I disagree that you have to go to Church to be a Christian because Jesus said ‘The Lord is near to all who call on him.” This implies that wherever you are, if you ask God to be with you he will, therefore, there is no need for you to go to church to be in God’s presence. Furthermore, if God is truly omnipresent, then it should not matter where we choose to worship him as he will be with us in our worship whether in Church or at home.

After all, there are many people who can’t get to church due to illness or old age, and it would be very unfair to say that they were no longer a Christian just because they were unable to attend church. In fact, many of these sacraments can be performed at home or even in hospitals if people are too ill to receive communion or to be baptised. Jesus said the two most important commandments were to ‘love the Lord your God’ and to ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ Going to a building is not what makes you a Christian, but practising love for God and for each other. This can be done anywhere hence why you don’t need to go to Church to be a Christian.

On the other hand, some people would argue that you to have to go to church to be a Christian because the church is more than just a building, it is the ‘body of Christ’ and Christians make up the body with Christ as the head. This means that the Church is there to do God’s work in the community, so without going to church, we cannot be a part of the community that is there to carry out God’s work. Moreover, the Church provides guidance on how to live. In order to be a Christian, we need to know how to live our lives in a Christian way according to God’s will. Whilst the Bible can help, at church the vicar interprets the Bible for modern society making it more accessible for people to follow today.

Finally, some people may say that you do have to go to Church to be a Christian because Church is the best place to worship God. This is because it is where certain sacraments take place such as baptism and the Eucharist. It is important for Christians to go to church for these because baptism is all about being accepted as a Christian and stating that you are going to be brought up in the Christian faith. Therefore, how can you be a Christian if you haven’t ever been to Church and been baptised

KEY: Influence of beliefs, use of terms/language / Use of sources of wisdom and authority/ Offering alternative or different views/ Use of religious/moral reasoning to analyse, evaluate and formulate judgements