that a person has been reborn into a new family, the Church.



HOLY EUCHARIST

Remembrance of, praise and thanksgiving for Christ's death and resurrection.

In Holy Communion, ordinary bread and wine become the sacramental vehicle for Jesus Christ's presence within us, as he promised. When receiving Communion, Anglicans offer themselves to God in repentance, love and faith—recall Jesus' death, acknowledge his sacrifice, renew hope in the heavenly banquet.



Through the sacraments, God sustains the life of the Church; gives us the love and strength we need to live with Christ.

5 LESSER SACRAMENTS

--neither directly commanded by Christ, nor applicable to everyone.

CONFIRMATION

Conferred by a bishop, confirmation strengthens the commitment made to Christ at Baptism; gives us courage to witness Christ in the world and to selflessly serve each other.

PENANCE

Sorrow for sinning, with a sincere desire to amend one's life; assurance by a priest of God's forgiveness through absolution; sinner's reconciliation with the Creator.

MATRIMONY

The sacrament of marriage, in which God joins together a man and woman in physical and spiritual union.

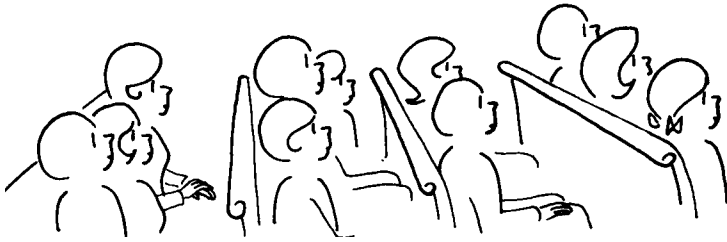
ORDINATION

The sacrament consecrating Christians in service to God. Spiritual power and grace are given to help them devote their lives to the good of the community—teaching, administering sacraments, governing the Church

MINISTRY of HEALING

Continuation of Christ's work among the sick; involves "laying on of hands," anointing with oil, and praying for physical and spiritual health.

The ORDERS of ORDAINED MINISTRY



BISHOPS

An unbroken line of bishops may be traced back to the early church commissioned by Jesus.



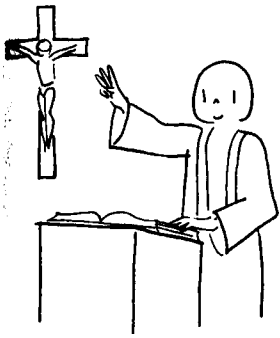
Bishops are spiritual overseers of their dioceses (groups of parishes, missions), which elected them to office. Bishops act as counselors to clergy; ordain priests, deacons; consecrate other bishops; administer Confirmation; are final counselors in church matters. Together, bishops share responsibility for the welfare of the church.

PRIESTS

Must meet high standards of personal integrity and judgment.



Priests are parish leaders. The full scope of their duties covers every pastoral, spiritual and educational activity. Specifically, priests celebrate the Eucharist, baptize, pronounce absolution, and perform many other duties.



To enter the ordained ministry, a candidate usually must have a college degree, be physically and psychologically qualified and be recommended by the parish vestry, priest and diocesan ministries commission.

DEACONS

An order of special ministry of servanthood



Deacons assist priests in parish work, or minister (under bishop's supervision) in missions or unorganized parishes. They cannot perform sacramental acts of the priesthood—e.g., though not allowed to celebrate the Eucharist, they may minister the consecrated Holy Communion at a service to the sick, etc.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Consist of men and women bound by the traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Most monks and nuns live in communities; some are active in the world. Emphasis is on a life of prayer, but members also perform social, medical, and educational duties, as well as religious ones.

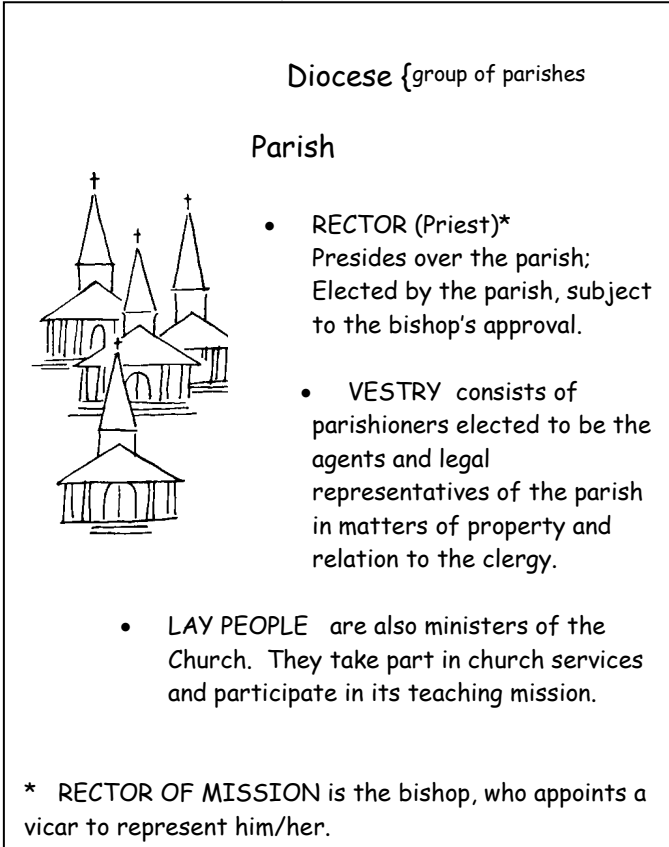


STRUCTURE

of the Anglican Church



- Bishop presides over Diocese
Assisted by standing Committee and councils of priests and lay people.



Parishes
ELECT
→
lay
delegates
to...

The Anglican Church is a democratic church with a system of government resembling that of the United States



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Has a primacy of honor throughout the Anglican Communion; but—every national Church within it is self-governing.



PRESIDING BISHOP, CHIEF PASTOR, AND PRIMATE

--chief bishop of the Anglican Church of North America but not an archbishop of a pope.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

- presided over by bishop
- lay delegates and clergy conduct the Church's business in the geographic area of the diocese

Diocesan Conventions **ELECT**

clergy and lay delegates to.....

NATIONAL GENERAL CONVENTION

Clergy and lay delegates take part in this, the highest legislative body in the Anglican Church. It provides guidelines for the faith, guides the whole Church in programs of Christian education, evangelism, and social action. It consists of:

- House of Bishops
- House of Deputies

The Book of Common Prayer tells That private warship alone is inadequate; religion is a fellowship. You relate to the whole Church through your PARISH - your local church community....

...YOUR PARISH

--guided by the priest;
nurtured by church ceremonies,
prayer, the sacraments; witnessing
to Christ in congregation and community...

**Getting involved in your parish
HELPS YOU GROW
As a Christian witness and a person**

PARTICIPATING IN CHURCH SERVICES

--praying and working
together.
--sharing our faith
through Christian
education.

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY WORK

--performing acts of charity
--working for social justice
and reform, Christian
unity on a personal, day-
to-day basis.
--spreading the Good Word
to people in the world
community.

Through GIVING OURSELVES

we can...

STRENGTHEN
Ourselves,
our beliefs by
helping other

ANSWER
some of life's
questions, in responding
to the needs of others

FULFILL
spiritual needs

**BETTER
UNDERSTAND**
how to keep
our daily life in
tune with our
search for
salvation

LEARN
more about the
mystery of God,
and how God
shares love with us.

**BRING A SIGN
OF SALVATION**
to people outside
the community

Soo-

Being an Anglican means
**STRIVING TO FULFILL
CHRIST'S MISSION**
of Redemption

...witnessing to Christ by selflessly **SERVING** God
and all people.

It means trying to

--follow God's
commandments

--raise children in Christ's
love

--get involved in your parish

**Being an Anglican means
actively PARTICIPATING
in the world through Christ
in the Church.**

"...my bounden duty is to follow Christ,
to worship God every Sunday in His Church;
and to work and pray and give for the
spread of His kingdom."

