

## An Introduction to Christianity

*An Introduction to Christianity* examines the key figures, events and ideas of two thousand years of Christian history and places them in context. It considers the material as well as the spiritual dimensions of this multi-faceted faith, and explores its interactions with culture and society. The volume pays particular attention to the ways in which Christianity has understood, embodied and related to power. It shows how the churches' long-standing commitment to 'higher power', both human and divine, has been repeatedly challenged by alternative allegiances to 'power from below', both sacred and secular. By tracing the history of Christianity to the beginning of the third millennium, this book explores the ways in which churches of north and south have reacted to the rise of modern democracy and the cultural turn to subjective life.

LINDA WOODHEAD is a Senior Lecturer in Christian Studies at Lancaster University. She has written extensively on Christianity, culture and society. Recent books include *The Spiritual Revolution: Why Religion is Giving Way to Spirituality* (2004) (with Paul Heelas); *Predicting Religion* (2003) (with Grace Davie and Paul Heelas); *Religions in the Modern World* (2002); and *Peter Berger and the Study of Religion* (2001).

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