

## LA RELIGION EN GRANDE-BRETAGNE

**R**eligion in Great Britain appeared during the third century with Roman christians, since then it has always been at the heart of the British Isles. Furthermore the Church of England is the official Church of the state, close to political and social life, but today other worships exist, after a long history of conflicts and persecutions.

### Milestones

**AD 432** : St Patrick evangelisations

**AD 664** : Synod of Whitby

**1290** : Jews expelled from Britain

**1529** : Henry VIII broke away with Rome

**1562** : Protestant reforms  
« Book of Common Prayer »

**1621** : Puritans emmigration, the Pilgrim Fathers

**1642** : Civil War

**1649** : Charles I execution for treason

**1739** : Birth of Methodism

**1860** : first british mosque in Cardiff

**A**round AD432

St.Patrick initiated the evangelisation of the entire territory, and in the end the Celtic Church was born. But in the 8<sup>th</sup> century England adopted the Roman Catholic form of worship. Later, under Henry VIII, the Anglican Church reached a breaking point, actually the king, opposed to the Pope, declared himself Supreme Head of the Church in England and burned monasteries. In fact the Church remained Catholic in practice all the same.

**U**nder the subsequent

Tudor's reign appeared the conflict between Protestants and Catholics. Civil war broke out in 1642 opposing the Puritan Republic to the monarchy. This last one was restored in 1661 and persecutions against Catholics, Jews and others began until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

**N**on-conformism

appeared in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with evangelical groups claiming an importance to emotion in worship, it is at the base of the Low Church. On the other side, the High Church finds it's roots with the Oxford Movement that revived older forms of ritual.

**J**ews and Muslim

communities in England have wait several centuries before expanding themselves. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Jews were granted to be British citizens after five hundred years of rejection. Moreover Muslim or Sikh people arrived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century especially from India, a British colony.

**N**owadays 55% of the population declare itself from a religion. It makes no doubt that England is a country of religious diversity, even if the monarch still belongs to the Church of England wich remains the Established Church.