



ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH - What is it all about?

TEACHERS' NOTES: This is aimed at KS1 children and helps youngsters to understand the form and function of some the main features in a Christian church. The use of open questioning helps to draw out information from the group and promotes understanding.

INTRODUCTION

This is a Christian place of worship.

Q. But what is Christianity?

A. *It is a religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as presented in the bible. Christians believe there is one god and Jesus was his son. They believe he died on the cross and was born again.*

Q. Why do people come here?

A. *They come to praise god and worship. Services are held on Sundays and other days too.*

THE FONT

Q. Can anyone tell me what this is used for?

A. *Baptisms and christenings. When a child or adult is welcomed into the church and water is used to bless the individual. It's near the door to welcome people into the church.*

Q. Has anyone been to a christening?

THE PULPIT

Q. What's this?

A. *The pulpit is where the vicar stands when he makes his sermon or preaches to the congregation. It is raised up so people can hear and see him, and he can see his parishioners.*

Stand up there and have a look.

THE LECTERN

Q. Is it just an ornament? What's it for?

A. *No, it's where the big bible rests so people can see it clearly to read to the congregation.*

Q. What bird is that?

A. *It is a golden eagle. The bird represents strength to carry the message of God on its back and it flies high near to heaven.*

THE ORGAN

Q. Why would there be such a huge musical instrument in a church?

A. *The organ is used to accompany the choir and parishioners when they sing hymns during church services.*

THE HIGH ALTAR

This is a special table that is used during the service. Bread and wine are placed here so that Christians take communion - a ceremonial meal to symbolise the body and blood of Christ.

This is also where people take their wedding vows.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Q. Why are the windows so elaborate?

A. *The windows are there to tell the bible stories.*

They were paid for by rich people who died and left money to the church.

THE PEWS

Sit down and ask children to describe the atmosphere in the church.

Q. How does it make them feel?

Tell them that this is where worshippers come to sit when a service is in progress or they can come in at any time and pray.

Q. Does anyone know what a prayer is?

A. *A prayer is when people have a private word with God. They might ask him to help them or their family.*

AFTER THE VISIT

Role play baptisms and weddings.

Label a plan of the church. What makes St Dunstan's different?

Design a stained glass window.



