



The Ten Gurus

The teachings of Sikhism are based on the leadership of ten people, known as the ten Gurus. Sikhs believe that God gave special messages to these ten people, who were then able to pass this guidance on to the followers of Sikhism. Sikhs believe the Gurus were the link between God and humans. They all lived lives that were examples of how they felt God wanted people to be.



Sikhs believe that all ten Gurus are equally important. They have a saying: 'The light of a lamp which lights another does not **abate**.'

The Sikh 5 K's

Khanga

(a wooden comb)



The Sikh 5 K's

Kachera

(special underwear)



The Sikh 5 K's

Kesh

(hair)



The Sikh 5 K's

Kara

(a steel bracelet)



The Sikh 5 K's

Kirpan

(a ceremonial sword)



The Guru Granth Sahib



Guru Gobind Singh changed the name of the Adi Granth to the Guru Granth Sahib, the last Guru. As well as the teaching of the Gurus, it also contains teaching from Muslim and Hindu writers.

Each Gurdwara has a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib. It is treated as a living Guru, so people will bow to the Guru Granth Sahib when they enter the Gurdwara.



What is Vaisakhi?

Vaisakhi or Baisakhi is a Sikh festival. It celebrates the harvest, the Sikh New Year and the founding of the Sikh community, known as the Khalsa. It is celebrated on the 13th or 14th April each year.



Vaisakhi parade in Wolverhampton

Why do people go to a Sikh gurdwara?

Many Sikhs visit a gurdwara for worship. The gurdwara is also a place to learn more about Sikhism. The gurdwara is a community centre too, offering food, shelter and company for those who need it.

The morning service begins with singing a hymn, there is also a religious talk (called a sermon), prayers are said then there are readings from the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy book). Last of all, food is offered to everyone so people can eat and spend time together.



Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Wednesfield