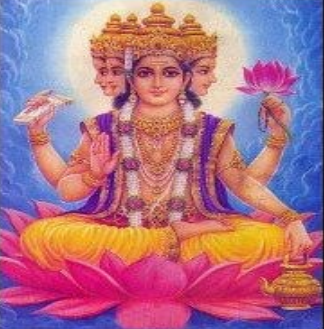

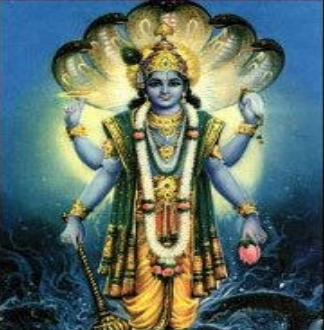
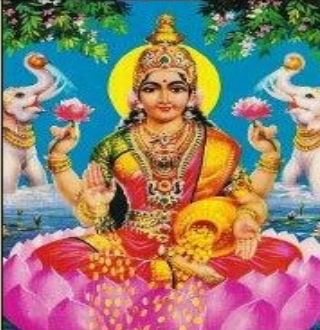




Hinduism

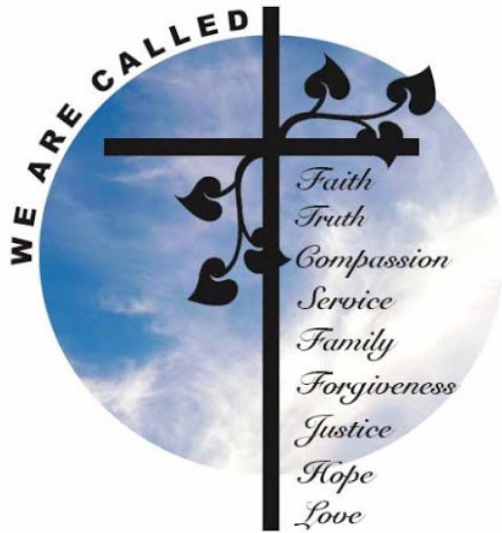
How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?

Hinduism is the oldest of the world's religions. It is now practised all over the world but originated in South East Asia. It is a mix of different beliefs, cultures and traditions dating back over 4000 years.

Main Hindu Gods & Goddesses

THE TRIMURTI (Hindu Trinity):		SHAKTIS (female aspects):	
 <p>Brahma The Creator Vehicle: swan has 4 heads, 4 arms, and a reddish complexion not commonly worshipped; not to be confused with Brahman (the ground of all being) or the Brahmin (priestly caste)</p>	 <p>Saraswati Goddess of knowledge, music, and the arts Vehicle: swan wife of Brahma sits on a white lotus playing a veena</p>		
 <p>Vishnu The Preserver Vehicle: garuda (bird) has 4 arms, a blueish complexion, and rests on a snake was incarnated (born as an animal or human) nine times with one more still to come; is the main god of Vaishnavism</p>	 <p>Lakshmi Goddess of wealth and prosperity Vehicle: owl wife of Vishnu usually shown bestowing coins and flanked by elephants</p>		
 <p>Shiva The Destroyer / Transformer Vehicle: bull has matted hair, a third eye, a blue throat and a trident in his hand often worshipped in the featureless lingam form; is the main god of Saivism</p>	 <p>Parvati The Divine Mother Vehicle: lion the reincarnation of Shiva's first wife has many forms, such as the popular Durga and Kali (see below); often shown together with Saraswati and Lakshmi as the tridevi ('triple goddess')</p>		

Key Vocabulary	
Hindu	Someone who follows Hinduism.
Vishnu	Hindu god who protects the universe.
Brahma	Hindu god of creation.
Trimurti	The three aspects of the universal supreme God.
Tridevi	The three great goddesses of Hinduism.
Brahman	Hindus recognise one God, Brahman .
mandir	A special place for Hindus to worship.
puja	Act of worship for Hindus .
murtis	Special statues or images of Hindu gods and goddesses.
shrine	A holy place to pray.
Shruti	Hindu holy scriptures which contain the four Vedas .
Smriti	Hindu holy scriptures which contain legends, myths and history.
Vedas	Ancient Hindu text.



Christian Values linked to this unit:

Faith - Hindus show their faith in the Brahman. They believe there is only one god, Brahman.

Truth- Hindus value the knowledge and understanding of truth. They believe truth is the number one element of the universe and reality.

Hindus can worship at home or in a **mandir**.
In a **mandir**, **Hindus** can perform **puja**.

Some **mandirs** are very tall buildings. **Hindus** believe it brings them closer to heaven.

In a **mandir**, there are **shrines** and lots of **murtis** for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the **murtis**.



Truth Is Eternal

Hindus are encouraged to learn.

Dharma

Dharma means to do the right thing with good behaviour.

Reincarnation

Hindus believe a soul cannot be destroyed, so when a **Hindu** dies, their soul enters a new living being.

Moksha

Moksha is the ultimate goal. It happens when a soul stops being reincarnated and is reunited with **Brahman**.