

[Tom Cruise](#)

Tom Cruise: Scientology is 'a beautiful religion'

Actor makes rare public comment on controversial religion, saying it has helped him 'incredibly' for more than 30 years

Cruise was asked about his religion at the premiere of his new film, Jack Reacher: Never Go Back.
Photograph: Samir Hussein/WireImage

[Alan Evans](#)[@itsalanevans](#)

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Tom Cruise has made a rare public comment about his belief in [Scientology](#), saying it is “a beautiful religion”.

At the London premiere of his new film [Jack Reacher: Never Go Back](#), Lucrezia Millarini of ITV News asked Cruise about a new documentary on the religion by Louis Theroux, [My Scientology Movie](#).

Cruise replied in general terms. “It’s something that has helped me incredibly in

my life,” he said. “I’ve been a Scientologist for over 30 years. It’s something that is, you know ... without it, I wouldn’t be where I am. So, it’s a beautiful religion. I’m incredibly proud.”

The Church of Scientology Celebrity Centre International in Los Angeles. Photograph: Getty Images

Cruise was introduced to Scientology by his ex-wife, Mimi Rogers, in 1986. He has generally been reticent when talking about his beliefs, especially after the negative public reaction to his [notorious 2005 interview with Matt Lauer on NBC’s Today show](#).

He defended his stance in [a 2012 interview with Playboy](#), saying: “What’s interesting is, if I don’t talk about my religion, if I say I’m not discussing it or different humanitarian things I’m working on, they’re like, ‘He’s avoiding it.’

“If I do talk about it, it becomes, ‘Oh, he’s proselytising.’ Reviewing the whole thing and how things can be edited and misinterpreted, I decided ... when I’m promoting a film, I’m not going to get caught up in anything else, and that includes all my personal things.”

Going Clear: the film Scientologists don’t want you to see

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Scientology has come under intense scrutiny in recent years after claims of physical, psychological and sexual abuse against its followers, accusations detailed in recent documentaries such as Theroux’s and [Going Clear by Alex Gibney](#), which focused on former members of the church.

The Church of Scientology and its leader, David Miscavige, deny any involvement in these sorts of abuse and instead [claim that the former members were](#)

themselves guilty of abuse, and were expelled for that reason.

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