



# A Young Persons Guide to the Parish Church

*With I-Spy Icons and Objects*



## THE FONT

The first important item as you enter by the main door is the **Font** where people are baptized.

This is a reminder that it is by **Baptism** that we enter the Christian Family. A Font (like a fountain) contains water which is poured three times onto a person's forehead in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Water is a sign of sins being washed away. Jesus told his followers to make disciples of all nations and baptize them.



## THE HIGH ALTAR

The most important item in a church is a large table called the **Altar**. In older churches like this one it is at the far end, and in newer ones it may be in the middle.



Christians gather round the altar for their main service, the **Eucharist**, meaning 'Thanksgiving'. The priest blesses bread and wine to be the Body and Blood of Jesus, just as Jesus himself did at the **Last Supper** with his disciples before he died. 'Do this in remembrance of me' he said. Christians have done this ever since, believing that he is with them now.

The space around the altar is called the **Sanctuary** meaning 'Holy'. During the Eucharist people come to the altar rails to receive **Holy Communion**. A lamp burning reminds people of God's presence.

## THE LECTERN

The special place where the **Bible** is read in church is a **Lectern**. It usually stands at the front of the pews so that the reader faces the congregation. It may be beautifully carved, in wood or brass. Can you see the decorative piece of material hanging down? It is in the colour of the church season.

The Bible has an important place in all services. Every day of the year has its appointed readings.



## THE PULPIT



A **Pulpit** is the partner of the Lectern. The **Sermon** is preached from the pulpit. A sermon is an explanation of the Bible reading for the day. It helps people to understand it better.

Can you see the omega sign?

It is the last letter of the *Greek* alphabet.



Can you find the sign for alpha, the first letter of the *Greek* alphabet?

These two signs mean that Jesus is the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

## THE WINDOWS

Bomb damage in World War II blew out all the windows. When they were reglazed, fragments of the original coloured glass were incorporated in the new windows.



# I-SPY ICONS AND OBJECTS

Can you find where these **Icons** and **Objects** are located in the church

Tick the box when you have found them

