

**Lessons and activities: Upper Key Stage 2**

<p><b>Topic:</b> Baptism and Eucharist</p>	
<p><b>Connection to Warwickshire SACRE syllabus</b>  <b>D2</b> At the end of KS2 most pupils will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe and make connections between different features of the religions and world views they study, discovering more about celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and the rituals which mark important points in life in order to reflect thoughtfully on their ideas;</li> <li>Explore and describe a range of beliefs, symbols and actions so that they can understand different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning;</li> <li>Observe and consider different dimensions of religion, so that they can explore and show understanding of similarities and differences between different religions and world views;</li> </ul> <p><b>U2.4</b> If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?  <b>U2.8</b> What difference does it make to believe in ahimsa (harmlessness), <b>grace</b>, and/or Ummah (community)?</p> <p><b>Links to SIAM inspection outcomes (for C of E schools)</b>          SIAMS defines the purpose of RE to be religious literacy which is defined on their website as helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief.          One aspect of this is theology which is about believing. It looks at where beliefs come from, how they have changed over time, how they are applied differently in different contexts and how they relate to each other.          Another aspect are human and social sciences which explore the diverse ways in which people practise their beliefs, engaging with the impact of beliefs on individuals, communities and societies.</p> <p><b>Upper Key Stage 2</b>          Sacraments of baptism and Eucharist within Christianity and comparison of joining rituals in Christianity and Sikhism</p>	<p><b>Learning Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be able to explain what the church is</li> <li>To be able to explain what happens in a baptism and why it is important for Christians</li> <li>To be able to explain what happens in the Eucharist and why it is important for Christian.</li> <li>To compare baptism with a 'joining ceremony' in another faith</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key words:</b> Sacrament, baptism, Eucharist (also known as Communion, Mass and the Lord's Supper), font, altar – for final lesson, amrit, amritdhari Sikhs, 5Ks.</p>	
<p><b>To the teacher:</b> Please note that different denominations have slightly varying views on baptism and Eucharist (and there are differing views within the Church of England). In this lesson we are working with broadly accepted views within the Church of England.          In the lesson at the church your pupils can explore the sacramental -an outward sign of an inward and invisible truth.</p>	
<p><b>Curriculum connections:</b> geography – looking at local churches on a map</p>	
<p><b>Lesson 1:</b> Preparation to visit: The church - people or building?  <b>Lesson 2:</b> (A) Baptism ) there may only be time for one of these depending on the          (B) Eucharist ) duration of your visit  <b>Lesson 3:</b> Joining rituals in another faith -Sikhism</p>	

## Lesson 1: Preparation

**Learning objective:** For pupils to be able to explain the church means both (A) the people who follow Jesus and meet together to worship and serve others and (B) the building in which they meet

**Activity 1** Read and complete the worksheet on [Resource 1](#). (Versions A, B and C give you differentiated versions)

**Activity 2** Create a mindmap of all the activities that might be linked to a church building. The children can use information from the worksheet but could also think about activities they are aware of eg toddler groups, uniformed groups meetings, youth clubs, lunches for the elderly etc etc

**Activity 3** Make a list of all the churches the children can think of within the school catchment area. Comment on different denominations and point out that they have beliefs and activities in common. Mark the churches on a map. (It would be very interesting if you can find any churches that meet in school halls or community buildings.) Are there any other religious buildings used by people of other faiths? eg Gurdwara or Mosque.

Discussion questions:

- Some churches (groups of Christians) meet in other buildings – perhaps a school hall or village hall. Is it a good idea for churches to do this? Why?
- Can a church building be used for anything other than services of worship? What else might church building be used for?
- Every faith uses sacred buildings – places dedicated to God. Have you been to any other sacred buildings – how are they different from church buildings.

## Lesson 2 A Baptism (in church)

**Learning Objective:** That children can explain why Baptism is important to Christians and how infant Baptism takes place.

Note: the following activities could take place as a carousel of small groups round the church. Each activity requires one or more church members to lead the group.

### Activity 1 - *Round the font*

Ask if any of the children have been to a baptism (also called Christening). [Church member](#) acts out a simplified form of a baptism service with a doll. The children are asked to stand in the roles of parents and Godparents, (but not asked to make any of the promises).

Points to bring out:

- the role of water as a symbol of cleansing; link to adult baptism where adults go under the water as a symbol of dying and coming back to life in a new relationship with God;
- person is baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – one God, three persons – point out the triune symbols on the font;
- joining the church – (font is near the door).

### Discussion activities

Children to spot as many three-fold symbols as they can.

What is water used for? (Washing, drinking, irrigation), Perhaps divide children into pairs and give them two minutes to think of as many as possible – a little competition. Do these activities link with baptism in any way? (Point out Jesus described himself as living water.)

### Activity 2 - *Front pews*

[Church member](#) explains

Baptism as a sign of repentance – saying sorry and turning away from wrongdoing (sin). (It might help to ask a child to stand and then turn away as you explain this.)

Children look at kneelers – needed as people are kneeling before God to show their respect and when they ask for forgiveness. Look at 3 or 4 symbols on kneelers.

Baptism uses water to symbolise washing away of wrongdoings or sins. Christians believe that Jesus can forgive them of their wrongdoings if they ask him – and this is needed to have a relationship with God, who is holy and completely without sin or any evil. Christians cannot earn this forgiveness – it is freely given. Christians call this grace (God's Riches At Christ's Expense).

Joining the church through baptism is a sign God has washed away a person's wrongdoing or sin.

Point out that adults who become Christians are also baptised – often by full immersion.

Children do sorting activity in 2s or 3s with [Resource 2](#) and then feed back to the group.

### Activity 3 - By cross

Church member to lead discussion (church to provide : a collection of crosses)

The sign of the cross as part of baptism. The priest takes some of the water and signs the child's head (or adult's head in adult baptism) with the sign of the cross. Jesus died on the cross – Christians remember this story at Easter. Jesus dying on the cross (crucifixion) and resurrection (rising from the dead) are incredibly important to Christians.

Signing a child with the cross shows that they will become part of the community who accept the importance of this event. They are under the protection of Jesus and belong to Him.

In times and places when Christians were and are persecuted – punished or even put to death for following Jesus - this is a dangerous symbol. \*\*

Look and discuss different crosses why are they there, why are they used (eg cross made of olive wood to hold when praying, cross to wear round neck, cross on altar...where else in church?)

\*\* Optional information about the alpha symbol – eg A3 sized alpha symbol +/- letters to explain

Early on in the Christian faith when it was dangerous to be known as a follower of Christ, people sometimes used the alpha symbol, it was a secret code between Christians. One would draw a curve, perhaps with the stick in the sand or earth, if another person drew a second curve to complete the alpha symbol it meant they were a Christian too.



Alpha is the first letter of the greek alphabet and it looks a bit like a fish. Sometimes you see this fish symbol on the back of cars.

(If you want to learn a bit of Greek....

The Greek word for fish ΙΧΘΥΣ (pronounced ichthys). ΙΧΘΥΣ are the first letters of the following Greek words:

	GREEK		ENGLISH
LETTER	CALLED	FIRST LETTER OF	TRANSLATION
I	Iota	<u>I</u> esous	Jesus
X	Chi	<u>Ch</u> ristos	Christ
Θ	Theta	<u>Th</u> eos	Of God
Υ	Upsilon	<u>Y</u> ios (Huοis)	Son
Σ	Sigma	<u>S</u> oter	Saviour

## **Lesson 2B Eucharist (in church)**

**Learning Objective:** That children can explain why Eucharist or Communion is important to Christians and how it takes place.

Note: Children may be familiar with Eucharist by other names: Mass, Communion or the Lord's Supper

Note: the following activities could take place as a carousel of small groups round the church. [Each activity requires one or more church members to lead the group.](#)

### **Activity 1**

#### ***At altar***

Look at the chalice and other items used in Eucharist – [church member](#) explains how eucharist takes place in this church. (in other churches, people might sit or stand in circle and pass the bread and wine around).

#### **Discussion:**

Why are the chalice etc beautiful and made of precious metal? Does this matter? Think about how you would lay the table at home if the Queen was coming to tea. But also think about people celebrating eucharist in refugee camps etc.

Prompt questions for discussion:

- If you want to lay the table for a celebration meal at home – what makes it special in your home? Do you have a posh table cloth, or a special vase for flowers? Or do you have some nice china plates?
- If you were living in a very tough place such as a refugee camp, how would you hold a Eucharist or Communion service?

If time, [church member](#) to show the children service books – explain that everyone says the bits in bold. (Adult to read out very short sections so any children who struggle with reading can listen.)

Direct them to look together at:

Prayer of repentance

Lord's prayer

Breaking of bread

Prayer after communion

#### **Discussion questions:**

- What was the most surprising or odd bit of the service in the book?
- Was there anything that sounded familiar to you?
- Why do people in Church of England services use the same words each week, do you think?
- Is there any section you liked the most?

## **Activity 2**

### ***Front pews***

Read the story on [Resource 3](#) together (note – ask school staff to choose child to read out loud, or if unsure, read it to the children with them following their own copy).

This is a puzzling story in some ways. It happened the night before he was killed on the cross – and Jesus knew this was going to happen. Jesus said his body was the bread and his blood was the wine.

### **Discussion**

What do you think he meant by saying this?

## **Activity 3**

### ***Near the font***

Eucharist as sacrament

‘Sacrament’ is often defined as an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. That is, Eucharist is something we can see, taste and touch through which God gives us his free gift of his love. Baptism is a time when the outward and visible sign of water is used and a person enters the church.

**Discussion activity** using [Resource 4](#).

### Lesson 3      Joining rituals in another faith (Sikhism) compared to Baptism

Note to teacher:

Baptism is the Christian ritual for both children of Christian families and for adults who join the faith from another faith, or from a position of no faith. Sikhs follow the teaching of the Gurus that the faith into which someone is born is the faith they should follow. So Amrit Sanskar (Sikh initiation ceremony) is for Sikhs who are old enough to understand the seriousness of the commitment required and feel ready to take on the responsibility.

#### Video clip

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-taking-amrit/zj6d7nb>

Prompt questions:

- What is amrit?
- What promises are taken during the ceremony?
- Who can take amrit?
- What are the 5ks? (If the children have not learned about this – here is a link for more information). <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zcn34wx>

#### Venn diagram activity

Draw a 2 circle venn diagram on the board and label one circle, 'Baptism' and the other 'Amrit Sanskar'. What items should go into each circle, and which should go into the overlapping section because they are true of both ceremonies? Here are some items you might want to suggest if the discussion flags.

- Water.
- Amrit
- Joining a faith
- Promises
- Prayers
- Belief in Jesus
- Repentance -turning away from sin and asking for forgiveness
- Wearing the 5Ks
- Sign of the cross
- Commitment to follow the faith

#### True / false activity (using [Resource sheet 5](#))

All the children can mark the statements with a tick or cross and then cross out and write (or dictate) correct versions of the untrue statements. They can then be asked to sort them into two groups – statements about the Sikh ceremony of Amrit Sanskar and statements about the Christian ceremony of Baptism. This could be done with two different coloured highlighters.

After that they could be asked to write one or two sentences about each ceremony, or use more of the statements to write a 'compare and contrast' piece.

A

**What is the church?**

In the UK almost every town and village has a church building. This is the place where Christians meet to worship and pray. They also celebrate big events such as someone joining the church, either as a baby or an adult, when people marry or to mourn at their funeral when people die.

The church also means the group of people who follow Jesus. This is how the word, 'church' is used in the Bible. So, if the church building fell down, the church, meaning Christian people following Jesus who come together as a group, still exist. In some parts of the world where it is illegal to be a Christian, the church meets in peoples' homes or in the open air. This is how the church worked in the beginning in the years soon after Jesus' death and resurrection.

**What do Christians do when they meet together?**

Christians usually meet together at least once a week to worship God together. They will praise God, often using hymns (sacred songs). They will pray asking forgiveness from their sins, saying thank you to God for all he has given, and asking for what they and others need. Christians usually listen to some readings from the Bible and often to a talk (sermon).

Many Christians also celebrate the Eucharist which is also sometimes known as Holy Communion, Mass or the Lord's Supper. This is where they share bread and wine, remembering Jesus' death. It is a unique way of being close to Jesus as they remember him as he told them to at his Last Supper before he was crucified.

**Answer these questions in sentences.**

- 1 The word, 'church' can mean two things. Write two definitions of the word, 'church'.
- 2 Where did the church meet at the beginning?
- 3 What do Christians do when they meet together as a church? (You should include at least four items.)
- 4 What do Christians remember at the Eucharist?

B

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**Fill in the gaps in the paragraph using the words.** (There are more words than gaps – so you will have to work out which are the correct ones.)

Pray, building, Bible, Eucharist, Qu'ran, Buddhists, Christians, party

The word, 'church' can refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ or to a group of \_\_\_\_\_ meeting together regularly. The Christians will normally \_\_\_\_\_, listen to the \_\_\_\_\_, and worship God. They may also celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_, which is also known as Mass, the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion.

C

**What is the church?**

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Fill in the gaps in the paragraph using the words. (There are more words than gaps – so you will have to work out which are the correct ones.)

**Fill in the gaps in the paragraph using the words above it.**

pray, building, Eucharist, Bible

The word, 'church' means a group of Christians who meet together or the \_\_\_\_\_ where they meet. The Christians will normally \_\_\_\_\_, listen to the \_\_\_\_\_, and worship God. They may also celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_, which is also known as Mass, the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion.



Put these cards into two piles – True or false.

**True or false?**

Water in baptism can symbolise washing away a person's sins (wrong actions and thoughts).

**True or false?**

Water in baptism can symbolise God's power.

**True or false?**

Christians think it OK to do wrong actions and thoughts (sins).

**True or false?**

Christians believe that God is able to forgive them of their sins (wrong actions and thoughts).

**True or false?**

Grace means God's free gift of forgiveness to humans.

**True or false?**

Grace means being nasty to someone.

**True or false?**

People often kneel when they say sorry to God to try and hide from him.

**True or false?**

People often kneel when they say sorry to God to respect before God.

## **The Last Supper**

It says in the Bible, that after washing their feet, Jesus had supper with his friends. He took some bread, and, thanking God for it, he broke the bread.

Then Jesus gave the bread to each of his disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this is remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup of wine. He gave thanks and gave it to all of them and they all drank. He said, 'This is my blood poured out for many.'

*(Taken from Mark 14 and Luke 22.)*

Look at what these different people say about why they take Communion or Eucharist. If you were a Christian, or if you are a Christian, which one is most similar to what you would say? Why?



True or false?

- Sikh babies go through the Amrit Sanskar ceremony
- In the Church of England, babies and adults can be baptised into the Christian faith
- In baptism a person is signed with the sign of bread and wine.
- Sikhs have to promise to not drink alcohol... as part of the Amrit Sanskar ceremony
- The place where babies are baptised in a church is called a font.
- Sugar is sprinkled on a person's eyes in the Amrit Sanskar ceremony
- Sikhs promise to wear the 5 Ks as when they have gone through the ceremony and are amritdhari Sikhs
- Repenting of sins is part of the Baptism ceremony