Religion in the UK
Ofﬁcially, the UK is a Christian country, and the Church of England is the oﬃcial state church in England, with the queen as its Supreme Governor, so historically the Church had a lot of power. However, nowadays the UK is a multi-faith and largely secularised society, with the most recent census indicating that members of the population afﬁliate to a wide range of Christian denominations and other religions, and many others deﬁne themselves as atheists. The Equality Act prevents discrimination on the grounds of religious belief and freedom of religion is respected. Regardless of your faith, do check out some of our historic religious buildings while you are here, such as St Paul’s or Westminster Abbey.

Finding a place of worship
In London, and other major cities, you should have no problem finding a place to worship as most major faiths and denominations are represented here. Below are some tips on ﬁnding a place that suits you:

• Ask your pastor back home - they may have some links with communities in the UK and be able to recommend somewhere that suits you.
• Look online - we have listed some resources below that might help you.
• Use your university’s resources - your Students’ Union or university chaplaincy is a good way to get advice from others on where to worship (see below)
• Be prepared to try diﬀerent places. There may be several places to choose from - if the ﬁrst one you try doesn’t feel quite right for you, try another!

University societies and chaplaincies
If you are studying at a UK university, they will have a Chaplaincy. This is likely to be Anglican (as this is the state religion) or Catholic, depending on where you are studying and if that university is afﬁliated to a particular faith. However, the Chaplain should be able to point you in the right direction regardless of your religion, or put you in touch with someone who can. Chaplaincies are there to support all students of all faiths and none. Many institutions also have Jewish, Muslim and other chaplains. Many students also ﬁnd Chaplains are a useful source of support, for example when facing bereavement.

If you are studying at the London Center you will be able to see the Chaplain for King’s College London - Tim Ditchﬁeld. His email address is tim.ditchﬁeld@kcl.ac.uk

University Students’ Unions will also have faith societies to support students of particular faiths, which can be a great way to meet others who share your beliefs and who should be able to help you become part of that community in the UK. If you are a Center-based student remember you are a member of UCL Union.

Catholic students might also want to visit London’s Catholic Chaplaincy, a short walk from the London Center: www.universitycatholic.net

For Jewish students, there is a national Union of Jewish Students with networks across the country: www.uis.org.uk

Religious festivals and observance
Major religious festivals including Christmas, Diwali, Passover and Eid are celebrated across the UK. This can also be a great way to explore elements of our multicultural society! The Interfaith Network has provided a calendar of major festivals: https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals

If you will need to be absent from class due to religious observance please contact the Associate Director of Academic Affairs in advance and we will make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests.

Useful resources
If you are studying in London the following may be of interest:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, close to the London Center, has an active student network and is a welcoming community with many student members: www.bloomsbury.org.uk

We work closely with the American Church on Tottenham Court Road. This is a welcoming and familiar interdenominational Christian community for Americans in London: www.amchurch.co.uk

Newman House, London’s Catholic Chaplaincy, incorporates a lovely chapel with regular Masses and an active choir: www.universitycatholic.net. If you’re studying in Manchester, check out the city’s Catholic Chaplaincy, open to students studying there: http://www.muscc.org/

The Jewish Chaplaincy supports Jewish students studying across the UK: www.mychaplaincy.co.uk and you should also check out the Union of Jewish Students - https://www.uis.org.uk/

Lutheran students may feel at home in the Lutheran Student Centre: www.lscence.com

London Central Mosque, in Regent’s Park, is a hub for Muslims living in London: http://www.lccuk.org/

Quaker students will ﬁnd a warm welcome at Friends House in Euston: www.friendhouse.co.uk

The organisations and places featured in this handout might be useful to you, but it is not an exhaustive list!