



Religion in the United Kingdom

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Structure

- ▶ Church of England
- ▶ Royal Family
 - ▶ Relation – Ceremony
- ▶ Public Sphere
 - ▶ Funding - Activity
- ▶ Other religion in UK
- ▶ Secularization
- ▶ Results
- ▶ Literature



Church of England

- ▶ History – 1534 Act of Supremacy followed by Suppression of the Monasteries
- ▶ catholic episcopal structure (108 bishops, 2 archbishops) and protestant liturgy (Book of Common Prayer)
- ▶ controversial theme: female and homosexual priests (1994) and female bishops (2014): first 2014 Libby Lane
- ▶ Supreme Governor or Defensor Fidei = Monarch
- ▶ 2 main **provinces led by archbishops**
 - ▶ Archbishop of Canterbury – South – Primate of All England
 - ▶ Archbishop of York – North – Primate of England
- ▶ dioceses (41) and further parishes (c. 12,000)

The Anglican Communion

- ▶ international association of Anglican churches
- ▶ there is mutual agreement on essential doctrines
- ▶ Symbolic head: Archbishop of Canterbury
- ▶ Ch. in Wales, Ch. of Ireland and Scottish Episcopal Ch.
- ▶ X Church of Scotland, Calvinist



Source: [3], [4]

Royal Family and the Church of England

- ▶ Head of the Church
- ▶ In the Church of England Queen appoints archbishops, bishops and deans of cathedrals on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- ▶ Royal ceremonies usually take a place in churches with the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury and other clergy
- ▶ the Sovereign reads a declaration and takes the oath to preserve the Church of Scotland and than an oath to maintain the established **Protestant succession** (accession declaration).

Royals

▶ Birth – Baptism



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Source: [6]

Royals

▶ Wedding



▶ Source: [7]

Royals

► Coronation



Royals

▶ State vs. Ceremonial Funeral



Source: [9]

Funding of the Church

- ▶ Total income and spending almost £1,4 billion/year.
- ▶ Most spendings are made by parishes on paychecks, pensions, and maintenance of church buildings.
- ▶ No direct government funding

- ▶ **FUNDED BY:**
 - ▶ Worshippers in parishes - over £900 million (2/3)
 - ▶ Church Commissioners – almost £300 million. Assets of over £4 billion.
 - ▶ Cathedrals – over £112 million

Public sphere

▶ HOUSE OF LORDS

- ▶ „The Lords Spiritual“ - two archbishops and 24 senior bishops (since 1847) – 26 out of 783 members.
- ▶ Between their duties belong every day prayer.
- ▶ Should they have right to override opinion of elected MPs?

▶ CHARITY

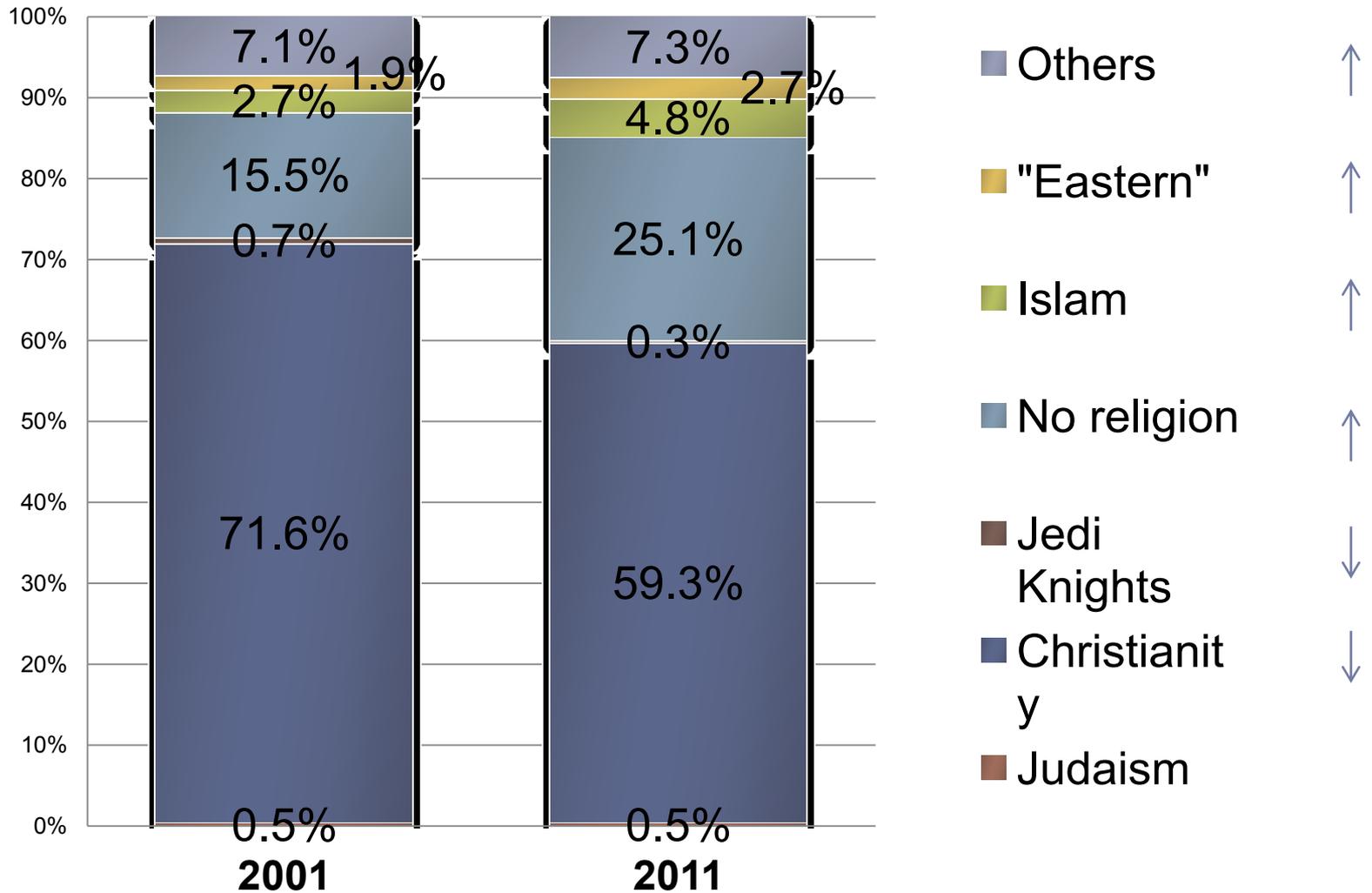
- ▶ About 160,000 Charities (54 % are very small)
- ▶ Religious charities: Church Urban Fund (CHoE), Christian Aid, The Salvation Army, Islamic Relief Worldwide...

Public sphere

▶ EDUCATION

- ▶ Religious Education is compulsory subject, but schools are permitted to teach RE from their point of view.
- ▶ Faith schools (state funded)
- ▶ Christian, Islamic and Jewish schools
- ▶ Debate about religious symbols in schools – muslim, sikh.
- ▶ Religious freedom vs school uniforms.

Religious affiliation



Source: [16]

SECULARISATION

- ▶ Society is secular – moderate inclusive secularism.
- ▶ Nearly all church growth is due to immigrants.
- ▶ Church attendance is decreasing – in 2007 59 % of people said that they never or practically never go to church.
- ▶ Between 1998 and 2005 – 500,000 people stopped attending church on Sunday. (English Church Census 2005)
- ▶ 2014 - 37 % regard themselves as Christians, 50 % no religious affiliation. 77 % not religious.
- ▶ 2013 YouGov study (18-24 years old):
 - ▶ 14 % say religion is a cause for good (41 % bad)
 - ▶ 25 % believe in God, 19 % spiritual power, 38 % no
 - ▶ Most represented: CoE 13 %, R-C 9 %, Islam 4 %

▶ Source: [17], [18], [19], [20], [21], [22].

RESULTS

- ▶ Specific position of Church of England – important tradition, but of little importance for most people
- ▶ Britain is largely non-religious society
- ▶ Increasing numbers of irreligious people
- ▶ Multiculturalism – immigrants boost numbers of non-Christian religions



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