

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

# *Religious Education*

*Glossary of Terms*

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# BUDDHISM GLOSSARY

As Buddhism spread throughout the East, it came to be expressed in many different languages. Terms in the Sanskrit and Pali of India are in most common use in the West, although Japanese and Tibetan terms also occur frequently. Pali is the language of the texts of the Theravada school, whilst Sanskrit is used for general Mahayana. Zen Buddhism uses terms expressed in Japanese, and Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan. There is no preferred form. For convenience, Pali terms appear in bold except in cases where the Sanskrit or other alternative is the more usual form.

<i>PALI</i>	<i>SANSKRIT</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Abhidhamma</b>	Abhidharma	Further or higher teaching. The philosophy and psychology of Buddhism in abstract, systematic form.
<b>Abhidhamma Pitaka</b>	Abhidharma Pitaka	This is the third of the three principal sections of the canon of basic scripture. It is a systematic, philosophical and psychological treatment of the teachings given in the Sutta Pitaka.
	<b>Amitabha Amitayus</b>	Also, Amida (Japanese), Buddhas having unlimited light and life respectively.
<b>Anapanasati</b>	Anapanasmrti	Mindfulness of the breath. The practice most usually associated with the development of concentration and calm, but also used in the training of Vipassana (insight).
<b>Anatta</b>	Anatman	No self; no soul. Insubstantiality; denial of a real or permanent self.
<b>Anicca</b>	Anitya	Impermanence; transience. Instability of all things, including the self.
<b>Arahat, Arahant</b>	Arhat	Enlightened disciple. The fourth and highest stage of Realisation recognised by the Theravada tradition. One whose mind is free from all greed, hatred and ignorance.
<b>Asoka</b>	Ashoka	Emperor of India in the third century BCE.
<b>Atta</b>	Atman	Self; soul.
<b>Bhikkhu</b>	Bhikshu	Fully ordained Buddhist monk.
<b>Bhikkhuni</b>	Bhikshuni	Fully ordained Buddhist nun.
<b>Bodhi Tree</b>		The tree ( <i>ficus religiosa</i> ) under which the Buddha realised Enlightenment. It is known as the Tree of Wisdom.
<b>Bodhisatta</b>		A Wisdom Being. One intent on becoming, or destined to become, a Buddha. Gotama, before his Enlightenment as the historical Buddha.
	<b>Bodhisattva</b>	A being destined for Enlightenment, who postpones final attainment of Buddhahood in order to help living beings (see Mahayana).
<b>Brahma Viharas</b>		The four sublime states: loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and evenness of mind.
<b>Buddha</b>	Buddha	Awakened or Enlightened One.
<b>Dalai Lama (Tibetan)</b>		Great Ocean. Spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan

<i>PALI</i>	<i>SANSKRIT</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		people.
<b>Dana</b>	Dana	Generosity; giving; gift.
<b>Dhamma</b>	Dharma	Universal law; ultimate truth. The teachings of the Buddha. A key Buddhist term.
<b>Dhammapada</b>	Dharmapada	Famous scripture of 423 verses.
<b>Dukkha</b>	Duhkha	Suffering; ill; unsatisfactoriness; imperfection. The nature of existence according to the first Noble Truth.
<b>Gompa (Tibetan)</b>		Monastery; place of meditation.
<b>Gotama</b>	Gautama	Family name of the Buddha.
<b>Jataka</b>		Birth story. Accounts of the previous lives of the Buddha.
<b>Jhana</b>	Dhyana	Also Ch'an (Chinese) and Zen (Japanese). Advanced meditation.
<b>Kamma</b>	Karma	Action. Intentional actions that affect one's circumstances in this and future lives. The Buddha's insistence that the effect depends on volition marks the Buddhist treatment of kamma as different from the Hindu understanding of karma.
<b>Karuna</b>	Karuna	Compassion.
<b>Kesa (Japanese)</b>		The robe of a Buddhist monk, nun, or priest.
<b>Khandha</b>	Skandha	Heap; aggregate. The Five Khandhas together make up the 'person' (form, feeling, perception, mental formation and consciousness).
<b>Khanti</b>	Kshanti	Patience; forbearance.
<b>Kilesa</b>	Klesa	Mental defilement or fire, such as greed, hatred or ignorance.
<b>Koan (Japanese)</b>		A technical term used in Zen Buddhism referring to enigmatic or paradoxical questions used to develop intuition. Also refers to religious problems encountered in daily life.
<b>Kwan-yin (Chinese)</b>		Also, Kannon (Japanese). Bodhisattva of Compassion, depicted in female form. Identified with Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara.
<b>Lama (Tibetan)</b>		Teacher, or one who is revered.
	<b>Lotus Sutra</b>	A scripture of major importance to various schools within the Mahayana tradition. It describes the virtues of the Bodhisattva, and emphasises that all sentient beings possess Buddha-nature and can attain Enlightenment (Nirvana).

<i>PALI</i>	<i>SANSKRIT</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Magga</b>	<b>Marga</b>	Path, leading to cessation of suffering. The fourth Noble Truth.
	<b>Mahayana</b>	Great Way or Vehicle. Teachings that spread from India into Tibet, parts of Asia and the Far East, characterised by the Bodhisattva Ideal and the prominence given to the development of both compassion and wisdom.
<b>Mala</b>		Also, Juzu (Japanese). String of 198 beads used in Buddhist practice (like a rosary).
<b>Metta</b>	Maitri	Loving kindness. A pure love which is neither grasping nor possessive.
<b>Metta Sutta</b>		Buddhist scripture which describes the nature of loving kindness.
<b>Metteya</b>	Maitreya	One who has the nature of loving kindness. Name of the future Buddha.
Mudda	<b>Mudra</b>	Ritual gesture, as illustrated by the hands of Buddha images.
<b>Mudita</b>	Mudita	Sympathetic joy. Welcoming the good fortune of others.
Nibbana	<b>Nirvana</b>	Blowing out of the fires of greed, hatred and ignorance, and the state of secure perfect peace that follows. A key Buddhist term.
Nirodha	Nirodha	Cessation (of suffering). The third Noble Truth.
<b>Panna</b>	Prajna	Wisdom. Understanding the true nature of things.
<b>Parami</b>	Paramita	A perfection or virtue. One of the six or ten perfections necessary for the attainment of Buddhahood.
<b>Parinibbana</b>	Parinirvana	Final and complete nirvana reached at the passing away of a Buddha.
<b>Patimokkha</b>	Pratimoksha	The training rules of a monk or nun - 227 in the case of a Theravada monk.
<b>Pitaka</b>		Basket. Collection of scriptures (see Tipitaka).
<b>Rupa</b>	Rupa	Form. Used of an image of the Buddha; also, the first of the Five Khandhas.
<b>Sakyamuni</b>	Shakyamuni	Sage of the Shakyas (the tribe of the Buddha). Title of the historical Buddha.
<b>Samadhi</b>	Samadhi	Meditative absorption. A state of deep meditation.
<b>Samatha</b>	Samatha	A state of concentrated calmness; meditation (see Vipassana).
<b>Samsara</b>	Samsara	Everyday life. The continual round of birth, sickness, old age and death which can be transcended by following the

<i>PALI</i>	<i>SANSKRIT</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		Eightfold Path and Buddhist teaching.
<b>Samudaya</b>	Samudaya	Arising; origin (of suffering). The second Noble Truth.
<b>Sangha</b>	Sangha	Community; assembly. Often used for the order of bhikkhus and bhikkunis in Theravadin countries. In the Mahayana countries, the Sangha includes lay devotees and priests, eg in Japan.
<b>Sankhara</b>	Samskara	Mental/karmic formation. The fourth of the five Khandhas.
<b>Sanna</b>	Samjna	Perception. Third of the five Khandhas.
<b>Satori (Japanese)</b>		Awakening. A term used in Zen Buddhism.
<b>Siddattha</b>	Siddhartha	Wish-fulfilled. The personal name of the historical Buddha.
<b>Sila</b>	Sila	Morality.
<b>Sutta</b>	Sutra	Text. The word of the Buddha.
<b>Sutta Pitaka</b>	Sutra Pitaka	The second of the three collections - principally of teachings - that comprise the canon of basic scripture.
<b>Tanha</b>	Trishna	Thirst; craving; desire (rooted in ignorance). Desire as the cause of suffering. The second Noble Truth.
<b>Tathagata</b>	Tathagata	Another epithet for the Buddha.
<b>Theravada</b>	Sthaviravada	Way of the elders. A principal school of Buddhism, established in Sri Lanka and South East Asia. Also found in the West.
<b>Thupa/Cetiya</b>	Stupa	Reliquary (including pagodas).
<b>Tipitaka</b>	Tripitaka	Three baskets. A threefold collection of texts (Vinaya, Sutta, Abhidamma).
<b>Tiratana</b>	Triratna	The triple refuge. Buddha, the Dharmma and the Sangha. Another way of referring to the three jewels.
<b>Tulku (Tibetan)</b>		Reincarnated Lama
<b>Upaya</b>		Any skilful means, eg meditation on loving kindness, to overcome anger.
<b>Upekkha</b>	Upeksha	Equanimity; evenness of mind.
	<b>Vajrayana</b>	Thunderbolt; Diamond Way. Teachings promulgated later, mainly in India and Tibet. Another term for esoteric Buddhism.
<b>Vedana</b>		Feeling. The second of the Five Khandhas.
<b>Vihara</b>		Dwelling place; monastery.
<b>Vinaya</b>		The rules of discipline of monastic life.

<i>PALI</i>	<i>SANSKRIT</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Vinaya Pitaka</b>		The first of the three collections of the canon of basic scripture, containing mostly the discipline for monks and nuns, with many stories and some teachings.
<b>Vinnana</b>	Vijnana	Consciousness. The fifth of the Five Khandhas.
<b>Vipassana</b>	Vipashyana	Insight into the true nature of things. A particular form of meditation (see Samatha).
<b>Viriya</b>	Virya	Energy; exertion.
<b>Wesak or Vesak (Sinhalese)</b>	Wesak	Buddha Day. Name of a festival and a month. On the full moon of Wesak (in May or June), the birth, Enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha took place, although some schools celebrate only the birth at this time, eg Zen.
<b>Zazen (Japanese)</b>		Meditation while seated, as in Zen Buddhism.
<b>Zen (Japanese)</b>		Meditation. Derived from the Sanskrit 'dhyana'. A school of Mahayana Buddhism that developed in China and Japan.

# CHRISTIAN GLOSSARY

Unlike the other five world faiths included in this glossary, most of the terms given below are in English and will be familiar to many people. The historic languages of the Christian scriptures are Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The Old Testament was written largely in Hebrew, with some texts in Aramaic and Greek (Apocrypha). The whole of the Old Testament was translated into Greek, although many words and passages have their origin in Aramaic. Latin became increasingly the language of the Western Church from the 5th century AD when the Bible was translated into Latin.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Absolution</b>		The pronouncement by a priest of the forgiveness of sins.
<b>AD</b>	Anno Domini	In the Year of our Lord. The Christian calendar dates from the estimated date of the birth of Jesus Christ.
<b>Advent</b>		Coming. The period beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (40 days before Christmas in the Eastern Orthodox tradition). A time of spiritual preparation for Christmas.
<b>Agape</b>		The love of God. New Testament word used for the common meal of Christians; a Love Feast.
<b>Alter</b>	Communion Table Holy Table	Table used for Eucharist, Mass, Lord's Supper. Some denominations refer to it as Holy Table or Communion Table.
<b>Anglican</b>		Churches in full communion with the See of Canterbury. their origins and traditions are linked to the Church of England and are part of the Anglican communion.
<b>Apocalyptic</b>		(i) Revelatory, of God's present purposes and of the end of the world. (ii) Used of a literary genre, eg the Book of Revelation.
<b>Apocrypha</b>		Books of the Old Testament that are in the Greek but not the Hebrew Canon. some Churches recognise the Apocrypha as part of the Old Testament Canon.
<b>Apocryphal New Testament</b>		A modern title for various early Christian books which are non-canonical.
<b>Apostle</b>		One who was sent out by Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel.
<b>Ascension</b>		The event, 40 days after the Resurrection, when Jesus 'ascended into heaven' (see Luke 24 and Acts 1).
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		The first day of Lent. In some Churches, penitents receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their foreheads.
<b>Atonement</b>		Reconciliation between God and humanity; restoring a relationship broken by sin.
<b>Baptism</b>		Rite of initiation involving immersion in, or sprinkling or pouring of, water.
<b>Baptist</b>		(i) A member of the Baptist Church, which grew out of the Anabaptist movement during the 16th century

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Baptistry</b>		Reformation. (ii) A Christian who practises Believer's Baptism. (i) Building or pool used for baptism, particularly by immersion. (ii) Part of a church, where baptism takes place.
<b>BC</b>	Before Christ	Period of history before the estimated birth of Jesus Christ.
<b>Believer's Baptism</b>		The baptism of people who are old enough to understand the meaning of the rite.
<b>Benediction</b>		Blessing at the end of worship. Also, late afternoon or evening service including the blessing of the congregation with the consecrated host (usually in a Roman Catholic context).
<b>Blessed Sacrament</b>		Bread and wine which have been consecrated and set aside for future use (usually in the Roman Catholic Church).
<b>Canon</b>	Scripture	The accepted books of the Bible. The list varies between denominations.
<b>Catholic</b>		(i) Universal. (ii) Often used as an abbreviation for Roman Catholic.
<b>Charismatic</b>		A modern movement within the Church, emphasising spiritual gifts, such as healing or speaking with tongues.
<b>Chrismation</b>		(i) The Orthodox second sacrament of initiation by anointing with chrism (a special oil). Performed at the same time as baptism. (ii) Anointing with oil, eg healing or coronation.
<b>Christ</b>	Messiah	The anointed one. Messiah is used in the Jewish tradition to refer to the expected leader sent by God, who will bring salvation to God's people. Jesus' followers applied this title to him, and its Greek equivalent, Christ, is the source of the words Christian and Christianity.
<b>Christmas</b>		Festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ (25 December, in most Churches).
<b>Church</b>		(i) The whole community of Christians. (ii) The building in which Christians worship. (iii) A particular denomination.
<b>Confession</b>		Contrition; penance. (i) One of seven sacraments observed by some Churches whose priest confidentially hears a person's confession. (ii) An admission, by a Christian, of wrong-doing. (iii) A particular official statement (or profession) of faith.
<b>Congregationalist</b>		Member of a Christian body which believes that each local church is independent and self-governing under the authority of Christ.
<b>Consubstantiation</b>		Doctrine of the Eucharist associated with Luther, which holds that after consecration, the substances of the Body

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		and Blood of Jesus Christ and of the bread and wine co-exist in union with each other.
<b>Creed</b>		Summary statement of religious beliefs, often recited in worship, especially the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
<b>Crucifixion</b>		Roman method of executing criminals and traitors by fastening them to a cross until they died of asphyxiation; used in the case of Jesus Christ and many who opposed the Romans.
<b>Easter</b>		Central Christian festival which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
<b>Ecumenism</b>	Oikoumene	Movement within the Church towards co-operation and eventual unity.
<b>Episcopacy</b>		System of Church government by bishops.
<b>Epistle</b>	Letter	From the Greek word for letter. Several such letters or epistles, from Christian leaders to Christian Churches or individuals, are included in the New Testament.
<b>Eucharist</b>		Thanksgiving. A service celebrating the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, using elements of bread and wine (see Holy Communion).
<b>Evangelical</b>		Group, or church, placing particular emphasis on the Gospel and the scriptures as the sole authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
<b>Evangelist</b>		A writer of one of the four New Testament Gospels; a preacher of the gospel.
<b>Font</b>		Receptacle to hold water used in baptism.
<b>Free Churches</b>		Non-conformist denominations, free from state control (used of 20 Churches).
<b>Good Friday</b>		The Friday in Holy Week. Commemorates the day Jesus died on the cross.
<b>Gospel</b>	Evangel	(i) Good news (of salvation in Jesus Christ). (ii) An account of Jesus' life and work.
<b>Grace</b>		(i) The freely given and unmerited favour of God's love for humanity. (ii) Blessing. (iii) Prayer of thanks before or after meals.
<b>Heaven</b>		The place, or state, in which souls will be united with God after death.
<b>Hell</b>		The place, or state, in which souls will be separated from God after death.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Holy Communion</b>		Central liturgical service observed by most Churches (see Eucharist, Mass, Lord's Supper, Liturgy). Recalls the last meal of Jesus and celebrates his sacrificial and saving death.
<b>Holy Spirit</b>		The third person of the Holy Trinity. Active as divine presence and power in the world, and in dwelling in believers to make them like Christ and empower them to do God's will.
<b>Holy Week</b>		The week before Easter, when Christians recall the last week of Jesus's life on Earth.
<b>Icon/Ikon</b>		Painting or mosaic of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, a saint, or a Church feast. Used as an aid to devotion, usually in the Orthodox tradition.
<b>Iconostasis</b>		Screen, covered with icons, used in Eastern Orthodox churches to separate the sanctuary from the nave.
<b>Incarnation</b>		The doctrine that God took human form in Jesus Christ. It is also the belief that God in Christ is active in the Church and in the world.
<b>Jesus Christ</b>		The central figure of Christian history and devotion. The second person of the Trinity.
<b>Justification by Faith</b>		The doctrine that God forgives ('treats as just') those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ.
<b>Kerygma</b>		The central message about Jesus proclaimed by the early Christians.
<b>Kyrie (Greek)</b>		O Lord. Addressed to Jesus, as in 'Kyrie eleison' (Lord have mercy).
<b>Lectern</b>		Stand supporting the Bible, often in the shape of an eagle.
<b>Lectionary</b>		List of scriptural passages for systematic reading throughout the year.
<b>lent</b>		Penitential season. The 40 days leading up to Easter.
<b>Liturgy</b>		(i) Service of worship according to a prescribed ritual such as Evensong or Eucharist. (ii) term used in the Orthodox Church for the Eucharist.
<b>Logos</b>		Word. pre-existent Word of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.
<b>Lord</b>		Title used for Jesus to express his divine lordship over people, time and space.
<b>Lord's Supper</b>		Alternative term for Eucharist in some Churches (predominantly Non-conformist).
<b>Lutheran</b>		A major Protestant Church that receives its name from the 16th century German reformer, Martin Luther.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Mass</b>		Term for the Eucharist, used by the Roman Catholic and other Churches.
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		The Thursday in Holy Week. Commemorates the Last Supper.
<b>Methodist</b>		A Christian who belongs to the Methodist Church which came into existence through the work of John Wesley in the 18th century.
<b>Missal</b>		Book containing words and ceremonial directions for saying Mass.
<b>Mother of God</b>		The title given to the Virgin Mary, mainly in the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches, to underline the Trinitarian belief that Jesus was truly God (in this context, God refers to God incarnate as seen in Jesus Christ).
<b>New Testament</b>		Collection of 27 books forming the second section of the Canon of Christian Scriptures.
<b>Non-conformist</b>		Protestant Christian bodies which became separated from the established Church of England in the 17th century.
<b>Old Testament</b>		That part of the Canon of Christian Scriptures which the Church shares with Judaism, comprising 39 books covering the Hebrew Canon, and in the case of certain denominations, some books of the Apocrypha.
<b>Ordination</b>		In episcopal Churches, the 'laying on of hands' on priests and deacons by a bishop. In non-episcopal Churches, the 'laying on of hands' on ministers by other representatives of the Church.
<b>Orthodox</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The Eastern Orthodox Church consisting of national Churches (mainly Greek or Slav), including the ancient Eastern Patriarchates. They hold the common Orthodox faith, and are in communion with the Patriarchate of Constantinople.</li> <li>(ii) Conforming to the creeds sanctioned by the ecumenical councils, eg Nicaea, Chalcedon.</li> </ul>
<b>Palm Sunday</b>		The Sunday before Easter, commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when he was acknowledged by crowds waving palm branches.
<b>Paraclete</b>	Comforter	Advocate. Term used for the Holy Spirit.
<b>Parousia</b>		Presence. The Second Coming or return of Jesus Christ.
<b>Passion</b>		The sufferings of Jesus Christ, especially in the time leading up to his crucifixion.
<b>Patriarch</b>		Title for principal Eastern Orthodox bishops. Also used for early Israelite leaders such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.
<b>Pentecost</b>	Whitsun	The Greek name for the Jewish Festival of Weeks, or

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		Shavuot, which comes seven weeks ('fifty days') after Passover. On the day of this feast, the followers of Jesus received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Pentecostalist</b>		A Christian who belongs to a Church that emphasises certain gifts which were granted to the first believers on the Day of Pentecost (such as the power to heal the sick and speak in tongues).
<b>Pope</b>		The Bishop of Rome, head of the Roman Catholic Church.
<b>Presbyterian</b>		A member of a Church that is governed by elders or 'presbyters'; the national Church of Scotland.
<b>Protestant</b>		That part of the Church which became distinct from the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches when their members professed (or 'protested' - hence Protestant) the centrality of the Bible and other beliefs. Members affirm that the Bible, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the ultimate authority for Christian teaching.
<b>Pulpit</b>		An elevated platform from which sermons are preached.
<b>Purgatory</b>		In some traditions, a condition or state in which good souls receive spiritual cleansing after death, in preparation for Heaven.
<b>Quaker</b>		A member of the Religious Society of Friends, established through the work of George Fox in the 17th century.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Confession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Sacrament of the (Roman) Catholic Church, consisting of Contrition, Confession of sins, and Absolution.</li> <li>(ii) The human process of reconciling Christians with one another.</li> </ul>
<b>Redemption</b>		Derived from the practice of paying the price of a slave's freedom; and so, the work of Jesus Christ in setting people free through his death.
<b>Reformation</b>		A 16th century reform movement that led to the formation of Protestant Churches. It emphasised the need to recover the initial beliefs and practices of the Church.
<b>Resurrection</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The rising from the dead of Jesus Christ on the third day after the crucifixion.</li> <li>(ii) The rising from the dead of believers at the Last Day.</li> <li>(iii) The new, or risen, life of Christians.</li> </ul>
<b>Roman Catholic</b>		That part of the Church owing loyalty to the Bishop of Rome, as distinct from Orthodox and Protestant Churches.
<b>Sacrament</b>		An outward sign of an inward blessing, as in baptism or the Eucharist.
<b>Salvationist</b>		A member of the Salvation Army founded by William and Catherine Booth in the 19th century.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Sanctification</b>		The process by which a believer is made holy, to become like Jesus Christ.
<b>Sin</b>		(i) Act of rebellion or disobedience against the known will of God. (ii) An assessment of the human condition as disordered and in need of transformation.
<b>Synoptic</b>		Having a common viewpoint. It is applied to the presentation of Jesus' life in the first three gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke in contrast with that given in the Gospel of John.
<b>Tabernacle</b>		(i) A receptacle for the Blessed Sacrament, not immediately consumed but set aside or 'reserved' (mainly in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches). The presence of the consecrated elements is usually signalled by a continuously burning light. (ii) Term used by some denominations of their building.
<b>Transubstantiation</b>		Roman Catholic doctrine concerning the Mass, defined at the Lateran Council of 1215, and confirmed at the Council of Trent in 1551. This states that in the Eucharist, at the words of consecration, the substance of the bread and wine becomes the substance of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, and that he is thus present on the altar.
<b>Trinity</b>		Three persons in one God; doctrine of the three-fold nature of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
<b>Unction</b>	Sacrament of the Sick	The anointing with oil of a sick or dying person.
<b>United Reformed Church</b>		A Church formed by the union of English Congregationalists with the Presbyterian Church of England and subsequently the Reformed Association of the Churches of Christ.
<b>Vatican</b>		The residence of the Pope in Rome and the administrative centre of the Roman Catholic Church. The chief building of the Vatican is St Peter's Basilica, built on the traditional site of St Peter's tomb.
<b>Virgin Birth</b>		The doctrine of the miraculous conception of Jesus Christ by the Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit and without the agency of a human father.

# ***HINDUISM GLOSSARY***

The main references are to Sanskrit terminology, although variants are found and used in other Indian languages. Lakshmi, Laksmi, Vishnu or Vis Visnu type variants are not always included because of their frequency. Many of these terms will also be found in books on Buddhism and Sikhism, but with somewhat different meanings.

Proper names and place names are only included in this list if variant forms are commonly used.

<b><i>PREFERRED FORM</i></b>	<b><i>MAIN VARIANTS</i></b>	<b><i>EXPLANATION</i></b>
<b>Acharya</b>	Acarya	One who teaches by example. Usually refers to a prominent or exemplary spiritual teacher.
<b>Advaita</b>	Adwaita	Non-dual. Refers to the impersonalistic philosophy which unqualifying equates God, the soul and matter.
<b>Ahimsa</b>	Ahinsa	Not killing. Non-violence; respect for life.
<b>Artha</b>		Economic development. The second aim of life.
<b>Arti</b>	Arati	Welcoming ceremony in which auspicious articles such as incense and lamps are offered to the deity or to saintly people.
<b>Aryan</b>		Noble. Refers to those who know the spiritual values of life. Scholars say it refers to the original inhabitants of the Sindhu region in India.
<b>Ashram</b>	Asram	A place set up for spiritual development.
<b>Ashrama</b>	Asrama	A stage of life (of which there are four) adopted according to material considerations, but ultimately as a means to spiritual realisation.
<b>Atharva Veda</b>		The fourth of the Vedas.
<b>Atman</b>	Atma	Self. Can refer to body, mind or soul, depending on context. Ultimately, it refers to the real self, the soul.
<b>Aum</b>	Om	The sacred symbol and sound representing the ultimate; the most sacred of Hindu words.
<b>Avatar</b>	Avatara Avtara	One who descends. Refers to the descent of a deity, most commonly Vishnu. Sometimes it is translated as incarnation which, although inaccurate, may be the best English word available.
<b>Ayodhya</b>		Birthplace of Rama
<b>Bhagavad Gita</b>		The Song of the Lord. Spoken by Krishna, this is the most important scripture for most Hindus. Tradition dates it back to 3,000 years BCE, though most scholars attribute it to the first millennium BCE. Considered an Upanishad.
<b>Bhajan</b>	Bhajana	Devotional hymn or song.
<b>Bhakti</b>		Devotion; love. Devotional form of Hinduism.
<b>Bhakti-yoga</b>		The path of loving devotion, aimed at developing pure love of God.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Brahma</b>		A Hindu deity, considered one of the Trimurti, and in charge of creative power; not to be confused with Brahman or Brahmin.
<b>Brahmachari</b>	Brahmacari Brahmacharin Brahmcarin	One in the first stage of life, a celibate student of Vedic knowledge.
<b>Brahmacharya</b>	Brahmacarya Brahma ch(c)ari Brahma ch(c)arin	The first ashrama or stage of life.
<b>Brahman</b>		The ultimate reality, or the all-pervading reality; that from which everything emanates, in which it rests and into which it is ultimately dissolved.
<b>Brahmin</b>	Brahman Brahmana	The first of the four varnas, the principal social groupings from which priests are drawn. Some writers, rather confusingly, use the spelling 'brahman', and the meaning only becomes clear in the context of a few sentences (see also Brahman and Brahma).
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<b>Darshan Shastras</b>		Six systems of Hindu philosophy - Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Yoga, Vedanta and Meemansa.
<b>Dassehra</b>	Dussehra Dassera Dashara (Other variants are also found)	Ten days. Also called Vijay Dashami. Celebrates the victory of Rama on the tenth day of the bright half of the lunar month of Jyeshtha. As is often the case with Hindu festivals, followers may interpret the festival differently, eg in connection with Durga (see Navaratri).
<b>Dharma</b>		Religion or religious duty is the usual translation into English, but literally it means the intrinsic quality of the self or that which sustains one's existence.
<b>Dhoti</b>		A garment made of natural fibre (usually cotton or silk), worn by males, which covers the lower body and legs.
<b>Dhyana</b>		Meditation.
<b>Diwali</b>	Diwali Dipavali Deepavali	Festival of lights at the end of one year and beginning of the new year, according to one Hindu calendar.
<b>Durga</b>		Female deity. A form of the goddess Parvati; wife of Shiva.
<b>Dvaita</b>	Dwaita	Dual. Refers to the personalistic philosophy that differentiates between God, the soul and matter.
<b>Dwarka</b>	Dvarka Dvaraka Dwaraka	Pilgrimage site on the west coast of India.
<b>Ganesha</b>	Ganesh Ganupati Ganapati	A Hindu deity portrayed with an elephant's head - a sign of strength. The deity who removes obstacles.
<b>Ganga</b>		The Ganges. Most famous of all sacred rivers of India.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Gangotri</b>		Source of the river Ganges.
<b>Gotra</b>		Exogamous group within Jati.
<b>Grihastha</b>	Gristhi Grhastha	The second stage of Hindu life; one who belongs to that stage; ie the householder (grihasti).
<b>Guna</b>		Rope; quality. Specifically refers to the three qualities of sattva (goodness), rajas (passion) and tamas (ignorance), which permeate and control matter.
<b>Guru</b>		Spiritual teacher, preceptor or enlightener.
<b>Hanuman</b>		The monkey warrior who faithfully served Rama and Sita. Also called Pavansuta (son of the wind God).
<b>Havan</b>		Also known as Agnihotra. The basis of many Hindu rituals used at weddings and on other ceremonial occasions; the ceremony or act of worship in which offerings of ghee and grains are made into fire.
<b>Havan kund</b>		The container, usually square or pyramid-shaped, in which the havan fire is burned.
<b>Hitopadesh</b>		Stories with a moral.
<b>Holi</b>		The festival of colours, celebrated in Spring.
<b>Homa</b>		Term often used interchangeably with havan.
<b>The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)</b>		A religious group of the Vaishnava tradition.
<b>Janeu</b>	Jenoi	Sacred thread worn by Hindus who study under a guru.
<b>Janmashtami</b>	Janmashtmi	The birthday of krishna, celebrated on the eighth day of the waning moon in the month of Badra.
<b>Japa</b>	Jap	The quiet or silent repetition of a mantra as a meditative process.
<b>Jati</b>		Caste is the usual translation, meaning occupational kinship group.
<b>Jnana</b>	Gyan	Knowledge.
<b>Jnana-yoga</b>	Gyan-yoga	The path of knowledge, that aims at liberation.
<b>Kali</b>	Kaali	Name given to that power of God which delivers justice - often represented by the Goddess Kali (a form of Durga).
<b>Kali yuga</b>		The fourth of the ages; the iron age or the age of quarrelling and hypocrisy.
<b>Kama</b>		The third of the four aims of life - regulated sense of enjoyment.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Karma</b>		Action. Used of work to refer to the law of cause and effect.
<b>Karma-yoga</b>		The path of self-realisation through dedicating the fruits of one's work to God.
<b>Kirtan</b>		Songs of praise; corporate devotional singing, usually accompanied by musical instruments.
<b>Krishna</b>		Usually considered an avatar of Vishnu. One of the most popular of all Hindu deities in contemporary Britain. His teachings are found in the Bhagavad Gita.
<b>Kshatriya</b>	Khatri	Second of the four varnas of traditional Hindu society, the ruling or warrior class.
<b>Lakshmi</b>	Laksmi	The goddess of fortune.
<b>Mahabharata</b>		The Hindu epic that relates the story of the five Pandava princes. It includes the Bhagavad Gita.
<b>Mala</b>	Maala	Circle of stringed beads of wood or wool used in meditation.
<b>Mandala</b>	Mandal	A circle, area or community/group.
<b>Mandir</b>		Temple.
<b>Mantra</b>		That which delivers the mind. Refers to a short sacred text or prayer, often recited repetitiously.
<b>Manusmriti</b>		The laws of Manu. An ancient and important text on Dharma, including personal and social laws.
<b>Marg</b>		Path (see Jnana yoga, Karma yoga and Bhakti yoga).
<b>Mata</b>		Mother. Often associated with Hindu goddesses who represent shakti (power).
<b>Mathura</b>		Holy place connected with Krishna.
<b>Maya</b>		Not this. Usually, it refers to illusion, particularly where the permanent soul identifies itself with temporary matter, eg the body, etc. It can also mean power.
<b>Moksha</b>	Moksa	Ultimate liberation from the process of transmigration, the continuous cycle of birth and death.
<b>Mundan</b>		The head-shaving ceremony. Performed in the first or third year of life.
<b>Murti</b>	Moorti	Form. The image or deity used as a focus of worship. 'Idol' should definitely not be used, and 'statue' may also cause offence.
<b>Navaratri</b>	Navaratra	The Nine Nights Festival preceding Dassehra, and held in honour of the goddess Durga.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Nirvana</b>		The cessation of material existence.
<b>Panchatantra</b>		Part of the supplementary Vedic scriptures, composed of animal stories with a moral.
<b>Parvati</b>		The consort of Shiva, also known by other names such as Durga, Devi, etc.
<b>Prahlada</b>	Prahalada	A great devotee of Vishnu, connected with the festival of Holi.
<b>Pranayam</b>	Pranayama	Regulation of breath as a means of controlling the mind.
<b>Prashad</b>	Prasad Prasada Prashada	Sacred or sanctified food.
<b>Pravachan</b>		A lecture or talk, usually based on the scriptures.
<b>Puja</b>	Pooja	Worship. General term referring to a variety of practices in the home or Mandir.
<b>Purana</b>		Ancient. Part of the Smriti scriptures. Contains many of the well-known stories of Hinduism.
<b>Raja Yoga</b>	Raj Yoga	Path of self-control and meditation to realise God.
<b>Rajas</b>		Passion or creative potency, one of three gunas (qualities of material nature).
<b>Rakhi</b>	Raakhi	A bracelet, usually made out of silk or cotton, tied to give protection and to strengthen the bond of the mutual love.
<b>Raksha Bandhan</b>		The festival when women tie a decorative bracelet on their brothers' wrists.
<b>Rama</b>		The incarnation of the Lord, and hero of the Ramayana (avoid using the variant 'Ram' for obvious reasons).
<b>Ramayana</b>	Ramayan	The Hindu epic that relates the story of Rama and Sita, composed by the sage Valmiki thousands of years ago.
<b>Ramnavami</b>	Ramnavmi	The birthday festival of Rama.
<b>Rig Veda</b>	Rg or Rc Veda	The first scripture of Hinduism, containing spiritual and scientific knowledge.
<b>Rishi</b>	Rsi, risi	A spiritually wise person. More specifically, one of the seven seers who received the divine wisdom.
<b>Sadhana</b>	Sadhan	One's regulated spiritual practices or discipline.
<b>Sadhu</b>	Saddhu	Holy man, ascetic.
<b>Sama Veda</b>		The Veda of chanting; material mainly from the Rig Veda, arranged for ritual chanting in worship.
<b>Samsara</b>	Sansara	The world - the place where transmigration (the soul's passage through a series of lives in different species)

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		occurs.
<b>Samskar</b>	Sanskar Samskara	Sacraments designed to initiate a new stage of life. There is usually a total of sixteen such rites of passage (though many schools of thought do not practice them all).
<b>Sanatan Dharma</b>		The eternal or imperishable religion; also known as Vedic Dharma. Adherents often prefer this term to Hinduism since it characterises their belief in the revealed and universal nature of religion.
<b>Sannyasa</b>		The state of renunciation, the fourth stage of life.
<b>Sannyasin</b>	Samyasin Samnyasin	A renunciate who, having given up worldly affairs and attachments, has entered the fourth stage of life, often as a mendicant.
<b>Sanskrit</b>		Sacred language of the Hindu scriptures.
<b>Saraswati</b>		The power of knowledge, often represented by the goddess Saraswati, the goddess of learning.
<b>Sattva</b>	Sattwa	Goodness, or the potency to sustain and nourish; one of the three gunas.
<b>Seva</b>	Sewa	Service, either to the divine or to humanity.
<b>Shaivism</b>	Saivism	The religion of Hindus who are devotees of Shiva.
<b>Shakti</b>	Sakti	Energy or power, especially of a Hindu feminine deity.
<b>Shiva</b>	Siva (many variants - even Civa - have been found)	A Hindu god. The name means kindly or auspicious.
<b>Shivaratri</b>	Sivaratri	The annual festival celebrated in February/March in honour of Shiva. Also called Mahashivaratri.
<b>Shraddha</b>	Sraddha	Ceremony in which sanctified food is offered to the poor and needy in memory of departed ancestors.
<b>Shri</b>	Sri	Illustrious. Used as a title of respect, eg Shri Krishna. Also a respectful title for men. The feminine form is Shrimati (Mrs).
<b>Shruti</b>	Srti	That which is remembered. Applicable to Hindu scriptures other than the Vedas.
<b>Sita</b>	Seeta	The divine consort of Rama.
<b>Smriti</b>	Srti Shruti	That which is heard. A term specifically applied to the four Vedas, including the Upanishads. Some Hindus believe that Smriti is subservient to Shruti, but other Hindus consider them to have equal importance.
<b>Sutra</b>	Sutta	Short sayings or verses relating to various rituals, or encapsulating profound philosophical meaning.
<b>Swami</b>	Svami	Controller. Sometimes, more specifically, Goswami (one who can control his/her senses). An honorific title applied to a religious teacher or holy person, particularly the

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Swastika</b>	Svastika	sannyasi. From the Sanskrit for well-being; a mark of good fortune. The four arms signify the four directions (space), the four Vedas (knowledge) and the four stages (time) in the life cycle. Not to be confused with the Nazi symbol.
<b>Tamas</b>		Ignorance or destructive potency; the lowest of the three gunas.
<b>Trimurti</b>		The three deities. Refers to Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, who personify and control the three gunas. They represent and control the three functions of creation, preservation and destruction. 'Trinity' should be avoided.
<b>Upanayana</b>		Ceremony when the sacred thread is tied - to mark the start of learning with a guru.
<b>Upanishad</b>	Upanisad	To sit down near. A sacred text based on the teaching of a guru to a disciple. The Upanishads explain the teachings of the Vedas.
<b>Vaishnavism</b>	Vaisnavism	The religion of Hindus who are devotees of the god Vishnu.
<b>Vaishya</b>	Vaisya	The third of the four varnas of Hindu society, composed of merchants and farmers.
<b>Vanaprastha</b>		The third stage of life, typified by retirement and asceticism.
<b>Vanaprasthi</b>	Vanaprastha	Forest dweller. One who is the third stage of life.
<b>Varanasi</b>	Banares Benares Kashi Kasi	City on the river Ganges, sacred to Shiva. It is one of the holiest pilgrimage sites and also an ancient centre of learning.
<b>Varna</b>		Colour. The four principal divisions of Hindu society. It is important to note that the word 'caste' refers strictly to sub-divisions within each varna, and not to varnas themselves.
<b>Varnashrama</b>	Varnasrama Dharma	The system whereby society is divided into four varnas (divisions), and life into four ashramas (stages).
<b>Varsha Pratipada</b>		The day of Creation, celebrated as New Year's Day by many Hindus.
<b>Veda</b>		Knowledge. Specifically refers to the four Vedas, though any teaching which is consistent with the conclusions of these scriptures is also accepted as Vedic.
<b>Vijay Dashmi</b>	Vijaya Dashami	Another name for Dassehra.
<b>Vishnu</b>	Visnu	A Hindu god. With Brahma and Shiva forms the Trimurti.
<b>Vrat</b>	Vratam	Vow. Often including abstention from certain foods.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Vrindavan</b>	Brindavan Vrindavana Brindaban	The sacred village connected with Krishna's pastimes as a youth.
<b>Yajur Veda</b>		One of the four Vedas, dealing with the knowledge of karma.
<b>Yamuna</b>	Jamuna Jumna	Tributary of the river Ganga (Ganges), considered by many Hindus to be the most sacred of all holy rivers.
<b>Yatra</b>	Jatra	Pilgrimage. Usually to important sacred places in India.
<b>Yoga</b>		Communion; union of the soul with the Supreme, or a process which promotes that relationship. The English word 'yoke' is derived from yoga.
<b>Yuga</b>		Age, or extended period of time, of which there are four.

# ISLAM GLOSSARY

The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic, therefore Arabic is the language of Islam, Islamic worship, theology, ethics and jurisprudence. Islam is inextricably linked with the Arabic language despite the variety of languages spoken by the believers.

For British teachers and pupils who have not encountered Islamic terms, this transliteration is a simplified version of that used by contemporary scholars. An apostrophe is used to indicate a pause. The reader will note that the words salah and zakah end in "h" when they appear alone. When part of a phrase, these words are written with a "t" at the end, eg Salat-ul-Zuhr, Zakat-ul-Fitr, as a guide to pronunciation.

<i>TERM</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Abd</b>	Servant. As in Abdullah, servant of Allah.
<b>Abu Bakr</b>	The first Khalifah, successor to the leadership of the Muslim community after the death of the Prophet Muhammad.
<b>Adam</b>	Adam (peace be upon him). The first man, and first Prophet of Allah.
<b>Adhan</b>	Call to prayer. From the same root, Mu'adhin (one who makes the call to prayer).
<b>Aishah</b>	One of the wives of the prophet Muhammad, and daughter of Abu Bakr (Radhi-Allahu-anhum - may Allah be pleased with them).
<b>Akhirah</b>	Everlasting life after death - the hereafter.
<b>Akhlaq</b>	Conduct, character, attitudes and ethics.
<b>al-Amin</b>	The Trustworthy. The name by which prophet Muhammad was generally known, even before the revelation of Islam.
<b>al-Aqsa</b>	Masjid-ul-Aqsa (The Farthest Mosque) in Jerusalem, often known as the Dome of the Rock.
<b>al-Fatihah</b>	The Opener. Surah 1 of the Qur'an. Recited at least 17 times daily during the five times of salah. Also known as "The Essence" of the Qur'an.
<b>al-hamdu-li-Llah</b>	All praise belongs to Allah. Frequently used as an expression of thanks to Allah.
<b>al-Kafi</b>	The title of the books of Hadith compiled by Muhammad ibn-Yaqub Koleini, a Shi'ah scholar.
<b>al-Khulafa-ur-Rashidun</b>	The Rightly guided Khalifahs. The first four successors to the leadership role of the Prophet Muhammad. They were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali (Radhi-Allahu-anhum - may Allah be pleased with them).
<b>al-Madinah</b>	Madinatu'n-Nabi (The City of the Prophet). The name given to Yathrib after the Prophet Muhammad migrated there in 622 CE and founded the first Islamic state.
<b>Ali</b>	Cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad; husband of Fatimah Zahrah; father of Hassan, Hussein, and Zainab; the fourth of "al-Khulafa ur-Rashidun" according to Sunnis, and the first successor accepted by Shi'ah Islam (Radhi-Allahu-anhum - may Allah be pleased with them).
<b>Allah</b>	The Islamic name for God in the Arabic language. Used in preference to the word God, this Arabic term is singular, has no plural, nor is it associated with masculine, feminine or neuter characteristics.
<b>Allahu Akbar</b>	Allah is most great.
<b>Angels</b>	Beings created by Allah from light. They have no free will and are completely obedient to Allah.

<i>TERM</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Ansar</b>	Supporters. The Muslims of al-Madinah, who welcomed, helped and supported the Muslims who migrated from Makkah.
<b>Arafat</b>	A plain, a few kilometres from Makkah, where pilgrims gather to worship pray and ask for forgiveness. This takes place on the ninth day of the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah, the day before Id-ul-Adha.
<b>Asr (Salat-ul-Asr)</b>	Mid-afternoon salah which may be performed from late afternoon until a short while before sunset.
<b>As-Salamu-Alaykum</b>	Peace be upon you. An Islamic greeting.
<b>Ayah (sing)</b>	A unit within a Surah of the Qur'an.
<b>Barakah</b>	Blessings.
<b>Bilal</b>	The first Mu'adhin of Islam (see Adhan), a companion of Prophet Muhammad, formerly an Abyssinian slave (Radhi-Allahu-anhu - may Allah be pleased with him).
<b>Bismillah</b>	In the name of Allah.
<b>Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim</b>	In the name of Allah - All Gracious, All Merciful. The preface to all Surahs of the Qur'an except the ninth one. It is usually said by Muslims before eating or beginning any action.
<b>Dar-ul-Islam</b>	House or abode of Islam. Sometimes used to refer to lands ruled by Islamic Shari'ah.
<b>Da'wah</b>	Call. Inviting people to Islam, whether by literal invitation and preaching, or by the example of good actions.
<b>Dawud</b>	David (peace be upon him). A Prophet of Allah to whom the Zabur (the Book of Psalms) was given.
<b>Dhikr</b>	Remembrance. Remembrance of Allah in one's heart or by reciting His names or sections from the Qur'an.
<b>Dhimmi</b>	A non-Muslim living freely under the protection of an Islamic state.
<b>Dhul-Hijjah</b>	The month of the Hajj, last month of the Islamic year.
<b>Din</b>	Way of life, religion together with its practices.
<b>Din-ul-Fitrah</b>	A description of Islam as the natural way of life.
<b>Du'a</b>	Varying forms of personal prayer and supplication.
<b>Fajr (Salat-ul-Fajr)</b>	Dawn salah which may be performed from dawn until just before sunrise.
<b>Fard</b>	Obligatory duty according to divine law, eg offering salah five times a day.
<b>Fatihah</b>	See al-Fatihah.
<b>Fatimah (al-Zahrah)</b>	Daughter of the prophet Muhammad; wife of Ali; mother of Hassan, Hussein and Zainab (Radhi-Allahu-anhum - may Allah be pleased with them).
<b>Fatwa</b>	The legal guidance of a pious, just, knowledgeable Muslim scholar and jurist, based on the Qur'an, Sunnah and Islamic Shari'ah.
<b>Fiqh</b>	Understanding. Islamic jurisprudence.

<i>TERM</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Ghusl</b>	Greater ablution. Formal washing of the whole body prior to worship (see Wudu).
<b>Hadith</b>	Saying; report; account. The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, as recounted by his household, progeny and companions. These are a major source of Islamic law. Some Hadith are referred to as Hadith Qudsi (sacred Hadith) having been divinely communicated to the Prophet Muhammad.
<b>Hafiz</b>	Someone who knows the whole Qur'an by heart.
<b>Hajar</b>	Hagar. Wife of the Prophet Ibrahim, and mother of the prophet Isma'il (peace be upon them).
<b>Hajj</b>	Annual pilgrimage to Makkah, which each Muslim must undertake at least once in a lifetime if he or she has the health and wealth. A Muslim male who has completed Hajj is called Hajji, and a female, Hajjah.
<b>Halal</b>	Any action or thing which is permitted or lawful.
<b>Haram</b>	Anything unlawful or not permitted.
<b>Haram Sharif</b>	The grand mosque in Makkah, which encompasses the Ka'bah, the hills of Safa and Marwah and the well of Zamzam.
<b>Hijab</b>	Veil. Often used to describe the head scarf or modest dress worn by women, who are required to cover everything except face and hands in the sight of anyone other than immediate family.
<b>Hijrah</b>	Departure; exit; emigration. The emigration of the Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Madinah in 622 CE. The Islamic calendar commences from this event.
<b>Hira</b>	The name of a place near Makkah, where the Prophet Muhammad went for solitude and worship. It was there that he received the first revelation of the Qur'an.
<b>Ibadah</b>	All acts of worship. Any permissible action performed with the intention to obey Allah.
<b>Iblis</b>	The Jinn who defied Allah by refusing to bow to Adam (peace be upon him), and later became the tempter of all human beings (see Shaytan).
<b>Ibrahim</b>	Abraham (peace be upon him). A Prophet of Allah to whom the "scrolls" were given.
<b>Id</b>	Recurring happiness. A religious holiday; a feast for thanking Allah and celebrating a happy occasion.
<b>Id Mubarak</b>	Id blessings! Greeting exchanged during Islamic celebrations.
<b>Id-ul-Adha</b>	Celebration of the sacrifice, commemorating the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Isma'il for Allah (peace be upon them). Also known as Id-ul-Kabir - the Greater Id - and Qurban Bayram (Turkish) - feast of sacrifice.
<b>Id-ul-Fitr</b>	Celebration of breaking the fast on the day after Ramadan ends, which is also the first day of Shawal, the tenth Islamic month. Also known as Id-ul-Saghir - the Lesser Id - and Sheker Bayram (Turkish) - sugar feast.
<b>Ihram</b>	The state or condition entered into to perform either Hajj or Umrah. During this period, many normally permitted actions are placed out of bounds to Muslims. Also, the name of the two plain white unsewn cloths worn by male pilgrims to indicate the brotherhood, equality and purity of the pilgrim. For women, the dress of Ihram consists of their normal modest clothing.
<b>Ijma</b>	General consensus of scholars, expressed or tacit, on matters of law and practice.

<i>TERM</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Imam</b>	Leader. A person who leads the communal prayer, or a founder of an Islamic school of jurisprudence. In Shi'ah Islam, Imam is also the title of Ali (Radhi-Allahu-anhu - may Allah be pleased with him) and his successors.
<b>Imamah</b>	Office and function of an Imam. Religious authority in Shi'ah Islam; successor to the Prophet Muhammad as leader of the Muslim community.
<b>Iman</b>	Faith.
<b>Injil</b>	Gospel. A book given to Prophet Isa (peace be upon him).
<b>Iqamah</b>	Call to stand up for salah.
<b>Isa</b>	Jesus. A Prophet of Allah, born of the virgin Mary (peace be upon them).
<b>Isha (Salat-ul-Isha)</b>	Evening salah which may be performed from just over an hour after sunset, until midnight.
<b>Islam</b>	Peace attained through willing obedience to Allah's divine guidance.
<b>Isma'il</b>	Ishmael. A Prophet of Allah. Son of the Prophet Ibrahim and Hajar (peace be upon them).
<b>Isnad</b>	Chain of transmission of each Hadith.
<b>Jibril</b>	Gabriel. The angel who delivered Allah's messages to His Prophets.
<b>Jihad</b>	Personal individual struggle against evil in the way of Allah. It can also be collective defence of the Muslim community.
<b>Jinn</b>	Being created by Allah from fire.
<b>Jumu'ah (Salat-ul-Jumu'ah)</b>	The weekly communal salah, and attendance at the khutbah performed shortly after midday on Fridays.
<b>Ka'bah</b>	A cube-shaped structure in the centre of the grand mosque in Makkah. The first house built for the worship of the One True God.
<b>Khadijah</b>	First wife of the Prophet Muhammad. Mother of Fatimah Zahrah (Radhi-Allahu-anhum - may Allah be pleased with them).
<b>Khalifah</b>	Successor; inheritor; custodian; vice-regent (see al-Khulafa-ur-Rashidun).
<b>Khilafah</b>	The institution of the Khalifah.
<b>Khums</b>	Contribution (additional to zakah) of one fifth of surplus annual income paid by Shi'ah Muslims. Sunni Muslims only apply Khums to booty.
<b>Khutbah</b>	Speech. Talk delivered on special occasions such as the Jum'uah and Id prayers.
<b>Laylat-ul-Qadr</b>	The Night of Power, when the first revelation of the Qur'an was made to Prophet Muhammad. It is believed to be one of the last ten nights of Ramadan.
<b>Madinah</b>	See al-Madinah.
<b>Maghrib (Salat-ul-Maghrib)</b>	Sunset salah which is performed after sunset until daylight ends.
<b>Mahdi, al-Muntazar</b>	The (rightly) guided one who is awaited and will appear towards the end of time to lead the Ummah and restore justice on Earth. The one who is promised in the Judaic, Christian and Islamic traditions.

<i>TERM</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Makkah</b>	City where the Prophet Muhammad was born, and where the Ka'bah is located.
<b>Maryam</b>	Mary. The virgin mother of the Prophet Isa (peace be upon them).
<b>Masjid</b>	Place of prostration. Mosque.
<b>Mihrab</b>	Niche or alcove in a mosque wall, indicating the Qiblah - the direction of Makkah, towards which all Muslims face to perform salah.
<b>Mina</b>	Place near Makkah, where pilgrims stay on the 10th, 11th and 12th of Dhul-Hijjah and perform some of the activities of the Hajj.
<b>Minbar</b>	Rostrum; platform; dais. The stand from which the Imam delivers the khutbah or speech in the mosque or praying ground.
<b>Miqat</b>	Place appointed, at which pilgrims enter into the state of ihram.
<b>Mi'raj</b>	The ascent through the heavens of the prophet Muhammad.
<b>Mu'adhin</b>	Caller to prayer (see Adhan). Known in English as "muezzin".
<b>Muhammad</b>	Praised. Name of the final Prophet.
<b>Muharram</b>	First month in the Islamic calendar, which is calculated from the time the Prophet Muhammad migrated to Yathrib (Madinah).
<b>Musa</b>	Moses (peace be upon him). A Prophet of Allah to whom the Tawrah (Torah) was given.
<b>Mumin</b>	Faithful. A believer, a practising Muslim who wholeheartedly yields to Allah's guiding wisdom and is thus in harmony with His will and at peace with himself and fellow creatures.
<b>Muslim</b>	One who claims to have accepted Islam by professing the Shahadah.
<b>Muzdalifah</b>	Place where pilgrims on Hajj stop for a time during the night of the day they spend at Arafat.
<b>Nabi</b>	Prophet of Allah
<b>Niyyah</b>	Intention. A legally required statement of intent, made prior to all acts of devotion such as salah, Hajj or sawm.
<b>Qadar</b>	Allah's complete and final control over the fulfilment of events or destiny.
<b>Qiblah</b>	Direction which Muslims face when performing salah - towards the Ka'bah (see Mihrab).
<b>Qur'an</b>	That which is read or recited. The Divine Book revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Allah's final revelation to humankind.
<b>Rak'ah</b>	A unit of salah, made up of recitation, standing, bowing and two prostrations.
<b>Ramadan</b>	The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which fasting is required from just before dawn until sunset, as ordered by Allah in the Qur'an.
<b>Rasul</b>	Messenger of Allah.
<b>Sa'y</b>	Walking and hastening between Safa and Marwah, as part of the Hajj, in remembrance of Hajar's search for water for her son Isma'il (peace be upon them).
<b>Sadaqah</b>	Voluntary payment or good action for charitable purposes.

<i>TERM</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Safa &amp; Marwah</b>	Two hills in Makkah, near the Ka'bah, now included within the grant mosque (see Sa'y).
<b>Sahih al-Bukhari</b>	The title of the books of Hadith compiled by Muhammad ibn Isma'il al-Bukhari, a Sunni scholar. The collection is described as Sahih (authentic).
<b>Sahih Muslim</b>	The title of the books of Hadith compiled by Abul Husayn Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj, a Sunni scholar. The collection is described as Sahih (authentic).
<b>Salah</b>	Prescribed communication with, and worship of, Allah, performed under specific conditions, in the manner taught by the Prophet Muhammad, and recited in the Arabic language. The five daily items of salah are fixed by Allah.
<b>Sawm</b>	Fasting from just before dawn until sunset. Abstinence is required from all food and drink (including water) as well as smoking and conjugal relations.
<b>Shahadah</b>	Declaration of faith, which consists of the statement, "There is no god except Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah".
<b>Shari'ah</b>	Islamic law based upon the Qur'an and Sunnah.
<b>Shaytan</b>	Rebellious; proud. The devil (see Iblis).
<b>Shi'ah</b>	Followers. Muslims who believe in the Imamah, successorship of Ali (Radhi-Allahu-anhu - may Allah be pleased with him) after the Prophet Muhammad and 11 of his most pious, knowledgeable descendants.
<b>Shirk</b>	Association. Regarding anything as being equal or partner to Allah. Shirk is forbidden in Islam.
<b>Shura</b>	Consultation of the people in the management of religious and worldly affairs. A duty prescribed in the Qur'an to leaders at all levels, from family to Government.
<b>Sirah</b>	Biographical writings about the conduct and example of the Prophet Muhammad.
<b>Subhah</b>	String of beads used to count recitations in worship.
<b>Sunnah</b>	Model practices, customs and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad. This is found in both Hadith and Sirah.
<b>Sunni</b>	Muslims who believe in the successorship of Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali (Radhi-Allahu-anhum - may Allah be pleased with them) after the Prophet Muhammad.
<b>Surah</b>	Division of the Qur'an (114 in all).
<b>Takbir</b>	Saying "Allahu Akbar!" Recited during salah, Id and other celebratory occasions.
<b>Tawaf</b>	Walking seven times around the Ka'bah in worship of Allah. Also, a part of Hajj and Umrah.
<b>Tawhid</b>	Belief in the Oneness of Allah - absolute monotheism as practised in Islam.
<b>Tawrah</b>	The Torah. The book given to the Prophet Musa (Moses) (peace be upon him).
<b>Ulama</b>	Scholars of Islamic law and jurisprudence (sing. Alim).
<b>Umar ibn ul-Khattab</b>	Second Khalifah of Islam.
<b>Ummah</b>	Community. Worldwide community of Muslims; the nation of Islam.
<b>Umrah</b>	Lesser pilgrimage which can be performed at any time of the year.

<i>TERM</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Uthman</b>	The third Khalifah of Islam.
<b>Wudu</b>	Ablution before salah.
<b>Yathrib</b>	Town to which the Prophet Muhammad migrated from Makkah (see al-Madinah).
<b>Zabur</b>	The Book of Psalms given to Prophet Dawud (David) (peace be upon him).
<b>Zakah</b>	Purification of wealth by payment of annual welfare due. An obligatory act of worship
<b>Zakat-ul-Fitr</b>	Welfare payment at the end of Ramadan.
<b>Zamzam</b>	Name of the well adjacent to the Ka'bah in Makkah. The water first sprang in answer to Hajar's search and prayers (see Hajar and Sa'y).
<b>Zuhr (Salat-ul-Zuhr)</b>	Salah which can be performed after midday until afternoon.

# JUDAISM GLOSSARY

Most of the terms included in this section are Hebrew in origin. However, since the Jewish diaspora, many terms reflect the different countries where Jews have settled. For example, many words are in Yiddish, a common language (a mixture of German, Russian and Hebrew) developed by Jews throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The preferred form in this glossary uses the Sephardic pronunciation, which is equivalent to modern Hebrew as spoken in Israel today. As with all transliterations, there may be acceptable differences in the ways in which words are spelt..

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Afikomen (Greek)</b>		Dessert. Portion of a matzah eaten near the end of the Seder.
<b>Agadah</b>	Aggadah	Telling. Rabbinical teachings on moral values.
<b>Aleinu</b>		Key prayer at the conclusion of each service..
<b>Aliyah</b>		To go up. (i) Being called to read the Sefer Torah in the synagogue. (ii) The migration of Jews to Israel.
<b>Amidah</b>		Standing. The standing prayer.
<b>Aron Hakodesh</b>		Holy Ark. The focal point of the synagogue, containing Torah scrolls.
<b>Ashkenazim</b>		Jews of Central and Eastern European origin.
<b>Bar Mitzvah</b>		Son of Commandment. A boy's coming of age at 13 years old, usually marked by a synagogue ceremony and family celebration.
<b>Bat Mitzvah</b>	Bat Chayil	Daughter of Commandment. As above, but for girls from 12 years old. May be marked differently between communities.
<b>Bet ha Knesset</b>	Beit ha Knesset (Shul)	House of Assembly. Synagogue.
<b>Bimah</b>		Dais. Raised platform primarily for reading the Torah in the synagogue.
<b>Brit Milah</b>	Berit Milah, Bris	Circumcision.
<b>Challah</b>	Hallah	Enriched bread used particularly on Shabbat and during festivals
<b>Chazan</b>	Hazzan Cantor	Leader of reading, singing and chanting in the services of some synagogues.
<b>Chumash</b>		Five. The Torah in book form, used in the synagogue and the home.
<b>Circumcision</b>		Religious rite of Brit Milah, performed by a qualified mohel on all Jewish boys, usually on the eighth day after birth.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Gemara</b>	Gemarah	Commentary on the Mishnah included in the Talmud.
<b>Genizah</b>		Storage place for damaged religious texts.
<b>Haftarah</b>		Completion. Passages from Nevi'im (Prophets) read in the synagogue (linked to weekly Torah and festival readings).
<b>Hagadah</b>	Haggadah	Telling. A book used at Seder.
<b>Halakhah</b>	Halacha	The Way. The code of conduct encompassing all aspects of Jewish life.
<b>Hanuloaj Hanukiah</b>	Chanukian Menorah	Nine-branched Hanukkah lamp used at the festival of Hanukkah.
<b>Hanukkah</b>	Chanukah	Dedication. An eight-day festival of lights to celebrate the re-dedication of the temple following the Maccabean victory over the Greeks.
<b>Hasid</b>	Chasid Hasidim (pl.) Chasidim	Pious. Member of the Orthodox movement of Hasidism
<b>Hasidism</b>	Chasidism	A religious and social movement formed by Israel Baal Shem Tov (from the 18 century onwards).
<b>Havdalah</b>		Distinction. Ceremony marking the conclusion of Shabbat.
<b>Hebrew</b>	Ivrit	Ancient Semitic language; language of the Tenakh (Hebrew Scriptures) and used by Jews for prayer and study. Also, everyday language in Israel.
<b>Huppah</b>	Chuppah	Canopy used for a wedding ceremony, under which the bride and groom stand.
<b>Israel</b>		One who struggles with God. The phrase refers to the world-wide Jewish community; the land of Israel and the modern state of Israel.
<b>Kabbalah</b>	Cabala	Jewish mysticism.
<b>Kaddish</b>		Prayer publicly recited by mourners.
<b>Kashrut</b>		Laws relating to keeping a kosher home and lifestyle.
<b>Ketubah</b>	Ketubbah	Document that defines rights and obligations within Jewish marriage.
<b>Ketuvim</b>		Writings. Third section of the Tenakh.
<b>Kibbutz</b>	Kibbutzim (pl.)	Israeli collective village based on socialist principles.
<b>Kiddush</b>		Holy. A prayer sanctifying Shabbat and festival days, usually recited over wine.
<b>Kippah</b>	Yamulkah Capel	Head covering worn during prayers, Torah study, etc. Some followers wear it constantly.
<b>Knesset</b>		Assembly. Israeli parliament.
<b>Kol Nidrei</b>	Kol Nidre	All vows. Prayer recited on the evening of Yom Kippur.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Korach</b>		Name of the leader who defied Moses in the wilderness.
<b>Kosher</b>	Kasher	Fit; proper. Foods permitted by Jewish dietary laws.
<b>Ladino</b>		Language used predominately by Sephardim.
<b>Magen David</b>		Shield of David, popularly called Star of David.
<b>Maimonides</b>		Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (1135-1204), a leading Jewish philosopher, medical writer and codifier of Jewish law.
<b>Mashiach</b>	Moshiach Messiah	The annointed one who will herald in a new era for Judaism and all human kind.
<b>Matzah</b>	Matzot (pl.)	A flat cracker-like bread which has been baked before it rises; used at Pesach.
<b>Menorah</b>		Seven-branched candelabrum which was lit daily in the Temple.
<b>Mezuzah</b>		A scroll placed on doorposts of Jewish homes, containing a section from the Torah and often enclosed in a decorative case.
<b>Midrash</b>		Collections of various Rabbinic commentaries on the Tenakh.
<b>Mikveh</b>		Ritual bath used for the immersion of people and objects.
<b>Minyan</b>		Quorum of ten men, over Bar Mitzvah age, required for a service. Progressive communities may include women but do not always require a minyan.
<b>Mishnah</b>		First writing down of the Oral Tradition. An authoritative document forming part of the Talmud, codified about 200 CE.
<b>Mishkan</b>		Dwelling. The original travelling sanctuary used prior to the building of the permanent Temple in Jerusalem.
<b>Mitzvah</b>	Mitzvot (pl.)	Commandment. The Torah contains 613 Mitzvot. Commonly used to describe good deeds.
<b>Mohel</b>		Person trained to perform Brit Milah.
<b>Moshav</b>	Moshavim (pl.)	Collective village or farm in Israel.
<b>Ner Tamid</b>		Eternal light. The perpetual light above the Aron Hakodesh.
<b>Nevi'im</b>		Prophets. Second section of the Tenakh.
<b>Noachide Laws</b>		Seven laws given to Noah after the flood, which are incumbent on all human kind. These laws form the foundation for a just society.
<b>Parev</b>	Pareveh	Neutral foods, which are neither milk nor meat, eg

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		vegetables, eggs, fish.
<b>Pesach</b>	Passover	Festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt. One of the three biblical pilgrim festivals. Pesach is celebrated in the spring.
<b>Pikei Avot</b>	Pirke Avoth	Sayings of the Fathers. Part of the Mishnah containing ethics of Rabbinical sages.
<b>Pikuakh Nefesh</b>		Save a soul. The setting aside of certain laws in order to save a life.
<b>Progrom</b>		Organised attack on Jews, especially frequent in 19th and early 20th century Eastern Europe.
<b>Purim</b>		Festival commemorating the rescue of Persian Jewry as told in the book of Esther.
<b>Rabbi</b>		My teacher. An ordained Jewish teacher. Often the religious leader of a Jewish community.
<b>Rashi</b>		Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzhak (1040 - 1105). A French rabbinical scholar and leading commentator on the Torah and Talmud.
<b>Rebbe</b>		Rabbi. The term used by Hasidim for their religious leader.
<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>	Rosh Ha-Shanah	Head of the Year. Jewish New Year.
<b>Seder</b>		Order. A home-based ceremonial meal during Pesach, at which the Exodus from Egypt is recounted using the Hagadah.
<b>Sefer Torah</b>		Torah scroll. the five books of Moses handwritten on parchment and rolled to form a scroll.
<b>Sephardim</b>	Sefardim	Jews originating from Mediterranean countries, especially Spain, North Africa and the Middle East.
<b>Shabbat</b>	Shabbos	Day of spiritual renewal and rest commencing at sunset on Friday, terminating at nightfall on Saturday.
<b>Shatnez</b>	Shaatnez	Garments containing a forbidden mixture of wool and linen.
<b>Shavuot</b>		Weeks. One of three pilgrim festivals. Shavuot is celebrated in the summer, seven weeks after Pesach.
<b>Shekhina</b>		The divine presence.
<b>Shema</b>		Major Jewish prayer affirming belief in one God. The Shema is found in the Torah.
<b>Shemot</b>		Names. Seven holy names of God.
<b>Shiva</b>		Seven days of intense mourning following the burial of a close relation. During this period, all ordinary work is prohibited.
<b>Shoah</b>		Desolation. The suffering experienced by European Jews at

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		the hands of the Nazis, including the systematic murder of six million Jews between 1933 and 1945.
<b>Shofar</b>		Ram's horn blown at the season of Rosh Hashanah.
<b>Siddur</b>		Order. Daily prayer book.
<b>Simchat Torah</b>		Rejoicing of the law. Festival celebrating the completion and recommencement of the cycle of the weekly Torah reading.
<b>Sukkah</b>	Sukkot (pl.)	Tabernacle; booth. A temporary dwelling used during Sukkot.
<b>Sukkot</b>		One of three biblical pilgrim festivals, Sukkot is celebrated in the Autumn.
<b>Synagogue</b>	Shul Bet Hakneset Bet Hamidrash	Building for Jewish public prayer, study and assembly.
<b>Tallit</b>	Tallith	Prayer shawl. Four-cornered garment with fringes.
<b>Talmud</b>		Mishnah and Gemara, collected together
<b>Tefillah</b>	Tefila	Self-judgement. Jewish prayer and meditation.
<b>Tefillin</b>	Tephilin T'filin Phylacteries	Small leather boxes containing passages from the Torah, strapped on the forehead and arm for morning prayers on weekdays.
<b>Tenakh</b>	Tahakh	The collected 24 books of the Jewish Bible, comprising three sections: Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim (Te;Na;Kh).
<b>Teshuva</b>		Repentance. Returning to God.
<b>Tikkun Olam</b>	Tikun	Care for the world and environment.
<b>Torah</b>		Law; teaching. The Five Books of Moses.
<b>Tzedaka</b>		Righteousness. An act of charity.
<b>Tzitzit</b>	Tzittzit	Fringes of the corners of the Tallit. Also commonly refers to the fringed undervest worn by some Jewish males.
<b>Yad</b>		Hand-held pointer used in reading the Sefer Torah.
<b>Yahrzeit</b>		Year-time. Anniversary of a death.
<b>Yeshiva</b>		College of study of the Torah and Talmud.
<b>Yiddish</b>		Language used predominantly by Ashkenazim.
<b>Yishuv</b>		Ingathering. The Jewish community of Israel.
<b>Yom Hashoah</b>		Day to commemorate the Shoah.
<b>Yom Kippur</b>		Day of Atonement. Fast day occurring on the tenth day after Rosh Hashanah; a solemn day of Tefillah and Teshuva.

*PREFERRED FORM*

*MAIN VARIANTS*

*EXPLANATION*

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**Zionism**

Political movement securing the Jewish return to the land of Israel.

# SIKHISM GLOSSARY

Sikh terms are drawn from the Punjabi language, and the versions below are based upon that language. Many of these terms will also be found in books on Hinduism and Buddhism but with somewhat different meanings. As with all transliterations, there are problems which are difficult to resolve. This is particularly true when moving from the Gurmukhi script which has an alphabet of 35 letters, to the Roman alphabet which has only 26 letters.

Names of persons and places are only included in this list if variant forms are commonly used.

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
<b>Akal Purakh</b>		The Eternal One. A designation frequently used of God by Guru Nanak.
<b>Akal Takht</b>	Akal Takhat	Throne of the Eternal; throne of the Timeless One. Building facing the Golden Temple in Amritsar, where Sikhs gather for political purposes.
<b>Akhand Path</b>		Continuous reading of the Guru Granth Sahib from beginning to end.
<b>Amrit</b>		Nectar. Sanctified liquid made of sugar and water, used in initiation ceremonies.
<b>Amrit ceremony</b>	Amrit Sanskar Amrit Pahul Khande di Pahul Sometimes just `Amrit' or `Taking Amrit' (`Amrit Chhakna')	The Sikh rite of initiation into the Khalsa. `Baptism' should not be used.
<b>Anand karaj</b>	Anand Sankar	Ceremony of bliss. Wedding ceremony.
<b>Ardas</b>		Prayer. The formal prayer offered at most religious acts.
<b>Baisakhi</b>	Vaisakhi	A major Sikh festival celebrating the formation of the Khalsa, 1699 CE.
<b>Bangla Sahib</b>		The site of the martyrdom of Guru Har Krishan (Delhi).
<b>Bhai Khanaya</b>		A Sikh commended by Guru Gobind Singh for serving water to the enemy wounded.
<b>Bhai Lalo</b>		A humble carpenter who opened his house to Guru Nanak. The Guru preferred Bhai Lalo's simple food to the offerings of a local rich merchant.
<b>Chanani</b>	Chandni	Canopy over the scriptures, used as a mark of respect.
<b>Chauri</b>	Chaur	Symbol of the authority of the Guru Granth Sahib. Fan waved over scriptures, made of yak hairs or nylon. It should not be called a `fly whisk'.
<b>Dasam Granth</b>		Collection of compositions, some of which are attributed to the tenth Sikh Guru, compiled some years after his death.
<b>Giani</b>		A person learned in the Sikh scriptures.
<b>Granthi</b>		Reader of the Gury Granth Sahib, who officiates at

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		ceremonies.
<b>Gurbani</b>	Bani, Vani	Divine word revealed by the Gurus. The Shabads contained in the Guru Granth Sahib
<b>Gurdwara</b>	Gurudwara	Sikh place of worship. Literally the `doorway to the Guru`.
<b>Gurmat</b>		The Guru's guidance.
<b>Gurmukh</b>		One who lives by the Guru's teaching.
<b>Gurmukhi</b>		From the Guru's mouth. Name given to the script in which the scriptures and the Punjabi language are written.
<b>Gurpurb</b>	Gurpurab	A Guru's anniversary (birth or death). Also used for other anniversaries, eg of the installation of the Adi Granth, 1604 CE.
<b>Guru</b>		Teacher, in Sikhism, the title of Guru is reserved for the ten human Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Guru Arjan</b>		The fifth Guru who was the first Sikh martyr (1563-1606).
<b>Guru Gobind Singh</b>	Guru Govind Singh (Original name: Giri Gobind Rai)	Tenth Sikh Guru. It is important to note that the title `Guru` must be used with all other Gurus' names. Sikhs usually use further terms of respect, eg Guru Gobind Singh Ji or Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
<b>Guru Granth Sahib</b>	Aai Granth (Granth' by itself should be avoided)	Primal collection of Sikh scriptures, compiled by Guru Arjan and given its final form by Guru Gobind Singh.
<b>Guru Har Gobind</b>	Gury Hargobind Guru Hargovind	Sixth Sikh Guru.
<b>Guru Har Krishan Guru Harkishan</b>	Guru Harkrishan	Eighth Sikh Guru.
<b>Guru Nanak</b>		The first Guru and the founder of the Sikh faith (1469-1539).
<b>Guru Tegh Bahadur</b>		The ninth Guru who was martyred for the principle of religious tolerance (1622-1675).
<b>Haumai</b>		Egoism. The major spiritual defect.
<b>Hukam</b>		God's will.
<b>Hukam</b>	Vak	Random reading taken for guidance from the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Ik Onkar</b>		There is only One God. The first phrase of the Mool Mantar. It is also used as a symbol to decorate Sikh objects.
<b>Janamsakhi</b>	Janam Sakhi	Birth stories. Hagiographic life stories of a Guru,

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
		especially Guru Nanak.
<b>Japji Sahib</b>		A morning prayer, composed by Guru Nanak, which forms the first chapter of the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Jivan Mukht</b>	Jivan Mukht	Enlightened while in the material body; a spiritually enlightened person, freed from worldly bonds.
<b>Kachera</b>		Traditional underwear/shorts. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
<b>Kakka</b>	Singular of the Punjabi letter K (plural `Kakke')	See panj kakke.
<b>Kangha</b>	Kanga	Comb worn in the hair. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
<b>Kara</b>		Steel band worn on the right wrist. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
<b>Karah parshad</b>	Karah Prasad	Sanctified food distributed at Sikh ceremonies.
<b>Kaur</b>		Princess. Name given to all Sikh females by Guru Gobind Singh (see Singh).
<b>Kesh</b>	Kes	Uncut hair. One of the five K's (see panj kakke).
<b>Khalsa</b>		The community of the pure. The Sikh community.
<b>Khanda</b>		Double-edged sword used in the initiation ceremony. Also used as the emblem on the Sikh flag.
<b>Kirat karna</b>		Earning one's livelihood by one's own efforts.
<b>Kirpan</b>		Sword. One of the five K's (see panj kakke). `Dagger' should be avoided.
<b>Kirtan</b>		Devotional singing of the compositions found in the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Kirtan Sohila</b>		A prayer said before retiring for sleep. It is also used at the cremation ceremony and when the Guru Granth Sahib is laid to rest.
<b>Kurahit</b>		Prohibitions, eg intoxicants.
<b>Langar</b>	Guru ka Langar	Guru's kitchen. The gurdwara dining hall and the food served in it.
<b>Mela</b>		Fair. Used of Sikh festivals which are not gurdwaras.
<b>Manji</b>	Manji Sahib	Small platform on which the scripture is placed.
<b>Manmukh</b>	Munmukh	Self-oriented (as opposed to gurmukh).
<b>Mool Mantar</b>	Mul Mantar	Basic teaching; essential teaching. The basic statement of belief at the beginning of the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Nam Simran</b>	Nam Simaran	Meditation on the divine name, using passages of

<i>PREFERRED FORM</i>	<i>MAIN VARIANTS</i>	<i>EXPLANATION</i>
	Naam Simran	scripture.
<b>Nankana Sahib</b>		Birthplace of Guru Nanak. Now in Pakistan.
<b>Nishan Sahib</b>		Sikh flag flown at gurdwaras.
<b>Nit nem</b>		The recitation of specified daily prayers.
<b>Panj kakke</b>		The five K's. The symbols of Sikhism worn by Sikhs.
<b>Panj piare</b>	Panj Pyare (other forms may also be found)	The five beloved ones. Those first initiated into the Khalsa; those who perform the rite today.
<b>Panth</b>		The Sikh community.
<b>Patases</b>	Patashas	Sugar bubbles or crystals used to prepare Amrit.
<b>Punjab</b>	Punjab	Land of five rivers. The area of India in which Sikhism originated.
<b>Ragi</b>		Sikh musician who sings compositions from the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Raheguru</b>		Wonderful Lord. A Sikh name for God.
<b>Rahit</b>		Sikh obligations, eg to meditate on God.
<b>Rahit Maryada</b>	Rehat Maryada	Sikh Code of Discipline.
<b>Sadhsangat</b>	Sangat	Congregation or assembly of Sikhs.
<b>Sewa</b>	Seva	Service directed at the sadhsangat and gurdwara, but also to humanity in general.
<b>Shabad</b>	Sabad Shabd	Word. Hymn from the Guru Granth Sahib; the divine word.
<b>Sikh</b>		Learner; disciple. A person who believes in the ten Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib, and who has no other religion.
<b>Singh</b>		Lion. Name adopted by Sikh males (see kaur).
<b>Sis Ganj Sahib</b>		The site of the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Delhi)
<b>Vak</b>	Vaak	A random reading taken for guidance from the Guru Granth Sahib.
<b>Vand chhakna</b>		Sharing one's time, talents and earnings with the less fortunate.