

Inham Nook St Barnabas

What is a church?

Aim: To explore how we recognise a church.

Objective: To use St Barnabas's as a basis for defining what is a church and how we would recognise one.

Curriculum links:

KS1 Visiting places of worship

KS2 Worship, pilgrimage and sacred places

Activity: The children will discuss how they recognise a church and then draw objects in St Barnabas's that show that it is a church and use their drawings to make their own churches.

Resources:

- Flip chart or large sheet of paper to write on, pens
- Smaller sheets of paper, pencils, scissors, glue sticks

Information for Leader

You might like to include the idea that the people make a church rather than the objects in it, but that it is through the objects that we recognise a building as a church. The children may then want to include people in their final work.

Introduction (5 mins)

- Meet the children outside the church. Look at the building together. Does it look like a church? What else might it be? How do you know it is a church? If the weather is fine you could stay outside and discuss what the children might expect to see when they go inside.

Activity (30 mins)

- Settle the children in the seats and allow them time to sit and look round if they haven't been in the church before.
- Does this look like other churches they have been in? In what ways is it different?
- What would you expect to see in a church? Make a list of the children's suggestions. Discuss the role of the things they suggest and whether they are essential for a church. Mark the things that are essential.
- Give the children time to look round and to find the things they think make a church.
- In small groups ask the children to draw the things that are essential to make a church, copying the items in St Barnabas's, and then cut them out and stick them on a larger sheet of paper to make their own picture of a church.
- In the same groups come up with a sentence that describes, what is a church?

Plenary (5 mins)

- Hear all the sentences of, what is a church? Bring the elements of these together to make a group definition of a church. Compare this to St Barnabas's. Does it fulfil the definition?



heritage learning welcome



Extension

- The children could visit other churches and compare them with St Barnabas's. To what extent do they fulfil the definition of church?
- Children can design a church from scratch. What sort of building will it be? What needs to go into it? What does it need to look like?
- Investigate other churches that do not look like the traditional view of a church. How do they match up to the definition? What are their advantages and disadvantages?
- Look at other churches on the Church History website that do not look like traditional churches. Three good ones would be:
 - Caythorpe St Aidan – a 'tin tabernacle'
<http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/caythorpe/hintro.php>
 - Colwick St John the Baptist – a rectangular brick-built building
<http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/colwick/hintro.php>
 - Porchester St James – brick built, originally based on a barn
<http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/porchester/hintro.php>