

Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science (UK)

Religious and Social Attitudes of UK Christians in 2011

Topline results

14th February 2012

- **Unless otherwise stated, the results are based on 1,136 responses on a face-to-face survey conducted with those who say they were recorded as Christian in the 2011 Census, or would have recorded themselves as Christian in the 2011 Census.**

*The **screening questions** Q1-Q2 (summarised below but provided in full as Q1-Q2G in the appendix) are based on 2,107 responses of the general public in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*

*Results for the **main questionnaire** (Q3 onwards) are, unless otherwise stated, based on the 1,136 respondents.*

- Fieldwork for the study was conducted between 1st April and 7th April, 2011.
- Where results do not sum to 100 this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half or one percent, but not zero.
- Please note that data have been weighted to the known profile of the population.

SCREENING

Summary (see appendix 1 for full screening questions Q1-Q2G)

Base: All respondents asked the screener questions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2,107)

The religion recorded for the respondent in the 2011 Census, or would have been recorded had they answered the question.

No religion	%
	33
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	54
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Jewish	*
Muslim	4
Sikh	*
Any other religion	3
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	3

MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE

Base: All respondents (1,136) unless otherwise stated

Q3. You have said that you defined your religion in the Census as Christian or that you would have done so if you had answered the Census question yourself. Why do you think of yourself as being of this religion? Please select as many as apply.

MULTICODE

	%
I was christened/baptised into this religion	72
One or both of my parents are/were members of this religion	38
As a child I went to a Sunday school run by this religion	37
I believe in the teachings of this religion	28
I went to a school run by this religion	21
I <u>used to</u> attend religious services at a church of this religion <i>other than</i> weddings, christenings/baptisms or funerals	19
I <u>currently</u> attend religious services at a church of this religion <i>other than</i> weddings, christenings/baptisms or funerals	19
My husband/wife/partner is/was a member of this religion	13
My child/children attend/s a school run by this religion	7
I don't really think of myself as a member of this religion	3
I believe in the religion	1
I was brought up in the faith	*
Other	1
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q4. Why did the person who completed the Census think of you as being of this religion? Please select as many as apply.

MULTICODE

Base: All respondents who do not consider themselves Christian, but were recorded as Christian on the Census by someone else without checking with them first (1)

	Number
I was christened/baptised into this religion	1
As a child I went to a Sunday school run by this religion	0
I went to a school run by this religion	0
I <u>used to</u> attend religious services at a church of this religion <i>other than</i> weddings, christenings/baptisms or funerals	0
I <u>currently</u> attend religious services at a church of this religion <i>other than</i> weddings, christenings/baptisms or funerals	0
I believe in the teachings of this religion	0
One or both of my parents are/were members of this religion	0
My husband/wife/partner is/was a member of this religion	0
My child/children attend/s a school run by this religion	0
Other	0
Don't know	0
Prefer not to say	0

Q5. What would you say is the MAIN reason you think of yourself or the person who completed the Census thinks of you as being of this religion?

	%
I was christened/baptised into this religion	46
I believe in the teachings of this religion	18
One or both of my parents are/were members of this religion	13
As a child I went to a Sunday school run by this religion	8
I <u>currently</u> attend religious services at a church of this religion <i>other than</i> weddings, christenings/baptisms or funerals	4
I went to a school run by this religion	4
I <u>used to</u> attend religious services at a church of this religion <i>other than</i> weddings, christenings/baptisms or funerals	3
My husband/wife/partner is/was a member of this religion	1
My child/children attend/s a school run by this religion	1
I don't really think of myself as a member of this religion	0
Other	*
Don't know	2
Prefer not to say	1

Q6. Apart from special occasions such as weddings, funerals and baptisms or christenings, how often IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS have you attended services or meetings connected with Christianity?

	%
Once a week or more	17
Less often but at least once in two weeks	5
Less often but at least once a month	7
Less often but at least twice – not including Christmas and/or Easter	11
Less often but at least once – not including Christmas and/or Easter	4
Christmas and/or Easter only	6
Not at all during the last 12 months	49
Don't know	*
Prefer not to say	1

Q7. What was the MAIN reason you attended at Christmas and/or Easter?

Base: All who only attended church in the last 12 months at Christmas and/or Easter (62)

	%
B. It's traditional to go to church at Christmas/Easter	33
A. It was important to me to celebrate Christmas/Easter in a religious way	27
C. I enjoy going to church at Christmas/Easter	24
D. I went because my family or friends were going	9
E. I went because my family or friends expected me to go	5
F. Other	1
Don't know	0
Prefer not to say	0

Q8. Apart from special occasions such as weddings, funerals and baptisms or christenings, when did you LAST attend a service or meeting connected with Christianity?

Base: All who did not attend a church service in the last 12 months (568)

	%
Just over a year ago	12
Just over two years ago	7
Three to five years ago	13
Six to ten years ago	9
More than ten years ago	32
Never	24
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q9. Apart from special occasions such as weddings, funerals and baptisms or christenings, how often, if at all, IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS have you ACTIVELY chosen to take part in a religious activity REMOTELY. For example, by deciding to watch or listen to a religious service on the television, radio or internet; or by requesting a home visit from a member of the clergy or a church pastoral team?

	%
Once a week or more	16
Less often but at least once in two weeks	3
Less often but at least once a month	8
Less often but at least twice – not including Christmas and/or Easter	7
Less often but at least once – not including Christmas and/or Easter	4
Christmas and/or Easter only	6
Not at all during the last 12 months	53
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q10. How often, if at all, do you pray independently and from choice? I mean when NOT in a church service or other religious meeting.

	%
Once a week or more	35
Less often but at least once in two weeks	4
Less often but at least once a month	9
Less often but at least twice – not including Christmas and/or Easter	4
Less often but at least once – not including Christmas and/or Easter	1
Christmas and/or Easter only	1
Less often than once a year	6
Never or almost never	37
Don't know	*
Prefer not to say	2

Q11. Which of the following statements comes CLOSEST to describing you?

	%
I have strong religious beliefs and I am a Christian	30
I do not have strong religious beliefs but I think of myself a Christian	29
I do not have strong religious beliefs but I was brought up to think of myself as a Christian	19
I wouldn't really call myself religious at all	12
I think of myself as being spiritual rather than religious	8
None of these	1
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q. Different people believe in different things. To what extent do YOU PERSONALLY believe in the following?

	Com- pletely %	To some extent %	Not sure %	Not really %	Not at all %	Don't know %	Prefer not to say %
Q12. Heaven	36	27	16	9	11	1	1
Q13. Hell	18	23	18	15	25	1	*
Q14. Astrology	7	20	15	19	37	1	*
Q15. The power of prayer	26	37	14	9	12	1	1
Q16. Ghosts	15	22	17	14	31	2	*
Q17. Reincarnation	8	19	21	15	34	2	1
Q18. Fate	22	42	13	11	12	1	1

Q19. Which of the following statements best describes YOUR personal view of God? Please read out the letter for your answer.

	%
B. I believe in God and I believe that Christianity is just one way of knowing him	37
A. I believe in God and I believe that Christianity is the only true way of knowing him	17
D. I think of God as being the laws of nature and everything in the universe	13
E. I don't believe in God but think there may be some kind of supernatural intelligence out there	10
C. I think of God as being whatever caused the universe	9
F. I don't believe in God	6
None of these	1
Don't know	4
Prefer not to say	2

Q20. When, if at all, did you last read any part of the Bible? I mean independently and from choice, and not as part of a church service or other religious meeting.

	%
In the last week	15
In the last month	7
1 to 6 months ago	10
7 to 12 months ago	6
Over 1 year and up to 3 years ago	9
More than 3 years ago	36
I have never read any part of the Bible independently	15
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q22. Which of the following statements BEST describes your personal view of the Bible as a guide to morality? Please read out the letter for your answer.

	%
C. The Bible is not a perfect guide to morality as some of its teachings are not appropriate today, but it is still the best guide we have	42
B. The Bible is not the best guide to morality today, there are better ways of knowing right from wrong	24
A. The Bible is a perfect guide to morality and its teachings hold true today	23
None of these	3
Don't know	5
Prefer not to say	3

Q23. What is the first book of the NEW Testament?

	%
Matthew	35
Genesis	19
Acts of the Apostles	3
Psalms	3
Don't know	39
Prefer not to say	1

Q24. Which of the following BEST describes your belief about the resurrection? Please read out the letter for your answer.

	%
B. Jesus came back to life spiritually but not physically after being dead	39
A. Jesus came back to life physically after being dead	32
C. I do not believe in the resurrection	18
None of these	1
Don't know	7
Prefer not to say	3

Q25. Which of the following BEST describes your view about Jesus? Please read out the letter for your answer.

	%
A. Jesus is the Son of God, the Saviour of mankind	44
B. Jesus was a man who gave us a role model for how to live	32
C. Jesus was just a man	13
D. I do not believe Jesus really existed	4
None of these	1
Don't know	4
Prefer not to say	3

Q26. How often, if at all, IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS have you participated in non-religious community activities organised by a church or religious group? Examples of such activities could include a church-run social group, a lunch or coffee club or crafts club.

	%
Once a week or more	6
Less often but at least once in two weeks	4
Less often but at least once a month	6
Less often but at least twice – not including Christmas and/or Easter	9
Less often but at least once – not including Christmas and/or Easter	6
Christmas and/or Easter only	4
Not at all during the last 12 months	61
Don't know	2
Prefer not to say	2

Q27. From which, if any, of the following did you learn MOST about Christianity as a child?

	%
From a church or Sunday school	35
From my parents or other family members	30
From my school	29
From TV, radio, newspapers or the internet	*
From conversations with friends	*
From Scouts/Boys Brigade	*
From somewhere else	*
I did not learn about Christianity as a child	2
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q28. Which, if any, of the following BEST describes your view about religious education in state-funded schools in the UK?

ON SHOWCARD: Religious education in state-funded schools should:

	%
Teach <i>knowledge</i> about the world's main faiths even-handedly, without any bias towards any particular religion	57
Teach children to <i>believe</i> Christianity	15
Teach children to <i>believe</i> whatever faith the school subscribes to	8
Teach <i>knowledge</i> only about Christianity, and not teach about other religions	7
Not be taught	6
None of these	1
Don't know	4
Prefer not to say	2

Q29. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Please read out the letter for your answer.

The Genesis story that God created the world and all the life forms in it in 6 days should not be taught in UK state-funded school science lessons

	%
A. Strongly agree	17
B. Tend to agree	21
C. Neither agree nor disagree	24
D. Tend to disagree	17
E. Strongly disagree	14
Don't know	5
Prefer not to say	2

Q. To what extent do you support or oppose the following in the UK?

	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Prefer not to say	Not applicable
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Q30. State-funded faith schools for your denomination	20	34	26	10	6	2	2	1
Q31. State-funded faith schools for any Christian denomination	17	36	27	9	6	3	2	X
Q32. State-funded faith schools for any religion, whether Christian or non-Christian	13	31	27	15	8	4	1	X

Q. To what extent would you support or oppose the following in the UK?

	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Prefer not to say
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Q33. Reserving seats in the House of Lords for Church of England bishops	6	20	32	17	15	9	1
Q34. Children in state-funded schools being obliged by law to take part in a daily act of broadly Christian worship	11	28	20	24	12	4	1
Q35. The costs of hospital chaplains being met from NHS budgets instead of by the chaplain's religious organisation	10	22	22	20	19	6	1

Q36. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The UK should have an official state religion.

	%
Strongly agree	11
Tend to agree	21
Neither agree nor disagree	18
Tend to disagree	24
Strongly disagree	22
Don't know	4
Prefer not to say	1

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please read the statement at the top of this card and read out the letter for your answer.

Base: All aged 18 or over (1,115)

		A.	B.	C.	D.	E.		
		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Prefer not to say
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Q37.	Sexual relations between two adults of the same sex are wrong	14	14	22	25	21	2	2
Q38.	An adult woman with an unwanted pregnancy should be able to have an abortion if she wants one, provided it is within the legal time limit for doing so	30	33	13	11	9	2	3
Q39.	It should be legal to assist the suicide of a terminally ill adult patient who has clearly and consistently expressed the wish to die and is considered by doctors to be mentally and emotionally competent to make the decision	29	30	15	8	12	2	2
Q40.	Sex between a man and a woman is only acceptable within marriage	9	14	18	29	28	1	2
Q41.	Homosexuals should have the same legal rights in all aspects of their lives as heterosexuals	27	34	14	12	9	2	2

**Q. And to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Please read out the letter for your answer.**

	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.		
	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Prefer not to say
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Q42.	Religion should be a private matter and governments should not interfere in it	43	35	11	6	1	1
Q43.	Religion should be a private matter and should not have special influence on public policy	38	36	11	9	3	2
Q44.	The law should apply to everyone equally, regardless of their personal religious beliefs	67	25	4	1	1	1

Q. How much influence, if any, does Christianity have on the decisions you make about the following aspects of your life?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	None at all	Don't know	Prefer not to say	Not applicable
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Q45.	Who you married or will marry	11	15	18	51	2	2
Q46.	Who you vote for in General Elections	4	12	16	62	2	2
Q47.	Who you socialise with	4	11	20	61	1	2

Q48. Overall, how important, if at all, is Christianity in your life?

	%
Very important	21
Fairly important	39
Not very important	27
Not at all important	11
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q49. When it comes to right and wrong, which of the following, if any, do you MOST look to for guidance?

	%
My own inner moral sense	54
Parents, family or friends	25
Religious teachings and beliefs	10
Philosophy and reason	7
None of the above	2
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	1

Q50. Which of the following statements describe what being a Christian means to you personally? Please select all that apply.

MULTICODE

	%
I try to be a good person	58
It's how I was brought up	40
I believe in the teachings of Jesus	22
I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour	22
It gives me hope in an afterlife	14
It's a British tradition	6
Something else	*
Don't know	2
Prefer not to say	4

Q51. Which is the ONE statement that BEST describes what being a Christian means to you personally?

	%
I try to be a good person	40
It's how I was brought up	24
I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour	15
I believe in the teachings of Jesus	7
It's a British tradition	4
It gives me hope in an afterlife	3
Something else	0
Don't know	2
Prefer not to say	4

Q52. Which of the following statements describe what YOU personally understand being a Christian to mean? Please select all that apply.

MULTICODE

Base: All those who do not consider themselves a Christian, but who were recorded as Christian on the Census by someone without checking with them first (1)

	Number
Someone continuing with how they were brought up	1
Giving someone hope in an afterlife	1
Someone accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour	0
Someone trying to be a good person	0
Someone following a British tradition	0
Someone believing in the teachings of Jesus	0
Something else	0
Don't know	0
Prefer not to say	0

Q53. Which is the ONE statement that BEST describes what being a Christian means?*Base: All those who chose more than one statement that describes what they personally understand being a Christian to mean (1)*

	Number
Someone continuing with how they were brought up	0
Giving someone hope in an afterlife	0
Someone accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour	0
Someone trying to be a good person	0
Someone following a British tradition	0
Someone believing in the teachings of Jesus	0
Something else	0
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	0

Q54. Do you consider yourself to be a religious person?

	%
Yes, I consider myself to be a religious person	45
No, I do not consider myself to be a religious person	50
Don't know	2
Prefer not to say	3

Q55. Which of the following statements best describe why you WERE recorded or why you WOULD HAVE recorded yourself as a Christian in the recent Census?**Please select all that apply.**

MULTICODE

	%
I try to be a good person and associate that with Christianity	41
I genuinely try to follow the Christian religion	31
I'm not religious but it's how I was brought up	26
I ticked it automatically (or would have ticked it automatically), without really thinking about it	6
I feel uncomfortable about the growing influence of other religions	5
It felt like another way of saying I think if myself as British	4
Other reason	*
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	2

Appendix 1: Screening questions**Q1. Thinking back to the Census that took place a few days ago, at the end of March, who in your household, if anyone, answered the question about YOUR religion?**

Base: All respondents asked the screener question in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2,107)

		%
A.	I answered the question myself	69
B.	Someone else answered on my behalf but checked with me first	12
C.	Someone else answered on my behalf without checking with me first, but I know what answer they gave	4
D.	Someone else answered on my behalf without checking with me first, and I don't know what answer they gave	2
E.	I chose not to answer the religion question	3
F.	I did not take part in the Census and no-one in my household answered on my behalf	3
G.	I don't know	4
	Prefer not to say	3

Q2A. In the Census, what did you/they record as YOUR religion?

Base: All in England and Wales who completed the Census themselves or who had the Census filled out by someone else with their knowledge (1,553)

		%
	No religion	33
	Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	56
	Buddhist	1
	Hindu	1
	Jewish	1
	Muslim	4
	Sikh	*
	Any other religion	3
	Prefer not to say	2

Q2B. If you had answered the Census question, what would you have recorded as your religion?

Base: All in England and Wales who do not know what was recorded on their Census, did not fill in the religion question, did not take part in the Census, or prefer not to say (282)

		%
	No religion	47
	Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	22
	Buddhist	*
	Hindu	2
	Jewish	0
	Muslim	7
	Sikh	*
	Any other religion	3
	Prefer not to say	13
	Don't know	6

Q2C. In the Census, what did you/they record as the religion, religious denomination or body YOU belong to?

Base: All in Scotland who completed the Census themselves or who had the Census filled out by someone else with their knowledge (136)

	%
None	32
Church of Scotland	45
Roman Catholic	17
Other Christian	2
Muslim	0
Buddhist	*
Sikh	0
Jewish	0
Hindu	0
Another religion or body	1
Prefer not to say	2

Q2D. If you had answered the Census question, what would you have recorded as the religion, religious denomination or body you belong to?

Base: All in Scotland who do not know what was recorded on their Census, did not fill in the religion question, did not take part in the Census, or prefer not to say (30)

	%
None	40
Church of Scotland	20
Roman Catholic	13
Other Christian	9
Muslim	0
Buddhist	0
Sikh	0
Jewish	0
Hindu	0
Another religion or body	0
Prefer not to say	17

Q2E. In the Census, what did you/they record as the religion, religious denomination or body YOU belong to?

Base: All in Northern Ireland who completed the Census themselves or who had the Census filled out by someone else with their knowledge (99)

	%
Roman Catholic	37
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	22
Church of Ireland	24
Methodist Church in Ireland	8
Other	8
None	0
Prefer not to say	0

Q2F. If you had answered the Census question, what would you have recorded as the religion, religious denomination or body you belong to?

Base: All in Northern Ireland who do not know what was recorded on their Census, did not fill in the religion question, did not take part in the Census, or prefer not to say (5)

	Number
Roman Catholic	1
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	1
Church of Ireland	3
Methodist Church in Ireland	0
Other	0
None	0
Prefer not to say	0

Q2G. Which of the following best describes the religion that was or would have been specified for you in the Census?

Base: All in Northern Ireland who recorded a religion, religious denomination or body other than Roman Catholic, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Church of Ireland or Methodist Church in Ireland (8)

	Number
Other Christian	8
Buddhist	0
Hindu	0
Jewish	0
Muslim	0
Sikh	0
Any other religion	0
Don't know	0
Prefer not to say	0

END.