



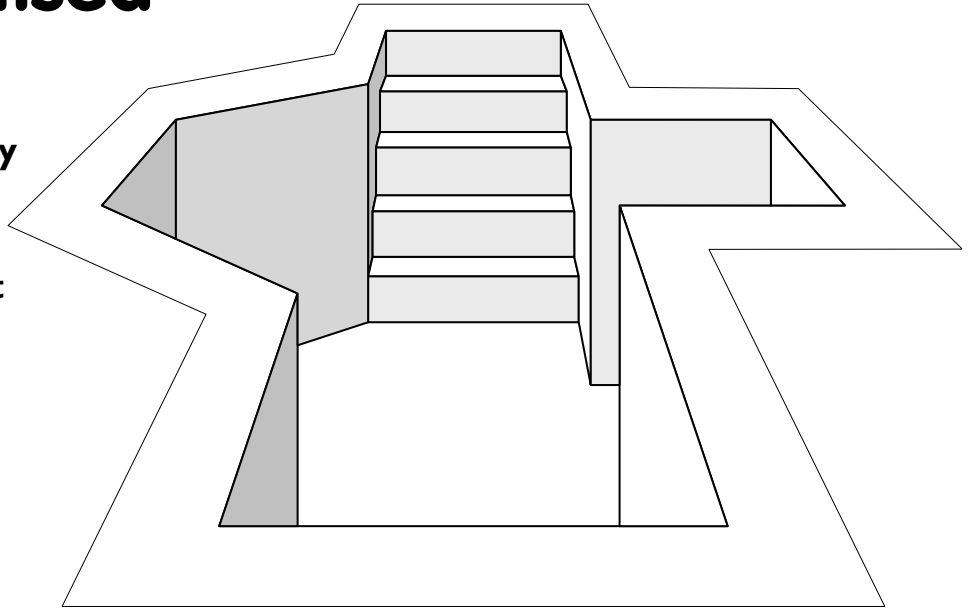
# 5

Name: ..... Form: .....

See pages 12 and 13 of Church

## To be baptised

Christians are welcomed into the Christian community by being baptised. This is why the font is such an important part of the church.



**Q1.** What type of font is shown in the picture?

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**Q2.** Which group of Christians have this feature in their church?

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**Q3.** What happens when a person is baptised in their church?

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**Q4.** In parish churches where was the font often found?

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**Q5.** When are people baptised?

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**Q6.** What happens during baptism?

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## Answers

1. **A baptistry.**
2. **Baptists.**
3. **The whole of their body is put under water for a moment.**
4. **In the back of the nave near the door that people use to enter the church.**
5. **Often as babies but also as adults.**
6. **A member of the clergy says special blessings then sprinkles some water from the font on to the person's head.**

## Lesson objectives

- ▶ To show the structure of the font so it can be recognised.
- ▶ To show how the font is used in baptism.
- ▶ To show a baptistry and explain how it is used.

## Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can recognise a font.
- ▶ The children can describe how a font is used in baptism.
- ▶ The children can recognise a baptistry and explain how it is used.

## Teaching notes

*Baptism of infants is performed by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Methodist and United Reformed churches. It is a welcoming of the child into the Christian church. During baptism in most churches holy water is poured over the head of the baby three times. As the water is being poured the priest says I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. In Orthodox churches the baby is immersed three times and the fonts in these churches*

*are larger than the fonts in other churches so the baby can be placed in them. Holy water is water that has been blessed by a priest. In some Anglican churches and in Roman Catholic churches blessed oil, which is called chrism, is rubbed onto the child's forehead.*

*After the baptism a candle may be lit which shows that people who are baptised pass from darkness into light. You may find a candle close by the font or even on a stand attached to it.*

*In the Baptist, Pentecostal and Evangelical churches it is believed that a person can only be baptised when they are old enough to have learnt something of the Christian faith and understand the ceremony. For this reason, only teenagers or adults are baptised in these churches. For baptism, old clothes are usually worn by the men and women wear a white robe. They enter a pool called a baptistry and are completely immersed for a few seconds by the minister. Churches which do not have a baptistry may use one in another church or even a swimming pool or the sea.*

## Complementary work

Let the children try and find when local churches perform baptisms.

## Resources

Contacting local churches perhaps by looking at websites if they have them. Writing to or e-mailing local clergy.