



The word Islam means 'submission to the will of God'.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over 1 billion followers. The 2001 census recorded 1,591,000 Muslims in the UK, around 2.7% of the population.

There are several different groups of Muslims, but all of them, in every country and community, regard their faith as a bond between them, and as a major part of their identity.

- Islam was **revealed** over 1400 years ago in Mecca, Arabia.
- Followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- Muslims **believe** that there is only One God.
- The Arabic word for God is Allah.
- According to Muslims, God sent a number of prophets to mankind to teach them **how to live** according to His law.
- Jesus, Moses and Abraham are respected as prophets of God.
- They believe that the final Prophet was Muhammad (**peace be upon him**).
- Muslims believe that Islam has always existed, but for practical purposes, date their religion from the time of the migration of Muhammad.
- Muslims base their laws on their holy book the **Qur'an**, and the Sunnah.
- The Sunnah is the practical example of Prophet Muhammad.
- There are five basic **Pillars of Islam**.
- These pillars are the **declaration of faith**, **praying** five times a day, giving money to **charity**, **fasting** and a once in a lifetime **pilgrimage** to Mecca.