

Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?

In this topic, we will be exploring the question 'Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or charities and generosity?' We will research a range of Christian and Islamic charities, buildings and art pieces and explore why they are important to Muslims and Christians. As well as this, we will study parables and religious scriptures to try to understand why Muslims and Christians believe in charity. We will also reflect upon our own beliefs when it comes to giving and sharing.

Key facts

- In Islamic art and architecture, there are no images of Allah and for many Muslims no image of humans because they believe they mislead rather than enlighten us. Instead, geometric and natural pattern is used to create beauty.
- Cathedrals have been created, often over many hundreds of years, to make space for people to worship God and to express in architecture a Christian sense of the grandeur of God and the value of spiritual life. They are places for wonderful music, weddings and funerals, everyday prayer, community life and most importantly worship.
- Over the last 125 years, more and more mosques have opened in the UK: there are about 1750.
- There are about 50 000 church buildings in the UK.
- There are many Christian & Muslim charities which help those in poverty around the world.



Jesus Christ

Christians believe that Jesus Christ was the greatest teacher who ever lived. He often used parables, or stories, to teach important lessons that they believe they can still learn from today.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Muslims believe that God had chosen Muhammad (PBUH) as his messenger. The prophet preached to people what Allah had revealed to him. Muslims follow His teachings.

Key Vocabulary

Architecture	the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings.
Chapel	A chapel is a part of a church which has its own altar and which is used for private prayer.
Cathedral	A cathedral is a very large and important church which has a bishop in charge of it.
Charitable organisation	an organization set up to provide help and raise money for those in need.
Charity	The voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money, to those in need.
Church	A church is a building in which Christians worship.
Gospels	The teaching or revelation of Christ
Hajj	Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca
Injustice	Injustice is a lack of fairness in a situation.
Mosque	A mosque is a building where Muslims go to worship.
Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels
Poverty	Poverty is the state of being extremely poor.
Sacred	Something that is sacred is believed to be holy and to have a special connection with God.
Secular	You use secular to describe things that have no connection with religion.
Scripture	The sacred writings of Christianity contained in the Bible.
Ummah	Worldwide community of Muslims
Zakat	This is a payment made annually under Islamic law on certain kinds of property and used for charitable and religious purposes, one of the Five Pillars of Islam.