



# **Bracknell Forest**

## **Religious Education Artefacts Catalogue**

January 2006

From the Chairman:  
Bracknell Forest Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

**To: All Bracknell Forest Schools' RE Teachers**

Most of you will be well aware of the significant number of artefacts that are now available from Religious Education Resources located at the Bracknell Forest Education Centre in Easthampstead Park Mansion. Bracknell Forest SACRE has spent significant amounts of its budget over several years in building and maintaining this valuable resource, and has been delighted with the very high level of usage to date.

In order to compliment this service and to make it easier for teachers to use, we have created a catalogue of items, together with guidance on how these sacred artefacts should be handled and cared for.

I am delighted to see this latest project come to fruition and I take this opportunity to record SACRE's gratitude to all those who have contributed to its creation, in particular Mrs Sam Hunt, Deputy Headteacher and Head of RE at Sandhurst School.

On behalf of all the members of SACRE I wish you every success in your work.

*Gordon S Anderson*

# CONTENTS

Page No.

## BUDDHISM

### BUDDHIST ICONOGRAPHY

8

Buddha  
Thanka

### BUDDHIST MEDITATION / WORSHIP

9

Singing Bowl  
Manjara  
The Prayer Wheel  
Meditation Shell  
Prayer Flags  
Singing Bell and Vajra

## CHRISTIANITY

### JESUS

12

Selection of Crosses  
Christ in Art Poster Pack  
Byzantine and Russian Icons  
Olive Wood Head of Christ

### THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

13

Advent Calendar and Candle  
Christmas Story Cube  
South American Holy Family

### THE EASTER COLLECTION

14

Pascal Candle  
Crown of Thorns  
Crucifix  
Picture of the Last Supper  
Easter Story Cube  
Palm Crosses

### THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH COLLECTION

15

Picture of Pope John Paul II  
Stained Glass Window  
Vicar's Stole  
Statute of Mary  
Christian Candles  
Church Gargoyle

### CHRISTIAN WORSHIP COLLECTION

16

CD of Christian Hymns  
Communion Wafers and Chalice  
Rosary Beads  
Laminated Prayer Cards  
Ichthus Pin  
Crucifix  
Sick Call Set

### CHRISTIAN RITES OF PASSAGE

17

Baptism Certificates, God Parent Certificates, and Baptismal Candle  
Communion Veil, Certificate of First Communion and Confirmation Certificates

### Other Artefacts in the Collection

18

Altar Cloth  
Noah's Ark Story Cube  
Salvation Army Pin

## **HINDUISM**

### **HINDU WORSHIP 20**

- Hindu Shrine
- Peacock Fan and Chauri
- Puja Set
- Aum Symbol
- Personal Puja Set
- Toran
- Divas

### **BELIEF IN GOD 23**

- Ganesh
- Shiva
- Shivalinga
- Rama and Sita Puppets - for Divali
- Krishna
- Lakshmi
- Rama, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman - for Divali
- Saraswati
- Hanuman
- Durga - The Mother Goddess

### **INDIAN DRESS 27**

- Hindu Weddings Set: Mehendi Henna and Hand Pattern Kit
- Bindi

### **Other artefacts available in the collection 27**

- Incense
- Music for arti ceremony
- Music for Hindu meditation
- Hindu calendars

## **ISLAM**

### **BELIEF IN ALLAH 29**

- The 99 Beautiful Names of Allah
- Prayer Beads
- Colour and Learn Book - The 99 Beautiful Names of Allah

### **MUSLIM PRAYER 30**

- Prayer Hat
- Adhan Clock
- Prayer Tapes
- Holy Ka'ba
- Colour and Learn Du'as
- Clock showing daily prayer times
- Prayer Mats
- Qibla Compass
- Tape - The Life of the Last Prophet
- Picture - The Last Sermon of the Prophet Muhammad

### **MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM) 32**

- Tape: The Life of the Last Prophet
- Picture: The Last Sermon of the Prophet

### **ARABIC 33**

- Plaque showing Arabic Writing
- Teach Yourself Arabic computer game
- Decorative clock showing Arabic and Calligraphy

### **MUSLIM DRESS 34**

- Ahram Robes and Head Covering

### **MOSQUES 35**

- Book - The Mosques of London
- Mosque Picture
- Model of a Mosque

<b>THE HOLY QUR'AN</b>	<b>36</b>
Decorative Page from The Qur'an	
Qur'an and Kursi Stand	
<b>Other Artefacts in the Collection</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>JUDAISM</b>	
<b>JEWISH WORSHIP</b>	<b>38</b>
Tallit	
Tallit Katan	
Kippah	
Teffillin	
Siddur Prayer Book	
<b>JEWISH FESTIVALS</b>	<b>40</b>
Chanukiah	
Dreidle	
Greggor Rattles	
Shofar Horn	
<b>JUDAISM IN THE HOME</b>	<b>41</b>
Menorah	
Mezuzah	
Kiddish	
Meat Glove	
<b>VIDEOS AND TAPES</b>	<b>42</b>
Videos: Moses	
David and Saul	
Jonah	
Joseph Story Cube - Noah and the Ark	
Tapes: 2 x Israeli Music	
<b>JEWISH SCRIPTURES</b>	<b>43</b>
Torah Scrolls	
Yad	
The Cantillation of the Reading of the Torah	
<b>SHABBAT</b>	<b>44</b>
Havdalah Set including Kiddush Cup, Spice Box, Challah Cover	
Shabbat Candle Holder	
<b>PASSOVER</b>	<b>45</b>
Haggadah Book	
Haggadah Video	
Seder Plate	
Charoset	
Burnt bone	
Bitter Herbs	
Carpas	
Egg	
Horseradish	
Matzah Dish and Cover	
<b>rites of Passage</b>	<b>46</b>
Bar Mitzvah Cards	
Bat Chayil Cards	
<b>Other Artefacts available in the collection</b>	<b>46</b>
Hebrew Alphabet Poster	
Noah's Ark Story Cube	
<b>Possible Sets for Judaism</b>	<b>46</b>

## **SIKHISM**

<b>THE FIVE Ks</b>	<b>48</b>
Kangha	
Kara	
Kachera	
Kirpan	
Kesh	
<b>SIKH WEDDINGS</b>	<b>49</b>
Wedding Turbans	
Henna Dye and Hand Pattern	
Wedding Garland	
<b>SIKH GURUS</b>	<b>50</b>
Guru Nanak	
Guru Gobind Singh	
Tape of the teachings of Guru Nanak	
<b>SIKH WORSHIP</b>	<b>51</b>
Picture of the Golden Temple at Amistar	
Romalla Cloth	
Mala Prayer Beads	
Chauri	
Ik Onka - Sikh Symbol	
Baisakhi	
<b>Other artefacts available in the collection</b>	<b>52</b>
Sikh Gurus poster set	
Sikh flag	
Sikh colouring book	
<b>Possible Sikh sets</b>	<b>52</b>
The 5 Ks	
Sikh Wedding Set	
The Sikh Gurus	
Sikh Worship	

# Buddhism

# BUDDHIST ICONOGRAPHY

## Buddha



5 x Statues of the Buddha; 1 x Cloth



4 x Buddha Heads



Thanka

You may find many different images of Buddha in Buddhist shrines and homes. Some are male, some female, some look kindly, some fierce, some have very simple costumes while others are dressed as royalty.

Some images represent Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha. He is often shown teaching, sitting in meditation, or even lying on his deathbed. Other images are quite different and show different aspects of enlightenment - aspects of what it would be like to be a Buddha.

Images of the historical Buddha often include so many symbolic elements. Many have a flame coming out of the top of his head to show that he is enlightened. Features such as the curly hair and long earlobes were traditionally believed to be found on an Indian holy man. The third eye, or urdhva lohita, found in the middle of his forehead, represents the need to look inwards. The hand positions known as "mudras" also have special meanings. Another way of showing the enlightenment of the Buddha is by depicting him holding or sitting in a lotus flower. For Buddhists, the lotus flower is an image of enlightenment.

## Thanka

A thanka is an embroidered wall hanging hung on the walls of Buddhist shrine rooms.



## BUDDHIST MEDITATION/WORSHIP



*Singing Bowl and Manjera*

### **Singing Bowl and Manjera**

Singing bowls are used for meditation. It is held on the fingertips of one hand and rubbed around the circumference of the bowl with the wooden stick. This produces a deep resonance which helps the person in meditation.

The Manjeira, is also used during meditation.



*Prayer Wheel and Meditation Shell*

### **Prayer Wheel and Meditation Shell**

Prayers and mantras are written inside prayer wheels. They are whirled around so that the prayers inside them keep moving. These are mostly used by Tibetan Buddhists.

The shape of the meditation shell represents a particular posture in meditation.



*Prayer Flags*

### **Prayer Flags**

Some Buddhists hang out flags with mantras and prayers written on them so that the wind may carry benefits to all people.



*Singing Bell and Vajra*

### **Singing Bell and Vajra**

The bell, which represents the female aspect of Buddha, is held in the left hand and the wooden staff is rubbed around its circumference to make a deep resonance which aids meditation.

At the same time, the vajra, meaning diamond, or thunderbolt, is held in the right hand.

The vajra can represent something hard, determined and unbreakable (like the diamond) and also something sudden and powerful (like the thunderbolt). It therefore represents all that is powerful and determined about the Buddhist path. The bell and vajra are always used in combination during religious ceremonies.

# Christianity

# JESUS



*Selection of Crosses*



*Christ in Art poster pack; Orthodox Icons x 3;  
Christ on the Cross: Olive Wood Head of Christ.*

## THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION



*The Christmas Collection: Advent Calendar and Candle; Christmas Story Cube; South American Holy Family*

### **Advent Calendar and Candle**

Advent means 'coming'. Christians begin to prepare for the coming of Jesus four Sundays before Christmas. Advent candles are sometimes lighted or Advent calendars are used to mark the approach of the festival of Jesus' birth. In the Eastern Church Advent is a 40-day long period of penitence but the west tends to emphasise this aspect rather less, though services have preparation as their theme

### **Christmas Story Cube**

Depicting the main scenes from the birth of Christ.

### **South American Holy Family**

These clay figurines depict the scene of the flight of the Holy family to Egypt, to escape the murderous intentions of King Herod. (Matthew 2 v13-15)

The figures are South American, which is reflected in the features of the characters

## THE EASTER COLLECTION



*Pascal Candle; Crown of Thorns; Crucifix; Picture of 'The Last Supper'; Easter Story Cube; Palm Cross*

### **Pascal Candle**

A Pascal Candle bears the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet representing Christ's claim to be the first and the last.

### **Crown of Thorns**

And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand, and they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying 'Hail, King of the Jews'. (*Matthew 27 v29*)

### **Crucifix**

An empty cross not only reminds Christians of the death of Christ, but also of his resurrection. A crucifix, which has a carving of the dead Jesus upon it, helps people to remember his suffering. The initials INRI are often seen above Jesus' head. These stand for 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of Jews' in Latin.

### **Picture of the Last Supper**

This plaque depicts the scene of Christ's Last Supper with the disciples on the night before he died. (*Matthew 16 V17-35*)

### **Easter Story Cube**

Depicting the main scenes from the Easter story

### **Palm Crosses**

On the Sunday before Jesus died, He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people waved palm branches in greeting. Nowadays, on Palm Sunday, it is traditional for people to receive palm crosses in church. The following year, on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent it is customary to burn the palm crosses and to mark a cross on the people's foreheads with the ash.

## THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH COLLECTION



### **Picture of Pope John Paul II**

The pope, as the Bishop of Rome, is the leader of the Roman Catholic Church. He resides in the Vatican City, a small area of Rome. Roman Catholics believe that he is Peter's successor as the head of the church.

### **Stained Glass Window**

Many churches have stained glass windows depicting stories from the bible or pictures of Saints or Christian symbols.

### **Vicar's Stole**

Some Christian Ministers wear a colourful scarf, known as a stole, during services. These vary in colour throughout the year, from purple, white (or gold), red and green. They may have crosses or other symbols embroidered onto them. The priest is thought to represent Christ to the people, as well as representing the people to God.

### **Statue of Mary**

The Virgin Mary is especially important in the Roman Catholic tradition. She is called 'immaculate' because they believe that she was kept free from the effects of sin when she was born, to prepare her for giving birth to Jesus.

### **Christian Candles**

Many churches light candles on the altar. As well as the flickering of light adding beauty to the church, the light also suggests life and truth, and the presence of God.

### **Church Gargoyle**

Many traditional Christian Churches are decorated with gargoyles



## THE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP COLLECTION



*CD of Christian Hymns; Communion Wafers;  
Communion Chalice; Rosary Beads; Laminated  
Prayer Cards; Ichthus Pin; Prayer Cards; Crucifix*

### **CD of Christian Hymns**

Contains a number of traditional well-known Christian hymns.

### **Communion Wafers & Chalice**

"While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples. 'Take it' He said, 'this is my body.' Then He took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Jesus said, 'This is my blood which is poured out for many...' (Mark 14 v22-24)

At the Last Supper Jesus took the bread and wine and shared them with His disciples, giving them a new meaning. Thereafter the bread represented His body and the wine His blood. Christians have shared out bread and wine ever since, as a reminder of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This sharing of bread and wine is called by different names by different churches, such as Holy Communion, the Eucharist, the mass, the Lord's Supper and the Breaking of the Bread. Some Christians see this as just a symbol, where the bread and wine stand for the body and blood, whilst others believe that Jesus is spiritually present in the bread and wine, and that, in some sense, it becomes his body and blood.

### **Rosary Beads**

Some Roman Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox and Methodists use sets of prayer beads. The beads are arranged into five groups of ten, with extra beads marking the divisions between these. A short prayer or phrase is said as each bead is slipped through the fingers. A common prayer is:

'Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death.'

### **Laminated Prayer Cards**

Contain short prayer for a number of occasions.

### **Ichthus Pin**

The word ichthus is Greek for 'fish'. Each letter of this word in Greek is the first letter of the words 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour'. A simple drawing of a fish was used as a secret sign by the early Christians to avoid being arrested by the Romans. It also reminded Christians that Jesus was the saviour of men, the fisher of souls. It also suggests the washing of baptism and the new life that this brings.



**Crucifix**

An empty cross not only symbolises the death of Christ, but also of His resurrection. A crucifix, which has a carving of the dead Jesus upon it, helps people to remember His suffering. The initials INRI are often seen above Jesus' head. These stand for 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of Jews' in Latin.



*Sick Call Set*

**Sick Call Set**

The set contains a cross and candles for use Christian ministers when they visit sick parishioners

## CHRISTIAN RITES OF PASSAGE COLLECTION



*Baptismal Candle, Certificate for God Parents and Certificate of Baptism; Confirmation Certificate and Veil; Certificate for First Communion.*

### **Baptism Certificates, God Parent Certificates Baptismal Candle**

Baptism is the initiation ceremony by which people enter the Christian church. It involves immersion in water as a way of expressing repentance for one's sins.

Nowadays, most denominations practise infant baptism, but there are many Christians who have some doubts about the wisdom of doing so. They argue that it is meaningless to the baby.

At a baptismal ceremony, water from a font is poured over the candidate's head three times, once for each person of the Trinity. Godparents are chosen, usually two men and a woman for a boy and two women and a man for a girl. The godparents are expected to ensure that the child is brought up in the Christian faith. Traditionally, at an Anglican ceremony, the vicar gives a lighted candle to the father and says to the child 'Receive this light. This is to show you have passed from darkness to light.' Everyone then adds, 'Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of the God the father.'

### **Communion Veil, Certificate of First Communion & Confirmation Certificates**

When infant baptism became widespread in the church, the need arose for a service in which the person who had been baptised as a child could reaffirm for him/herself the undertaking made earlier by proxy. This became known as the 'rite of confirmation' and is usually conducted by a Bishop. At the ceremony the candidate professes his/her beliefs and God is asked to grant his gift of the Holy Spirit, so that henceforth he or she may be a full member of the Christian church.

### **OTHER ARTEFACTS IN THE COLLECTION**

- Altar Cloth
- Noah's Ark Story Cube
- Salvation Army Pin

# Hinduism

# HINDU WORSHIP



*Hindu shrine, Ganesh and Shiva*



*Peacock fan and Chauri – for Puja Ceremony*



*Brass tray for Puja (Hindu Worship)*

Murtis (images of the deities) are placed in the shrine for worship

## Puja

This is the Hindu practice of giving worship, honour or reverence to God. It may be done in the home, before a small shrine, or in the temple.

Before puja begins the worshipper will bathe, then ring a small bell to let God know that worship is about to commence. Kum kum powder or a sandalwood paste is often placed on the centre of the forehead before worship which is known as the tilaka mark. Offerings of incense may be placed in the incense holder and water or milk will be placed in the tumbler, also as an offering. The spoon will be used for giving this to the deity or to the worshipper after it has been offered to God. Other offerings of food may also be made as well as flowers and puja spices. This is put on the statue of the god as it is regarded as purifying and cleansing.

During puja the Gayatri Mantra is always prayed. It says:

“Aum. The Protector Who is the basis of life of the whole universe and who is self existent and Who is free from all pain and Whose contact frees the souls from all troubles pervades this multiformed universe and sustains all.

He is the Creator and Energiser of the whole universe, the Giver of all happiness, Worthy of acceptance, the most Excellent Pure and Purifier. That very God let us embrace, so that God may direct our mental faculties”.

Sometimes a small arti lamp may be lit. This may be waved in a circular motion in front of the God in a special ceremony called arti and symbolises the offering of love and devotion to God and the prayer ascending to God as well as purity. It is then passed around the congregation to symbolise their receiving of a blessing. Usually during arti there will be a conch shell and a fan. These five things represent the five elements: fire (light), water, earth (incense and flowers), air (fan) and ether (conch shell).

### **Aum**

This is a sacred symbol which represents the Supreme God.

It is considered to be the most powerful word for use in prayers and meditation. Hindus believe that it was the first sound produced at the creation of the universe, the Big Bang.

The three syllables of AUM symbolise the Trinity representing the three functions of God – generation, preservation and destruction.



*Brass Aum Symbol and tape of Mantra Chanting*



*Personal Puja Set*



*Toran*



### **Divas**

Divas are small lamps which are used as an offering of light during puja. They are also commonly lit at the Hindu festival of Diwali.

This is an Autumn/Winter festival, which commemorates the conquest of the demon king Ravana by Rama, and his rescue of his wife Sita. Divas are set in the windows to welcome the return of Rama and Sita.



## BELIEF IN GOD



*Ganesh*

### **Ganesh Murti (murti = statue)**

Ganesh is usually pictured with a human form and an elephant's head. He has a large stomach and he is usually depicted with a rat and surrounded by food.

The elephant head indicates the gaining of knowledge through listening (ears) and reflection (large head). The two tusks, one whole and one broken, represent perfection and imperfection in the physical world. The trunk portrays physical and mental strength. The large stomach symbolises the ability to 'digest' whatever experience life brings. The rat and the food at his feet represent desires and wealth, which are under his control. He is often shown carrying a noose which symbolises the trap of desires and an ankusha – a sharp iron hook used by a rider to control an elephant – which represents the self-control needed to control desires.

Ganesh is the son of Shiva and Parvati and is considered by Hindus to be a remover of obstacles and represents wisdom and perfection. For this reason many Hindus worship Ganesh before embarking upon a new business or settling into a new home. It is inappropriate to use the term 'elephant god' to describe Ganesh.



*Shiva murti and Shivalinga*

### **Shiva Murti and Shivalinga**

Shiva is part of the Trimurti – shown by the three horizontal lines on his forehead and the trident he holds. Shiva, who is also known as Mahesh, is the deity of destruction and a reproductive power. This is because by destroying things he also makes renewal and new growth possible. This energy shakti, is capable of both destroying and reproducing things. Shakti is believed to take the female form of Shiva's consort Parvati.

Shiva is often depicted as a Yogiraj (king of Yoga), sitting in a meditative pose with his eyes half closed, indicating peace and perfect inner harmony. The tiger skin beneath him is a symbol of Shiva's bravery and ability to overcome his enemies.

Another popular image of Shiva is 'Shiva Nataraja', the 'Lord of the Dance'. He is shown dancing in a circle of flames – showing that the universe is without beginning or end. The fire can destroy but is also essential for sustaining life. Shiva Nataraja stands on the dwarf of evil and ignorance. In his hands he holds a drum to announce the 'big bang' at the beginning of the universe and a flame of destruction. A third hand is usually raised in blessing whilst the fourth points to the uplifted foot to show how to rise above ignorance.

Shiva is blue in complexion which conveys infinite stature (like the sea or ocean). His blue throat is said to be the result of drinking poison from the ocean in order to save the world from destruction. He has three eyes and is understood to be able to see the past, the present and the future. The third eye in the middle of his forehead is always closed and is believed only to open in anger, when the light from it is capable of destroying anyone who does evil. Shiva is shown wearing a simple loin cloth. He has a crescent moon in his long matted hair and a top knot, out of which flows the sacred river Ganga. Sankes, representing 'Dundalini Shakti' (evolutionary power) within the human body, are also entwined in his hair. Shiva is often pictures with his vehicle, Handi, a white bull which is a symbol of fertility.

A shivalinga is the symbol of Lord Shiva. It is usually made of black stone and milk is often poured over it. The base of the Shivalinga is called Brahmabhaga, representing the creator Brahma; the octagonal middle part is called Vichnubhaga, representing the preserver Vishnu, and the projecting flame-like cylindrical part is called Rudrabhaga.

### **Rama and Sita Puppets – for Diwali**

Rama was an incarnation of Vishnu. He is said to have been sent down to earth in order to overcome the powers of darkness as embodied by the evil demon Ravana. His life and exploits are told in the Hindu epic the Ramayana, and are remembered during the festival of Diwali. Rama is believed to be courageous, peace-loving, dutiful and virtuous. Devotees of Vishnu regard him as the ideal man and his wife Sita as the ideal woman – chaste, faithful and devout.



*Rama and Sita puppets*

### **Krishna Murti**

Krishna is a great hero for all Hindus and many believe that he was an incarnation of Vishnu.

There are many stories which narrate how Krishna helped the poor and oppressed by fighting for truth and justice. He represents the sum of all the qualities needed to live an ideal and practical life. He is usually shown standing with a flute in his hand, accompanied by his devotee, Radha.

The affinity between Radha and Krishna is not a husband-wife relationship but a spiritual relationship between a devotee and God. Krishna means "Dark One" and he is often depicted as dark-skinned.

He is also known as Gopal and Govinda – names which illustrate his love of cows.



*Krishna Murti*





*Lakshmi Murti*

### **Lakshmi Murti**

The Goddess of Fortune. According to Hindu mythology, whenever Vishnu was born as a man, Lakshmi appeared as his human wife. Vishnu is the male in everything and Lakshmi the universal female.

She is shown as a young and beautiful goddess, decorated with jewels and garments. She is often depicted offering gold coins to indicate the power of wealth which is needed by Vishnu who pervades and maintains the universe. It also symbolises her ability to reward devotees with prosperity. Lakshmi is usually shown either sitting or standing on a lotus flower with elephants on either side of her.

During the festival of Diwali, Hindus create elaborate rangoli patterns on the ground to encourage Lakshmi to visit and bring gifts of prosperity for the coming year.



*Rama, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman Murti – for Diwali*



*Saraswati Murti*

### **Saraswati Murti**

Saraswati is eternally young, tall, fair-skinned and has four arms. She sits elegantly on a lotus flower playing a stringed instrument known as a 'veena' which some believe she invented herself. In her other right hand she holds a book of palm leaves, indicating her love of learning and the power of knowledge.

It is believed that she invented the Sanskrit language. She is also patroness of arts, sciences and speech.

In short, Saraswati represents the power of knowledge which accompanies Brahma who carries out the creative function of God.



*Hanuman Murti*

### **Hanuman Murti**

Hanuman is shown in the form of a monkey and represents the Hindu concept that animals are also a creation of God and have a soul. Hanuman's attributes are his enormous strength, valour and complete devotion to Rama as his true disciple.

Many Hindus revere Hanuman as a symbol of strength and energy.

You are advised not to use the term "monkey god" to describe Hanuman since this is offensive to Hindus.

## INDIAN DRESS



### Hindu Weddings Set: Mehandi Henna and Hand pattern kit; Bindi

At a Hindu wedding it is traditional for the bride to have henna patterns painted onto her hands and feet.

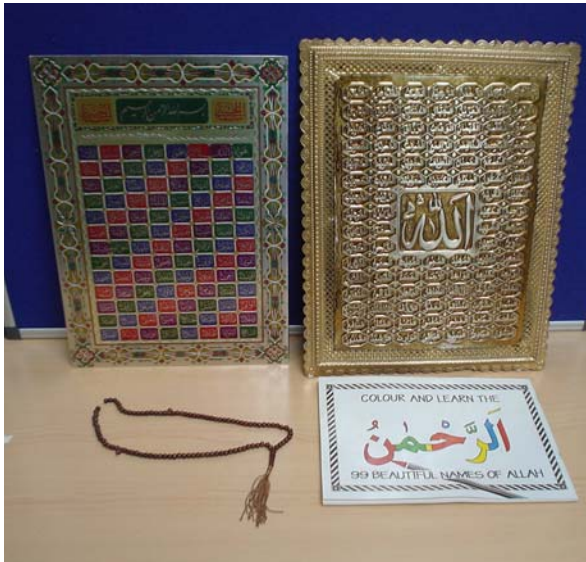
Tilak is the mark of red powder or sandwood paste that is applied on the forehead by Hindus before prayers. The shape of the markings shows the God which they worship. This is not the same as the red dot that many Hindu women wear on their foreheads, which shows that they are married.

### OTHER ARTEFACTS AVAILABLE IN THE COLLECTION

- Incense
- Music for arti ceremony
- Music for Hindu meditation
- Hindu Calendars

# Islam

## BELIEF IN ALLAH



*Plaques showing the 99 names of Allah; Prayer Beads, one for each of the 99 names; Book 'Colour and Learn the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah'*

The Qur'an mentions 99 different attributes of Allah such as "The compassionate" and "the merciful". Muslim prayer beads are called Subha.

Some Muslims refer to the beads as Tasbeih but, this is a description of the action of using beads rather than the beads themselves.

Each string has 33 or 99 beads (the later is divided into sets of 33 by three 'rogue' beads), which are used to recite the 99 beautiful names of Allah.



## MUSLIM PRAYER



2 x Prayer tapes; Prayer Hat and 2 x Adhan Clock



Picture of the Holy Ka'aba; Qibla Compass; 'Colour and Learn Du'as' (Muslim Prayers)



Clock showing the 5 daily prayers

Although it is not obligatory, it is customary for men to wear a cap during prayer, to hold the hair in place during prostrations.

The prayer clock would hang in a mosque to show the five daily times of prayer (Salah) which are:

- 1) Fajr – the Morning Prayer, between dawn and sunrise.
- 2) Zuhr – after midday, during the early afternoon.
- 3) Asr – the late afternoon prayer.
- 4) Maghrib – just after sunset.
- 5) Isha – the night prayer.

The sixth clock face shows the time of the special Friday service, when the Jum'ah prayer takes the place of the Zuhr prayer.



*Prayer Mats with Qibla Compass*

The second pillar of Islam is prayer, five times a day. The compulsory prayers follows a set pattern called a rak'ah which contains four basic postures:

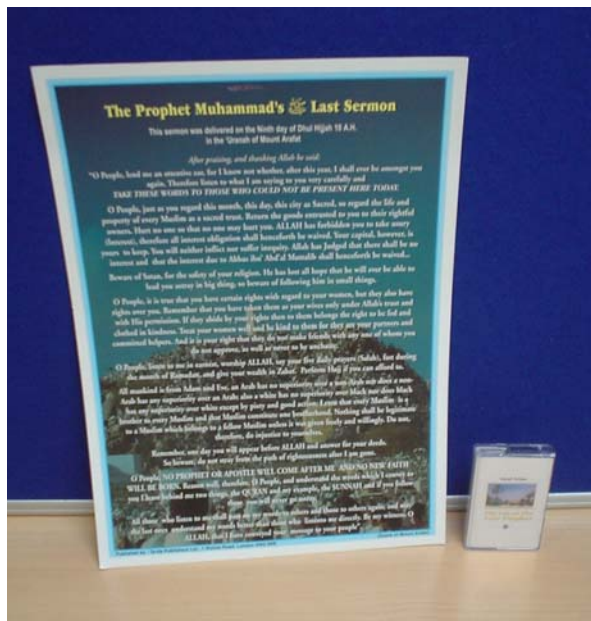
- Standing
- Bowing
- Prostration
- Sitting

Outside the mosque, some Muslims use a prayer mat in order to keep clean. Many prayer mats also have a Qibla compass on them, to show the direction of the Ka'ba in Makkah.

Qiblah means direction. The true qiblah is God, who is in front of every worshipper. However, in order to have a common qiblah for all during prayer, the Ka'ba in Makkah was made the qiblah by God after the Prophet went to Medina. This is why all Muslims pray towards the Ka'ba (found with the aid of the compass) and all mosques are constructed in such a way that one side of the rectangle faces in that direction.



## MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM)



Tape 'The Life of the Last Prophet' and picture 'The Last Sermon of the Prophet Muhammad'

The prophet Muhammad is a key figure in Islam. The first pillar of Islam is the declaration of faith:

"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

Islam teaches that there were other prophets before him, but that Muhammad had the last word; that he brought the final, perfect revelation from God to humankind. When Muslims utter his name, they usually bless him with the words, 'Peace be upon him.' So he was aptly named 'Muhammad', since it means 'the Blessed One' or 'the Praised One'.

Muslims look back on Muhammad as the ideal man, and they try to live up to his example of faith and goodness. As a sign of respect Muslims do not represent Muhammad pictorially.



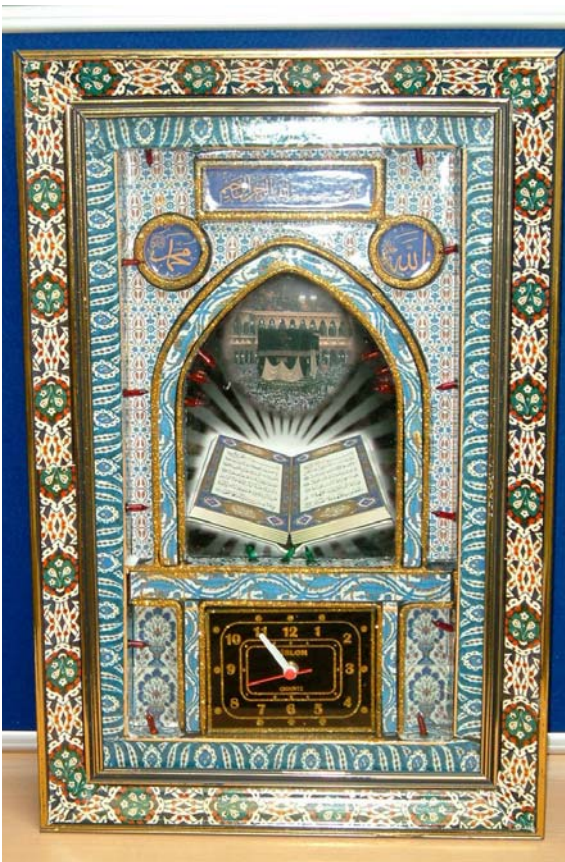
## ARABIC



*Plaque showing Arabic Writing; 'Teach Yourself Arabic' computer game*

Muslims believe that the words of the Qur'an come from Allah himself, and were passed on to humanity through the Prophet Muhammad. Since it is believed to be from Allah, every word is sacred to Muslims. It is therefore considered very important to keep the Qur'an in the language in which it was first spoken – Arabic.

From a young age. Muslim children learn to speak and translate Arabic. Modern aids like the Qur'an computer game can make this fun.



*Decorative Clock showing Arabic and Calligraphy*

## MUSLIM DRESS

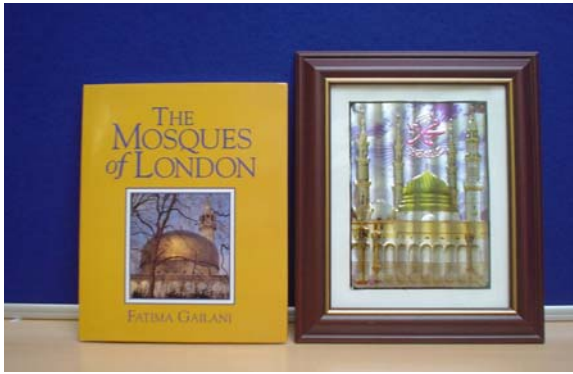


*Ahram Robes and Head Covering*

These are worn by pilgrims during the Hajj – pilgrims to Makkah. For men it consists of two pieces of un-sewn white cloth, one tied around the waist, the other thrown over the left shoulder. Women usually wear simple long white dresses with head-scarves. Ihram robes remind Muslims that they have entered a state of holiness and have put off all that connects them with their usual lives, in order to concentrate totally on Allah.

Modesty is the main consideration in dress for both sexes in Islam. Women should wear loose clothing that does not show off their figures. Women will also cover their hair and sometimes parts of their face.

## MOSQUES



*Book 'The Mosques of London' book and Mosque picture*

A mosque is a Muslim place of worship. In Arabic it is called a masjid, meaning 'place of prostration', because, strictly speaking, a mosque is anywhere a Muslim kneels down to prostrate him or herself in prayer.

The dome is an important feature in hot countries because it allows the air to circulate. The dome is built over the prayer hall as it also helps to amplify the human voice. In Muslim countries the call to pray five times a day comes from the top of the minaret. Traditionally a man called a muezzin would climb the tower each time, to give the prayer call. Now recordings and loud speakers tend to be used.



## THE HOLY QUR'AN



*Decorative page from the Qur'an*



*Qur'an and Kursi Stand*

The Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, is believed to be the Word of God. It was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by the angel Jibril. The first verses were given to him in about 610 ce and the last shortly before he died. As Muhammed (pbuh) could not read or write, he had to memorise the words and later recite them to friends who wrote them down. The Qur'an is written in Arabic. It is divided into 114 chapters which are called surahs.

Apart from surah 9, each one begins with the words, "In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful."

The Qur'an must be treated with utmost respect. When it is not in use, it should be covered with a cloth and placed on a shelf above any other books which may be in the room. Hands should be washed before handling it and it should be placed on a stand while it is being read or shown to the class

The Kursi is the stand on which the Qur'an is placed when it is being read.

### OTHER ARTEFACTS AVAILABLE IN THE COLLECTION

- Calligraphy plaque
- Islamic Calendar
- Islamic Teachings Tape
- Du'as Colouring Book

# Judaism



## JEWISH WORSHIP



*Tallit and Tallit Katan (plural – tallitot)*

### **Tallit and Tallit Katan (plural – tallitot)**

Jewish males usually wear this four-cornered rectangle of white cloth during morning prayers. It is worn around the shoulders or over the head. In some synagogues boys begin to wear the tallit after bar mitzvah, although some boys wear it beforehand.

In some congregations only married men wear them. Tallitot are usually made of wool or silk and the fringes at each corner are known as tzitzit. Altogether, the tallit has 613 strands to remind Jews of the 613 mitzvot (rules) God gave to Moses. Tallitot have blue or black strips along the sides. The Israeli flag, when it is turned around, is a tallit.

This is a small robe, often made of wool, with a hole for the head. The fringes are called tzitzit and these should be visible, although some Jewish males tuck them away. The tallit katan is worn by boys and men each day to fulfil the commandment, “They shall make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments .... And you shall see them and remember all the Commandments of the Lord.” (Numbers 15v38-39)

### **Kippah and Tefillin**

Skullcap worn by Jewish males, also called a ‘kuppel’ or ‘yamulkah’. Some Jews wear it all day, while others wear a kippah only for prayer. Whilst some are plain, others are decorated with symbols such as the Shield of David or the menorah. It is worn as a sign of humility before God.

Tefillin (Singular: Tefillah) are worn by Jewish males after bar mitzvah at morning prayers, except on Shabbat and festivals. These black leather boxes contain small parchment scrolls. On the scrolls are written the first two paragraphs of the Shema – “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6 v4), and also Exodus 13 vi-10 and 13 vii – 16. A trained scribe must handwrite the scrolls.

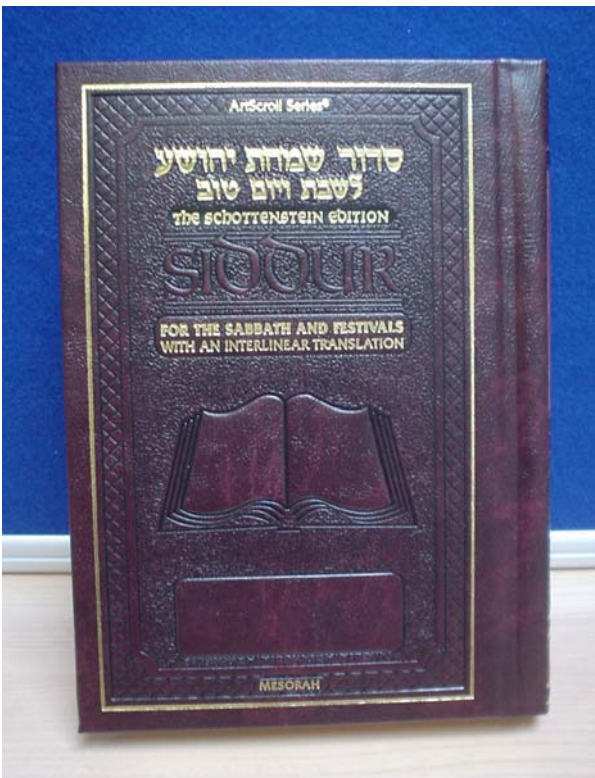
One tefillah is worn on the forehead to remind the wearer to love God with all his mind. The other is worn on the arm, facing the heart, as a reminder to love God with all his heart. Tefillin are very sacred objects for Jews. They must be handled with great respect. The loan tefillin do not contain the sacred scrolls for this reason.



*Kippah and Tefillin*



*Tephillin and bag*



*Siddur Prayer Book*

### **Siddur Prayer Book**

A prayer book used at home or in the synagogue.

The prayers are printed in Hebrew but have English translations alongside

## JEWISH FESTIVALS



*Chanukiah*

### **Chanukiah**

A nine-branched candle-stick. This is used during the winter festival of Hanukah, which lasts for eight days. Chanukah commemorates the victory of a small Jewish army, led by Judah the Maccabee over the mighty Syrian Greek force of Antiochus IV, 2200 years ago.

When the Jewish army retook the Temple in Jerusalem, they relit the sacred menorah, but discovered that was only enough oil to keep it burning for one night. Miraculously however, the oil lasted for eight days. To celebrate this miracle, Jews today light one candle on the chanukiah on the first night of chanukah, two on the second and so on.

Each candle is lit from the centre “servant candle



*Festival Artefacts - Chanukiah for Hanukah; Dreidle for Hanukah; Greggor Rattles for Purim; Shofar Horn for Yom Kippur*

### **Dreidle**

This is a four-sided spinning top which children play with during the festival of Hanukah. On each side of the dreidle there is a Hebrew letter – the first letters of the Hebrew words which say, “A great miracle happened here.” Children spin the top and make up words with the letter that falls uppermost.

### **Greggor Rattle**

This rattle is used during the festival of Purim. Celebrated in February or March, Purim commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from the threat of annihilation in Persia, 2500 years ago, as told in the biblical book of Esther. During the festival today, the story is read out in the synagogue. The children wear masks and fancy dress costumes. Every time they hear the name of Haman, the villain of the story, they boo, stamp their feet or rattle their greggors to try and drown out his name.

### **Shofar Horn**

A ram's horn hollowed out and blown to produce musical notes. It is blown every morning in the synagogue during the month of Ellul, as a reminder that the festival of Rosh Hashanah is approaching. On Rosh Hashanah itself, it is blown again as Jews renew their promises to God. Then 100 notes are blown to represent the crying of the soul yearning to be reunited with God. In biblical times, the shofar announced the advance or retreat of armies and the approach of the king.



## JUDAISM IN THE HOME



Menorah



Mezuzot



Kiddush Cup



Meat Glove

### Menorah

A menorah is a seven-branched candlestick, often seen in synagogues. It is a reminder of the lamps which were used in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem

### Mezuzot

"The Commandments which I have given you this day are to be remembered and taken to heart; repeat them to your children .... Bind them as a sign upon your hand and wear them as a pendant on your forehead, write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates". (Deuteronomy 6 v6-9)

A mezuzah is a parchment scroll with two passages from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6 v4-9 and Leviticus 13-21) written on it in Hebrew. These first two paragraphs of the Shema declare the oneness of God and his covenant relationship with the Jewish people.

The scroll is kept in a small box, usually made of wood or metal, and is fixed to the doorposts of every room in a Jewish house or place of work, except the bathroom and lavatory, as a constant reminder of the Jews' covenant with God. It is usually placed towards the top of the right hand door post and is inclined slightly towards the room. Every three years Jews take down their mezuzot to be checked by a rabbi or scribe to make sure the writing has not faded too badly.

### Kiddush Cup

Kiddush, which in Hebrew means sanctification, is the blessing recited over a goblet of red wine at the start of festival meals and Shabbat.

### Meat Glove

The Torah teaches, "You must not cook a young goat in its mother's milk" (*Exodus 23 V19*). For this reason, Jews who keep a kosher home do not eat meat and dairy foods together.

Usually Jews wait about three hours before they 'mix' meat and milk. To keep meat and dairy products completely separate, many Jewish kitchens have two sets of crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils, tea cloths and even gloves. If possible they will also have double sinks, so the two sets can be washed separately

## VIDEOS AND TAPES



The CD contains many of Israel's most famous songs, including "Hava nagila" and "Heveinu Shalom Aleichem"

*Videos: Moses; David and Saul; Jonah; Joseph  
Story Cube – Noah and the Ark    Tapes: 2 x Israeli  
Music Tapes*

## JEWISH SCRIPTURES



*Sefer Torah Scrolls, Yad, 'Cantillation of the Torah' tape*

### Torah Scrolls

The Torah is the most important part of the Jewish Scriptures. It contains the five Books of the Law – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. As well as stories of creation, the early Jewish leaders and the tale of Moses and the Exodus from Egypt, the Torah also contains the 613 mitzvot (rules) that were given to Moses. The real Sefer Torah scrolls in a synagogue are made from parchment and are covered with a velvet or silk mantle. They are adorned with silver breastplates and bells. Written in Hebrew, the scrolls may not be touched. The words are followed using a pointer called a yad. For centuries, Jews have studied the Torah, lived their lives by its rules and written commentaries to explain it. It has been their source of strength and inspiration. Each week in the synagogue a portion of the Torah, called a sidra, is read on Shabbat so that the entire across is read in a year. Jews celebrate the festival of Simchat Torah when the Torah readings for the year are completed and begin again.

### Yad

A pointer which is used to point to the words on the Sefer Torah scrolls

### The Cantillation of the Reading of the Torah

A tape of the Torah being read in the original Hebrew.

## SHABBAT



*Havdalah set including candle and holder, Spice Box, Kiddush Cup, Challah Cover*

Havdalah is the ceremony which is performed when Shabbat comes to an end on Saturday night. The special plaited candle is lit, showing that Jews are allowed to light fire once more, now that the day of rest is over. Everyone smells a special box of spices and the smell is allowed to spread all through the house as a reminder of the peace and joy of Shabbat. A blessing is said over the cup of red wine and finally the candle is extinguished by dipping it into the cup of wine. The separation of the holy day from the ordinary is now completed.

Kiddush (Sanctification) is a blessing recited over a goblet of red wine at the start of Shabbat and other festival meals.

The Challah cover is a decorative cloth which covers the challot – special plaited loaves which are eaten on Shabbat and other festivals.



*Shabbat candle holder*



## PASSOVER



h Video

### Haggadah Book & Video

This is a children's version of the Haggadah – the book which Jews read at the Passover Seder meal. It outlines the story of the exodus from Egypt.

The animated Haggadah video explains the Passover festival. It covers the Israelites' liberation from slavery, the burning bush, the ten plagues – brought to life in clay animation.

### Seder Plate

The Seder plate used during a Passover meal. Each item of food on the seder plate is a symbol, reminding the Jews of a different aspect of the story of their ancestors' exodus from Egypt. The foods most usually used are:-

**Charaset** – a mixture of apple, nuts, cinnamon and red wine made into a paste which is a reminder of the cement used by the slaves when they were building Egypt.

**Burnt Bone** – this is not eaten but is a reminder of the lamb killed so that its blood could be smeared on the door posts of the slaves' houses as a sign to the Angel of Death.

**Bitter Herbs** – various vegetables can be used for this, but the ideal one is long lettuce. The bitter stalk represents the bitterness of the slavery and sweet leaves stand for the sweetness of the freedom.

**Carpas** – this is often celery or parsley. It is dipped in salt water as a reminder of the bunch of hyssop which the slaves used to smear the blood of the sacrificed lamb onto their doorposts. It is therefore a symbol of freedom.

**Egg** – hard boiled then roasted in a flame. It is a reminder of the sacrifices which the Israelites used to offer in the ancient Temple.

**Horseradish** – another reminder of the bitterness of the slavery.

### Matzah Dish and Cover

Matzah can be purchased from most large supermarkets today. This unleavened bread is eaten during the Passover Seder meal. It is a reminder that when the Pharaoh released the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they did not have time to bake proper bread for their journey, and could only bake Matzah.

Jewish families often play a Passover game where a piece of Matzah is hidden around the home for the children to find. The person who finds it can claim a reward.



Seder Plate



Matzah Dish and Cover

## rites of passage



*Cards for Bat Chayil and Bar Mitzvah*

### Possible Sets for Judaism

Jewish Worship:	Kippah, Tallit, Teffillin and Bag, Tallit Katan, Siddur
Judaism in the Home:	Menorah, Mezuzah, Halleluya CD, Kiddush Cup and Meat Glove
Jewish Scriptures:	Torah Scrolls, Yad and Contillation of the Torah tape
Shabbat Set:	Havdalah set (including havdalah candle and holder, spice box and kiddush cup), Challah cover, dish and candlesticks
Passover Set:	Matzah Dish, Seder Plate, Children's Haggadah book and animated Haggadah video

### Jewish Festivals

Hanukah	Chanukian and Dreidle
Purim	Greggor
Yom Kippur	Shofar Horn

### OTHER ARTEFACTS AVAILABLE IN THE COLLECTION

- Hebrew Alphabet Poster
- Noah's Ark Story Cube



# Sikhism

## THE FIVE Ks



### **Kangha**

The kangha is one of the 5 Ks that was introduced by the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. It is a small comb that is worn in the hair, to keep it in place under the turban. It symbolises the discipline needed to control and develop the spiritual side of one's nature and faith.

### **Kara**

The kara is one of the 5 Ks. It is a steel bangle that is worn on the right wrist. Originally, Sikhs would have worn a broader version to protect their arm in battle. Today, the circle reminds Sikhs of the eternal nature of God – no beginning and no end – and the steel reminds them of the strength they must have when fighting for what is right.

### **Kachera**

Kachera are short trousers that are worn as underwear. They are one of the 5 Ks, worn by men and women. Sikhs originally wore them as clothes suitable for going into battle. At the time when they were introduced, most people in India wore long loose clothes. Guru Gobind Singh said that the change in style was a symbol that people were leaving behind old ideas and following better ones. Since they are a modest form of dress, they have also come to symbolise the idea of modesty and of living a good life.

### **Kirpan**

The kirpan is a sword and is one of the 5 Ks. At the time of the formation of the Khalsa it was used in battle. Today it is a reminder of the Sikh duty to fight against evil. The short kirpan would usually be kept in a special case and fixed to a strap over the person's shoulder. The longer kirpan is used mostly during ceremonies and festivals.

### **Kesh**

Kesh (uncut hair) is a symbol of a Sikh's devotion to God and is one of the 5 Ks. The turban is not one of the 5 Ks but is worn to help keep the long hair tidy and they copy what the Sikh Gurus wore.

## SIKH WEDDINGS

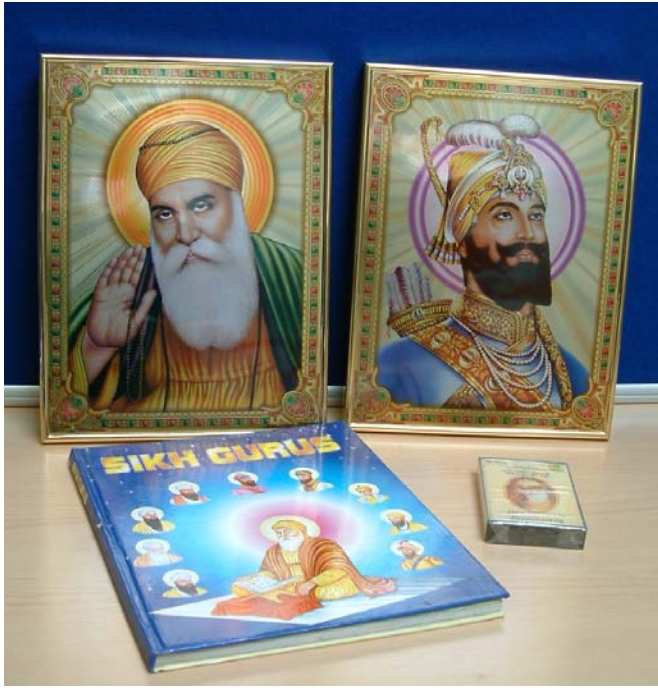


*Wedding Turbans x 2; Henna Dye and Hand*

### Wedding Turban

The Wedding Turban is worn by many Sikh grooms at the marriage ceremony. On the eve of a Sikh wedding it is customary for a bride's friends and female relatives to paint beautiful patterns on her hands and feet with henna. The Wedding garland is presented to the bride and groom at a Sikh wedding

## SIKH GURUS



*A Picture of Guru Nanak; A Picture of Guru Gobind Singh; The Sikh Gurus Information Book; Tape containing the teachings of Guru*

### **Guru Nanak**

Nanak was the first Guru of Sikhism. He was born in 1469ce in Talwandi, Northern India. He called himself Nanak Das, meaning Nanak the slave of God.

### **Guru Gobind Singh**

(1675 – 1708) Guru Gobind Singh became the tenth Sikh Guru when he was only nine years old. He began the Khalsa – the 'brotherhood' of Sikhs. He also declared that the line of human gurus was to come to an end with him. Instead the Sikh scriptures were to be their living Guru.

The tape contains the teachings of Guru Nanak

# SIKH WORSHIP



*Picture of the Golden Temple at Amritsar*



*Romalla Cloth; Mala Prayer Beads; Chauri*



*Ik Onkar; Symbol of Sikhism*

## **The Golden Temple at Amritsar**

The Golden Temple at Amritsar in the Punjab is the most important building in the Sikh religion. Amritsar literally means the 'pool of nectar'.

The Temple's proper name is Harmandir Sahib meaning 'Temple of God'.

## **Romalla Cloth**

Beautiful cloths which cover the Holy Granth when it is not being read in the Gurdwara. They are usually donated by members of the congregation.

## **Mala Prayer Beads**

Some Sikhs use a mala to help them in their meditation. It is a prayer rope made up of 108 knots which are passed through the fingers as the believer repeats "Raheguru" meaning 'Wonderful Lord'.

## **Chauri**

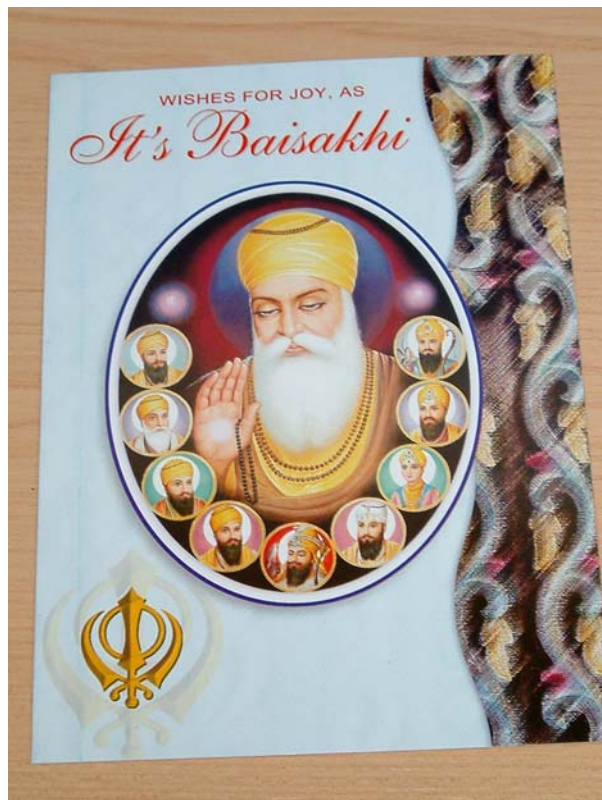
A type of fan usually made from yak hair or feathers. It is the same sort of fan which used to be held over kings in India. Today the Granthi (reader) waves it from time to time over the Guru Granth Sahib in the Gurdwara, as a sign of respect.

## **Ik Onkar**

Every section of the Guru Granth Sahib begins with the Mool Mantra which states that there is one God, who is eternal truth, the creator, who has no fear or enmity, is timeless, immanent, beyond the cycle of birth and death, self existent and made known by the grace of the Guru. The opening letters of the Mool Mantra form the Ik Onkar symbol, which can be seen in Sikh gurdwaras and homes.

The symbol often used for Sikhism is made up of three parts. On the outside there are two swords, to show that Sikhs should serve God by teaching the truth and by fighting for what is right. Between the swords is a circle which reminds them that God is one and has no beginning and no end. In the centre is a two-edged sword called a khanda which is a symbol of the power of God





*Baisakhi card*

### **Baisakhi**

The festival of Baisakhi falls on 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> of April and is celebrated by Sikhs all over the world.

Baisakhi is the first day of the Sikh new year. It commemorates the 'birthday' of the Khalsa and it is also a time to remember the massacre which happened in Amritsar in 1919 when General Dyer ordered troops to fire on the assembled Sikh crowd

### **Possible Sikh Sets**

The 5 Ks:	Kangha, Kara, Kachera, Kirpan (and sword) and Turban
Sikh Weddings:	Wedding turban, Henna hand patterns and Wedding Garland
The Sikh Gurus:	Picture of Guru Nanak, Picture of Guru Gobind Singh, Tape of Guru Nanak's teachings and the Ten Gurus - book
Sikh Worship:	Chauri, Ik Onkar, Sikh symbol, Prayer beads (Mala), Picture of The Golden Temple, Romallas (cloths) and Baisakhi Cards

### **OTHER ARTEFACTS AVAILABLE IN THE COLLECTION**

- Sikh gurus poster set
- Sikh flag
- Sikh colouring book