

Title: Joining the church - baptism	Year: KS1	Timing: any half term
Links: QCA 1A 1B. Cambs. CRP1 CRP2 CSC3 P'borough: CRP1, CRP2, CSC3, N'folk: CP, CLS, CC		
Learning objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find out about naming ceremonies and infant baptism • To hear about the story of Jesus' baptism from an appropriate bible • To explore blessings and think about what they might mean 		
Questions for reflection: What does my name mean? Does everyone get baptised? Why are babies precious? What is a blessing? What does it mean to join the church family?		
Activities and experiences: Look at some baby animals, using big books, videos, the internet (Google images is the easiest way) or perhaps some real ones that could be brought into the classroom. What makes a baby animal different from an adult, and why are they so appealing? Note some characteristics. Discuss in pairs why human babies are precious and have some children feed back to the whole group. Note the answers. Ask a parent with a new baby to come and talk about why their baby is precious and how that child was welcomed into the family after the birth. Ask questions about the baby's name and have a book available so that the children can look up their own name and find out about it. This is a particularly good opportunity to find out about the given names of children from various faith communities. Explain that a blessing is like wishing someone well, and pass round a shell and making blessings or wishes for this baby. Use the shell activity on the resources pages. Explain that in the Christian church, babies are welcomed into the family of the church, either with a thanksgiving service (find this on-line at www.egodparent.com/CofENaming.htm) or with a service called baptism. Watch a video of a Christian baptism, like Christians KS1: Gifts Places of Worship (BBC Watch) or Dottie and Buzz Video, Prog.1 (C4learning Teacher's book 1-86215-531-3 Activity book 1-86215-528-3) The Folens Christianity pack has some useful photographs and some parents might be willing to lend photos of their own for you to scan. Ask a priest or lay reader to come into school and talk the children through the baptism service using visual aids. Some vicars will allow the children to carry out a little 'baptism' in the church, so you can split the class into groups, each having a mother, father, godparents and vicar! Use the card entitled 'font' to draw a very big one, and then use different shading techniques (look at 'Where the Wild Things Are' for inspiration) to shade in different sections in different ways. This will be the centre of the display. Tell the story of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, recounted in all four Gospels. Think about why Jesus' needed to be baptised (as a pattern for his followers) and make water drops using thin card cut into the right shape, and sponge printed and collaged with as many different shades of blue as possible. Make a display using the font, photographs, wishes, shells and water drops (these can be suspended in front of the display using fishing line). Assessment: Show a picture of a Muslim man whispering the first call to prayer into the ear of a newborn baby. What special words would you whisper into the ear of a new baby, and why? Resource: Ogden B. 'Best Friends' from the 'On the Story Mat' series, pub. Scripture Union 0-7459-3566-4 www.request.org.uk/infants/infants.htm - Milestones in family life		