Anglicanism

***Origins and History***<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/stories/s820572.htm>

Anglicanism is the name given to the church which historically operated as The Church of England, but which now operates flexibly and autonomously in many nations..

German and Scandinavian pressure for church reform, growing English dissatisfaction with papal authority, and Henry VIII’s desire for a divorce from Catherine of Aragon were some of the factors contributing to England’s eventual break with the church in Rome.

From 1536-1539, Henry VIII renounced papal jurisdiction in England and dissolved Catholic monasteries. A national church was created with a Calvinistic doctrinal basis formulated in 1562 as the 39 Articles of Religion.

From: https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/being-an-anglican/anglican.aspx

Anglicans trace their Christian roots back to the early Church, and their specifically Anglican identity to the post-Reformation expansion of the [Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/history/detailed-history.aspx). Historically, there were two main stages in the development and spread of the Communion.

Anglicans uphold the Catholic and Apostolic faith. Following the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Churches are committed to the proclamation of the good news of the Gospel to the whole creation. In practice this is based on the revelation contained in Holy Scripture and the Catholic creeds, and is interpreted in light of Christian tradition, scholarship, reason and experience.

By baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a person is made one with Christ and received into the fellowship of the Church. This sacrament of initiation is open to children as well as to adults.

Another distinguishing feature of the corporate nature of Anglicanism is that it is an interdependent Church, where parishes, dioceses and provinces help each other to achieve by mutual support in terms of financial assistance and the sharing of other resources.

**Discontent with Roman administration of the church.**

In 1537, 20 years after the 95 Theses were nailed, the Anglican branch of the church formally challenged the authority of Rome. Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and abbeys in 1536.

There is a public perception that Henry VIII created the Anglican church in anger over the Pope's refusal to grant his divorce, but the historical record indicates that Henry spent most of his reign challenging the authority of Rome, and that the divorce issue was just one of a series of acts that collectively split the English church from the Roman church in much the same way that the Orthodox church had split off five hundred years before.

*Key Beliefs*

**In addition to the key beliefs common to all Christians, Anglican Christians believe**:

#### Justification by Faith

#### Faith in Jesus saving you is what saves you, not completing good works. You should do good deeds because it is right. You need to have faith that Jesus will save you. Don’t expect heaven as a reward because you’ve done good deeds.

#### The Sufficiency of Scripture

#### Scriptures contain all that one needs to know in order to have a relationship with Jesus and God; all the guidance needed is in the Bible, all teachings are based on the Bible. Not upon the dictatorial teachings of Church leaders, like Catholics do. You shouldn’t believe things that aren’t founded in scriptural reference.

#### The Authority of Scripture

#### The Bible is the ultimate authority. People may interpret the bible imperfectly, but it is still perfect as God speaks through it. Science and reason are taken seriously too. .

#### The Pope

#### They reject that the Pope has jurisdiction over everyone. A bishop may be a focal point of unity of administration, but he is not infallible. The idea that the Pope is unfailing has no basis in scripture.

#### The Eucharist

#### The Eucharist is the central part of communion, and Jesus is really present when members receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.

#### However, transubstantiation is not correct (that the bread and wine are totally transformed to flesh and blood)

#### Scripture simply states that Jesus is present in the Eucharist and that followers receive him. No need to speculate

#### The Number of the Sacraments

#### No need to number the sacraments.

#### The two major sacraments are Baptism and Eucharist

#### Other events could be considered sacraments, but they are not primary to salvation like Baptism and the Eucharist.

#### Purgatory

#### There is no Purgatory. You either go directly to Heaven or to Hell. There is no scriptural evidence of Purgatory.

Henry VIII

## English Reformation

In 1534, Henry VIII declared himself supreme head of the Church of England. From 1514 to 1529, he had relied on Thomas Wolsey, a Catholic cardinal, to guide his domestic and foreign policies. Wolsey enjoyed a lavish existence under Henry, but when Wolsey failed to deliver Henry's quick annulment from Catherine, the cardinal quickly fell out of favor. After 16 years of power, Wolsey was arrested and falsely charged with treason. He subsequently died in custody. Henry's actions upon Wolsey gave a strong signal to the pope that he would not honor the wishes of even the highest clergy and would instead exercise full power in every realm of his court.

After Henry declared his supremacy, the Christian church separated, forming the Church of England. Henry instituted several statutes that outlined the relationship between the king and the pope and the structure of the Church of England: the Act of Appeals, the Acts of Succession and the first Act of Supremacy, declaring the king was "the only Supreme Head in Earth of the Church of England." These macro reforms trickled down to minute details of worship. Henry ordered clergy to preach against superstitious images, relics, miracles and pilgrimages, and to remove almost all candles from religious settings. His 1545 catechism, called the King's Primer, left out the saints.

Fully separated now from the pope, the Church of England was under England's rule, not Rome's. From 1536 to 1537, a great northern uprising known as the Pilgrimage of Grace took hold, during which 30,000 people rebelled against the king's changes. It was the only major threat to Henry's security as monarch. The leader, Robert Aske, and 200 others were executed. When John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, and Sir Thomas More, Henry's former Lord Chancellor, refused to take the oath to the king, they were beheaded at Tower Hill.

## Why is Henry so famous?

1. He was a larger than life character whose extravagant lifestyle, ruthlessness and succession of wives have fascinated people for centuries.

2. During his reign, important political, economic and religious changes occurred which have shaped society ever since.

## When did Henry live?

- He was born in 1491 and reigned from 1509-1547. He was 17 when he came to the throne and was king for 37 years, 6 months and 9 days.

- He was part of the Tudor dynasty who ruled England between 1485 and 1603

## Henry’s six wives

- Henry married his first wife, a Spanish princess called Katherine of Aragon, in 1511. Katherine and Henry had a daughter, Mary, who would later grow up to be queen of England. However, Henry desperately wanted a son so in 1533 he decided to divorce Katherine so that he could marry someone else.

- Henry’s second wife was called Anne Boleyn. They had a daughter, Elizabeth, who was also destined to become queen. However, Anne didn’t provide Henry with the son that he wanted and she fell out of favour with him. She was beheaded in 1536.

- After Anne, Henry married Jane Seymour. In 1537, she gave birth to a son, Edward who would later become king of England after Henry died. Sadly Jane died only 2 weeks after Edward was born.

- Anne of Cleves who came from Belgium became Henry’s fourth wife in 1540. He divorced her after 6 months.

- Henry was keen to marry again and Catherine Howard became his fifth wife. She was 19 and he was 49 when they married. She was beheaded in 1542.

- Henry sixth wife was Kateryn Parr. They married at Hampton Court Palace in 1543.

- See more at: http://www.hrp.org.uk/PalaceKids/discover/allabouthenry#sthash.1QDD4o6x.dpuf