

Christian Science

(Not to be confused with the Church of Scientology or Christians in Science)

1. Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian Science was developed in 19th-century New England by Mary Baker Eddy She argued in her book “Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures” (1875) that sickness can be corrected by prayer alone. The book became Christian Science's central text, along with the King James Bible. There are more than 100 congregations in the U.K.
2. Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English or native language.
3. Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian Science claims to be both a religious teaching and a system of spiritual healing founded on the Bible's universal truths. Eddy described Christian Science as a return to primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing. Adherents believe that people's true nature is spiritual because they are made in the image of God. Disease is seen as being a mental error rather than a physical disorder. Consequently, the view is held that the sick should be treated by a form of prayer that seeks to correct the beliefs responsible for the illusion of ill health. Sickness is the absence of “right thinking”. There is a belief in life after death in which people continue to learn the truth of Christian Science and thereby gain salvation.
4. Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals are supported in making their own decisions about difficult ethical issues.



5. Prayer & Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian Scientists take an intensive two-week "Primary" class. They can then become "Journal-listed" (accredited) practitioners, devoting themselves full-time to the practice of healing. When they have what the church regards as a record of healing, their names may be published in the directory of practitioners and teachers in the <i>Christian Science Journal</i>. Christian Science Churches hold a one-hour service each Sunday, consisting of hymns, prayer, and readings from the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy. The readings are studied individually at home throughout the week. There are no clergy and services are normally led by two Readers.
6. Diet & Fasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No particular requirements. Alcohol and tobacco are discouraged as are tea and coffee.
7. Clothing & Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No particular requirements.
8. Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church does not require that Christian Scientists avoid all medical care – adherents use dentists, optometrists, obstetricians, physicians for broken bones, and vaccination when required by law – but maintains that Christian Science prayer is most effective. None the less everyone can choose the kind of healthcare that meets their needs. Blood transfusions are not usually problematic.
9. Care of the Dying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No particular requirements. There are no clergy but lay support can be arranged.
10. Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organ donation and post mortem are matters of individual choice. Female bodies should be handled by female staff. There are usually no special rituals. Cremation is usually preferred.
11. Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chaplaincy department has a local contact for obtaining further advice and support.

