

To be baptised

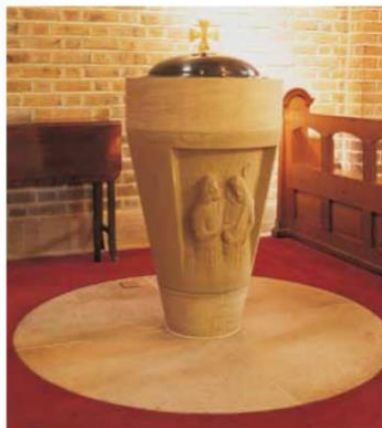
Christians are welcomed into the Christian community by being baptised. That is why the font is such an important part of the church.

When people are **BAPTISED** they are welcomed into the church. Christian families often have their children baptised when they are babies. This is the first step on the way to being confirmed as an adult member of the Christian church.

What is the font?

The **FONT** is the part of the church where Baptism takes place (picture ①). So, the font is therefore a very important part of the church.

The font is usually in the back of the nave, near the door that people use to enter the church. The font is placed here for an important reason. It reminds worshippers



▲ ① People are baptised at the font. During Baptism, a member of the **CLERGY** says special blessings and then sprinkles some water from the font on to the person's head.

that when someone is baptised, they are entering the Christian religion.

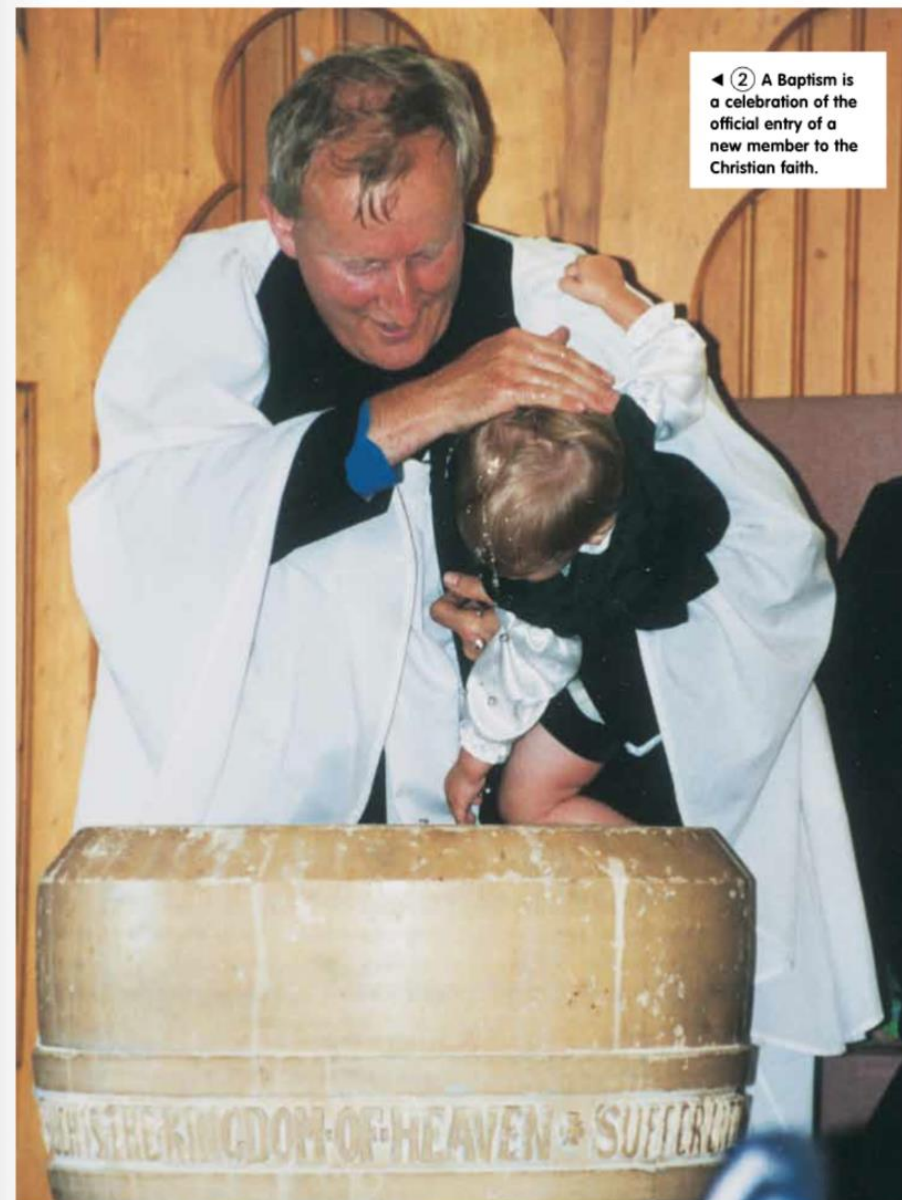
The font can be any shape or size. Water is poured into it for the Baptism ceremony (picture ②).

Baptism as an adult

The first Christians were baptised, like Jesus, as adults. Some adults also want to be baptised. Many people feel that Baptism at this stage of life is like being born all over again. In fact, some Christians, for example, the Baptists, feel that it is important to put their whole body underwater during Baptism, and so their font is actually a small pool (picture ③). This kind of font is sometimes called a **BAPTISTRY**.



▲ ③ In some churches, people are baptised by putting their whole body underwater. In these churches, a very large font called a baptistry is used.



◀ ② A Baptism is a celebration of the official entry of a new member to the Christian faith.