

theBCS Press



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Religion in the UK

By: Tom Crispin

Throughout its long history, the UK has been deeply shaped by religion and faith. From Celtic paganism to Catholic and then Protestant Christianity to secularism and the migration of foreign religion, our nation has experienced various belief systems, each of which has impacted the UK in a different way.

Pre-Roman forms of religion in Britain included various forms of ancestor worship and paganism. For example, over two hundred separate Celtic gods have been named and many people believe that in addition to the gods, the Celts were animists, believing that every part of the natural world had a spirit.

Many believe that it was Augustine's famous mission in 597 AD from the Pope in Rome to King Aethelbert of Kent that really set up the future course of Christianity in Britain, creating a strong alliance between Christianity and Kingship. Since then, Christianity has had a firm hold on England and influenced its governance.

Through the early Middle Ages, the Catholic church dominated England however, the Catholic church of the day had little gospel inspiration. Instead, most Christians simply followed a set of actions in the belief that they would grant them passage to heaven. For example, going to church, praying set prayers once a day and giving money to charity. They might have read their bible but with little passion for how it should impact their lives. This was all changed by the reformation, a movement that swept across Europe, carried on the shoulders of the likes of Martin Luther in the 15th century. It found new inspiration in the life of Jesus recorded in the gospels and called for God's word to have a life changing impact upon peoples' lives. It gave a sense of the dynamic, something transforming, something to take hold of your life and turn it inside out.

King Henry VIII established the Church of England on the 3rd of November 1534. The Church grew power and influence as it gained wealth and land. Due to the lack of governmental involvement in the lives of the common people, the Church soon became the main institutional power, and the source of help for most people across the UK.

Throughout the age of the British empire and the years following the World wars, people from across the World sought refuge in the UK. This resulted in a huge increase in diversity and the introduction of new religions such as Islam which is followed by over 6 percent of the population. However, Christianity remains the dominant religion in the UK and its doctrine is deeply rooted in UK law and is often seen as the foundation of our constitution

The Royals

By: Tom Crispin

In early 2020, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announced that they would be formerly stepping back from royal duties and moving to Canada. This shocking decision was the first of its kind and the couple have since come under large amounts of media attention. Then on January 10th 2023, Prince Harry released his much-anticipated autobiography 'Spare'. It fast became the most sold book on the first day of publication, selling 1.4 million copies. In it, Harry revealed many details about his life and childhood living in the royal family.

Details include:

- He had a fight with his brother William over his relationship with Meghan.
- He recalls visiting his grandmother on her deathbed.
- He took a number of drugs to escape from reality.
- Him and William begged their father not to marry Camila.
- He makes several references to his mother, Princess Diana who died in 1997.
- He also details killing 25 Taliban fighters while serving as an Apache helicopter pilot in Afghanistan.

The response:

The rest of the royal family have so far paid little attention to the claims made by the Duke of Sussex and have instead chosen to carry on as normal, appearing on several occasions in seemingly good spirits. This has been effective as they have given Harry no platform for further criticism.

Harry's comments on his time in the army were heavily frowned upon, especially by military or ex-military personnel. Retired-commanding officer Colonel Collins condemned the book by calling it a "tragic money-making scam". Another serviceman still serving told the BBC Harry's comments were "very unsoldier-like". A Ministry of Defence spokesperson, when asked about the prince's kill number, said: "We do not comment on operational details for security reasons."

Apple M2

By: Luke Adkins

When Apple released the M2 chips on the MacBook Pro 13", MacBook Air and iPad Pro I dismissed them as hardly an upgrade (except for the MacBook Air's new design which I love). However, when I saw the new M2 Pro and Max Chips performance specs I was blown away by how well it performed on geek-bench, this wasn't then only thing that surprised me; the first product that M2 Pro was revealed to be used on is the Mac mini! , it is also available on the 14/16" MacBook Pro, along with the pro chip, came the M2 Max which is similar to what apple did with the M1 Pro/Max, it was unfortunate to see that the 13" MacBook Pro wouldn't get the pro/max versions of these chips but as they only released the standard M2 version in June of 2022 it seemed a little pointless. I did the maths and with the difference of the 2 models of Mac Mini, the M2 Pro version would cost £250 more which would start to take over the M2 Pro 14" MacBook Pros market share.

UK Government blocks Scotland

By: Haydn Smith

The UK Government in January blocked legislation by the Scottish Government to make the process of Trans Gender Identification easier. The UK Government said it was due to its conflict with the 2004 Gender Recognition Act and makes cross-UK system hard. This however is debated as healthcare in Scotland is a devolved issue which means the Scottish Government can set their own rules on it. This block by the UK Government has sparked pro-independence protests in Scotland and in London with people once again calling for a independent Scotland. Nicola Sturgeon has launched multiple legal challenges against the UK Government in the Supreme Court the highest court possible in the UK to try and get the legislation passed and a independence referendum in Scotland.

A Spotlight On...

By: Edward King Proudlove

Kiss My Axis (Maths Club)

Why have a maths club?

There is an opportunity for puzzles that you don't have time to do in lesson. And exploring puzzles for different levels of skill. And to meet new people.

What happens here?

Fun and exiting puzzles and they are different every week?

How many people go on a weekly basis?

About 8 to 10 every week

When is it?

It is every Tuesday lunch from 12:30 till 1:25

Who is it for?

It is for KS3

An Interview With...

By: Luke Adkins

Q&A With Mr Gort (Assistant Headteacher)

What made you go into teaching?

“To be honest, it wasn’t my first choice of career. When I left school I originally wanted to be an actor. I then studied History and Politics at university and wasn’t sure what I wanted to do with my degree but later on, it just clicked. How can I continue my love of learning and passion for my subject? I needed to become a teacher.”

What jobs did you have before you became a teacher?

“When I finished my degree, I got a job at brand new multiplex cinema. I’ll never forget that the world premiere of the film ‘Batman Forever’ was held at our cinema and I met several Hollywood stars and celebrities, including Boy George. I was also a rep for a travel company that did coach tours to Formula 1 motor racing events in Europe. The Monaco Grand Prix was amazing!”

When did you join the staff here?

“Way back in 2003 so I’m one of the longest serving teachers at the school. I initially joined as head of history and was later promoted to assistant headteacher.”

What do you enjoy about being a teacher?

“It’s a bit of a cliché but no two days are the same. There’s also no greater feeling when you see students grasping a new idea or gaining knowledge as result of your teaching.”

What were your favourite subjects when you were at school?

“Drama or History. I also quite liked geography – anything to do with maps.”

Where did you go to university?

“I did my undergraduate degree in Leicester. I then did a master’s degree in Modern History and my teacher training at Leeds University.”

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

“When I was really little I wanted to become a footballer for Manchester United then, as I got older, I started to think about going into acting. I performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival when

I was in the Sixth-Form which was great fun.”

What are your hobbies/interests?

“I’m trying to go the gym more often and I used to play a lot of tennis which I’m keen to pick up again. I love music and film but, being a dad with two children, it’s not as easy to find the time to get out and go to gigs and the cinema. I did see Avatar 2 recently but, to be honest, wish I hadn’t. A truly terrible film!”

What is your official role in the Senior Leadership Team?

My official job is Assistant Headteacher in charge of Teaching and Learning and Staff Development.”

What does that job entail?

“I’m in charge of making sure that the quality of teaching and how our students learn is the best it can be across the whole school. In terms of staff development, I look for opportunities both inside and outside of school to train colleagues and develop their teaching expertise. A nice example of this is that we currently have 20 teachers supporting each other on a coaching programme that I set up this year.”

An Interview With...

By: Finlay Jones

Q&A With Mrs Gillespie (Teacher of History)

Who was your historical figure?

Michael Collins because he was responsible for Ireland gaining their independence in 1922, however he was assassinated at a young age by people opposed it.

Which period of history was your favourite?

The late 19th century because it sets the context of the wars in the 20th century .

Why did you get into teaching?

I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I wanted to explore different avenues first.

What jobs did you do before becoming a teacher?

I used to manage a bar in Galway City and then I worked in collections, in a museum for two years and then worked in event management for an Irish dancing company.

Why history?

Because it's about understanding history and it opens both questions and answers to someone curious like me!

What is your favourite period to teach.

My favourite period to teach is the History of Medicine (GCSE) because I find medical progress very significant to teach and learn about. It also helps students incorporate other subjects such as science.

What's your favourite food?

At the minute its Japanese food but it varies frequently.

What are your favourite hobbies?

I LOVE quizzes, love them and I love visiting castles and I like going to the theatre too.

What do you love to watch on TV?

I like to watch lots of historical fiction, but I am a big fan of Stranger

The Game Review

By: Haydn Smith

FPS CHESS

FPS Chess is a first person shooter/strategy game from Meta Fork and it involves. Playing chess... and fighting. Instead of just taking a piece, you fight for it. All pieces have their own unique weapon to fight with so be careful putting a pawn against a king.

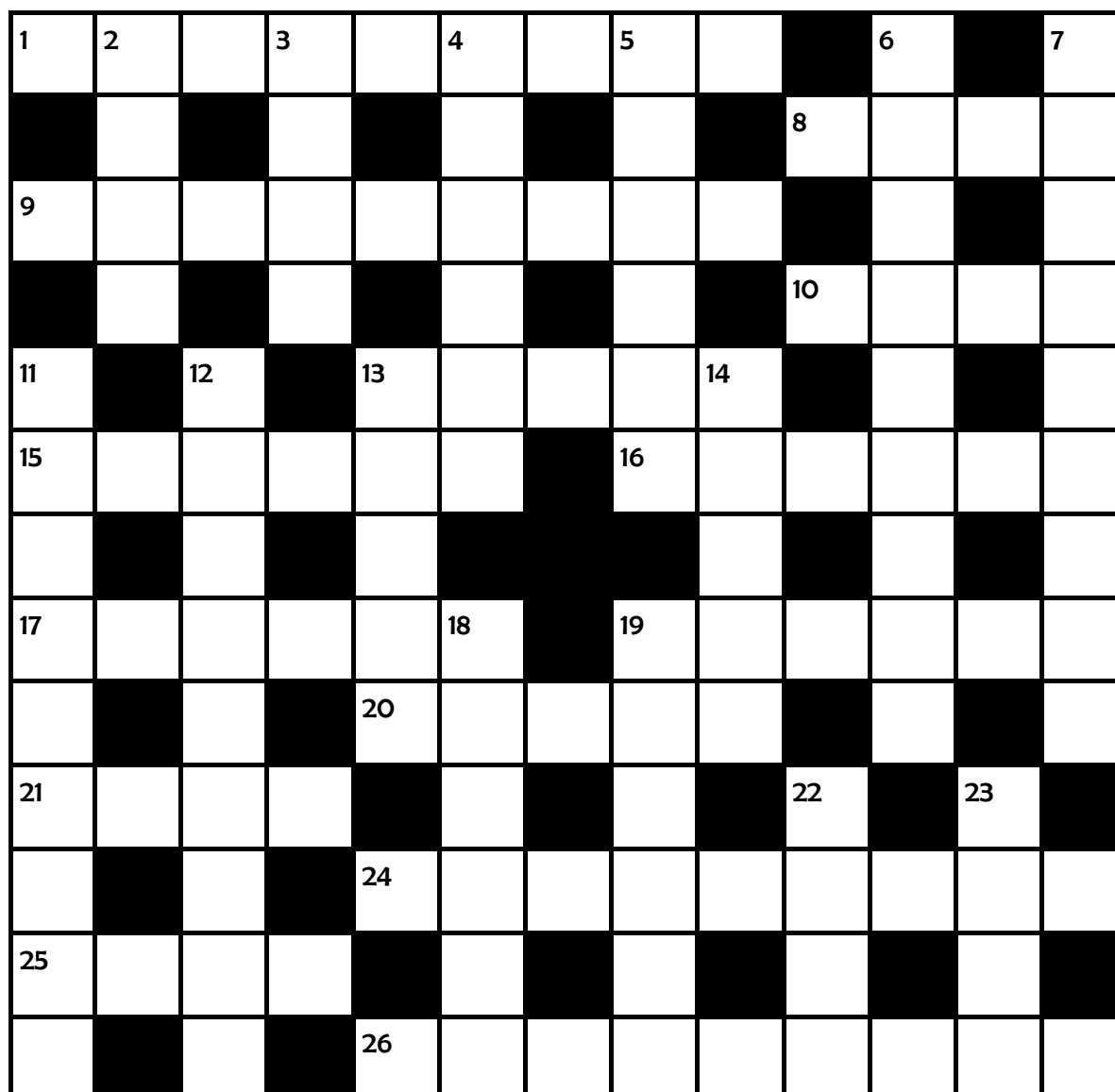
You can have Online, LAN, and local split-screen 1v1 multiplayer matches so you can play with literally anyone.

Best of all... its completely FREE. Available on Steam and on the dev's website



Puzzles

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Expectation of failure (9)
- 8 Food intake (4)
- 9 Internecine conflicts (5,4)
- 10 Sound of something small falling into water (4)
- 13 Dress up (5)
- 15 Optimistic (6)
- 16 Fertiliser deriving from potassium (6)
- 17 Quite (6)
- 19 Wilful damager of another's property (6)
- 20 Interior design scheme (5)
- 21 It's made of horsehair (4)
- 24 Newspaper's leader? (9)
- 25 Metropolis (4)
- 26 Closeness (9)

DOWN

- 2 The Odyssey, for instance (4)
- 3 Iniquity (4)
- 4 Stymie (6)
- 5 Steal apples from a tree on private land (6)
- 6 Indoor ball game (9)
- 7 Partner's offspring (9)
- 11 Dominant position (9)
- 12 Intransigent — beat it, son (anag) (9)
- 13 Walked up and down (5)
- 14 Opposite, bear or expedition? (5)
- 18 Apply cement or plaster to a wall (6)
- 19 Maelstrom (6)
- 22 Forbidding (4)
- 23 Forest tree nuts used as feed for swine (4)

Sudoku

3		6			4		2	
				3				
8	7	4						
				9	8			3
		5				7		
7			1	6				
					2	6	1	5
				7				
	2		9			8		4

Minesweeper

Find all the mine in the grid. Numbers in the certain squares indicate how many mines there are in the neighbouring squares, including diagonally touching squares. Mines cannot be placed in squares with numbers.

	0		2					2			1	2			
0					3	2	4			2			2		0
		2	3							1				1	0
		2			2				3				2		
3			1		1	3		5							2
	2											1		2	
	2			2		0			2	0					
	3	3			0			1					2	1	
1			3								0			2	
	3			1		2		2				1			1
1		3	4					4		1					1
	1				2	2					0	0			

Answers in next issue

Puzzles Answers

See if you got the answers correct from our previous addition

Sudoku

9	8	6	3	7	5	4	1	2
7	3	2	1	4	6	5	8	9
5	1	4	9	2	8	7	3	6
3	2	8	4	1	7	6	9	5
4	6	7	5	9	3	1	2	8
1	9	5	8	6	2	3	4	7
8	7	9	6	3	1	2	5	4
2	5	3	7	8	4	9	6	1
6	4	1	2	5	9	8	7	3

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Log Off
- 4 Upshot
- 8 Nasty
- 9 Depress
- 10 Clearly
- 11 Irate
- 12 Secretary
- 17 Rioja
- 19 Ungodly
- 21 Gherkin
- 22 Feign
- 23 Tanner
- 24 Red-hot

DOWN

- 1 Lunacy
- 2 Gospels
- 3 Flyer
- 5 Paprika
- 6 Hyena
- 7 Taster
- 9 Day Return
- 13 Crackle
- 14 Yiddish
- 15 Bright
- 16 Cygnet
- 18 Ocean
- 20 Gaffe

Christmas Carol Cryptogram

- 1. O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
- 2. SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT
- 3. DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY
- 4. HARK! THE ANGELS SING
- 5. THE FIRST NOEL
- 6. WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 7. IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR
- 8. I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS
- 9. AWAY IN THE MANGER
- 10. SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN
- 11. SILVER BELLS
- 12. LITTLE DRUMMER BOY
- 13. GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
- 14. RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER
- 15. I SAW MOMMY KISSING SANTA CLAUS
- 16. JINGLE BELLS
- 17. HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS
- 18. O CHRISTMAS TREE

HELP ADD TO OUR NEWSPAPER

If you want to help with our newspaper
come to our meetings:

Every Wednesday at 12:40 in D29

You made it to the back! Well Done, have a chocolate bar!

