

## **Church History Tour: turning points...**

*With thanks to Matthew Roberts, Trinity Church York*

### **Our aim: to understand the story of...**

“one holy catholic and apostolic church”

*against* the magnetic pull of the world

### **Church fathers: defining orthodoxy against *many* heresies, including**

Arianism: Jesus is not God “there was a when he was not”

→ 325 Council of Nicea → Nicene Creed

Pelagianism: we’re not really sinful

### **The split between the Greek east... and the Latin west**

1053 “filioque” = “and the Son”

The authority of the Pope

### **The Reformation: Christ alone... or Paganism?**

1517 Martin Luther’s 95 Theses Against Indulgences

Scripture... Grace... Faith... Christ... God’s glory... *ALONE*

1545 Roman Catholic Council of Trent

### **Different groups within the Reformation church**

Radicals, e.g. Anabaptists – rejection of “catholicity”

The “Reformed”: all of church & life to be reformed & ruled by Christ

The “Lutherans”: emphasis on justification

The Church of England:

Hybrid = Reformed / Lutheran / ? Catholic /

Vulnerable to Arminianism free will, God not sovereign

“Latitudinarian” party = don’t worry about beliefs

### **What is the church? during the Civil War... commonwealth... and restoration**

Episcopalians / Presbyterians / Independents / Baptists

Also: radicals Quakers, Ranters etc – listen to inner light, not Scripture

1662 “Great Ejection” of 2,000 Puritan ministers → non-conformists

### **The importance of experience**

1738 John Wesley “strangely warmed” → Methodists

Evangelicals: authority of the Bible, and necessity of conversion

When a man called John Wesley went to a meeting of Christians in Aldersgate St in London. He was a Church of England clergyman. At this meeting just near the Barbican, he had an experience in which he said “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation.” He understood this as his conversion.

### **Liberalism**

1799 Friedrich Schleiermacher “On religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers”

= “the Enlightenment is right... but we can save Christianity by saying it is all about our *feelings*.”

- A form of romanticism
- Authority of Scripture replaced by Authority of feelings
- New version of Pelagianism (humans are basically good) and of Arianism (Jesus is not truly God)

### **How does God work and speak?**

Pentecostal: 2-stage conversion, tongues, prophecy, healing

