



Baptism or Christening?

Summertime! What is SO lovely about this weather?

Running around on the beach flying kites, having picnics by the river, playing ball in the park.. Perhaps you go to the open-air swimming pool and plunge into the water. It's SO refreshing and startling when you hit the water, then you come up into the sunshine and gasp the air.....

WOW! What an amazing feeling!

It reminds me of the biblical story of Jesus' Baptism.

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, was baptising people in the River Jordan. This was the first time that most people were introduced to Jesus. So Jesus asked to be baptized. John plunged Him into the river, right under, with the waters rushing all around Him. When He finally came up for air, imagine how He felt with the sun shining on His face and the breeze blowing across His skin, and He felt alive!

Then the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove, and God's voice could be heard: "This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased."

Then people followed His example and they were baptised too. When they plunged into the waters they came up clean of any wrongdoings, and ready to begin a life with God.



Were you Baptised?

Do you remember it, or were you a baby?

There are different ways for Baptism to take place in churches and church groups, inside and outside of the church buildings. Some people are baptised when they are very young, but some people get baptised as adults.

The pictures below show key moments and items used in Baptisms following different Christian traditions - have you ever seen any of these in your own local church?



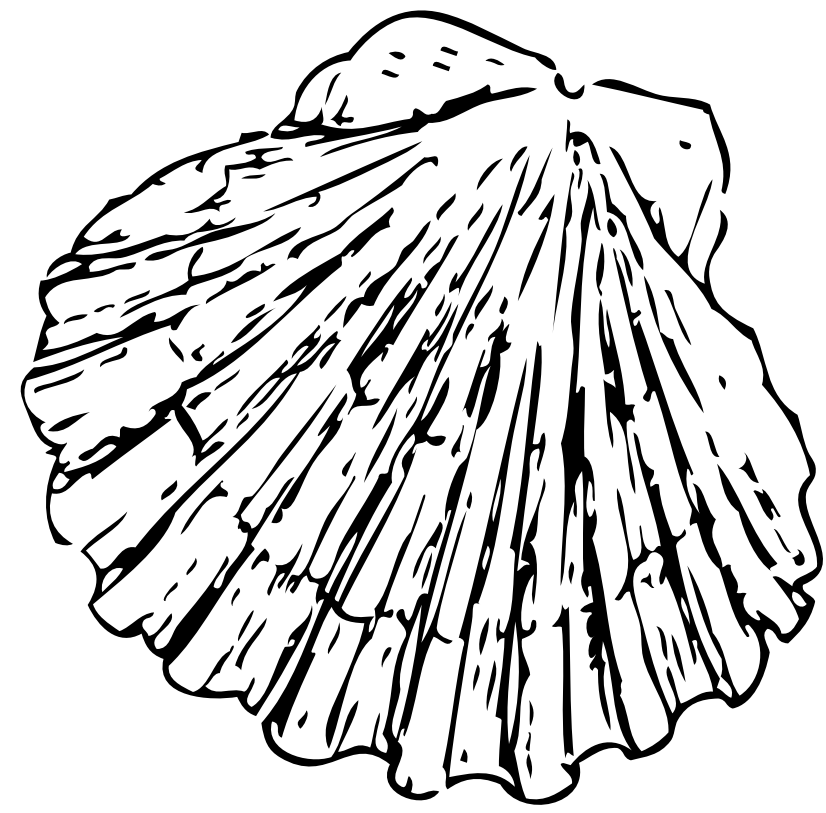
Different churches have different ways of doing Baptisms...
but it always involves water!



Nearby, in Wembury, from the beach you can see a church, way on top of the hill. Sometimes the church people wander down to the sea in a group and celebrate a fully immersed baptism in the sea.

Activity 1

The next time you go to the beach and you find a scallop shell, go down to the shoreline and scoop the water up. Two of my children were baptised with a shell like this.



Why is the scallop shell often used?

This shell is associated with St James, who, when the group was sent out into the world to share the Gospel, used it to beg for food and drink.

Activity 2



Scan the QR code to find out how to make an origami dove, or search for: Simple Origami Dove.

And all you need is one white A4 piece of paper! When this is done you can hang it up - or why not make a few and create a display in your house. "The Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove.", (Mark's Gospel, Chapter 1, verse 10.)

Activity 3

There are lots of videos on YouTube about Jesus' Baptism. Search for Miracle Maker Jesus' Baptism by Reveal for a really good version which also explains why it happened. Or scan the QR code for a different video.



*I have enjoyed telling you
all about Baptism.
See you at the
Church Picnic on 8th July!*

*Love from
Denise x*