

# Saint John the Baptist

John the Baptist was a cousin of Jesus. His parents were Zachariah and Elizabeth and the story of his birth is told at start of Luke's Gospel in the Bible.

When John was an adult people would flock to see him. He lived in the wilderness around the River Jordan. He wore a tunic made of camel hair which he tied at the waist with a leather belt and he lived on wild honey and locusts - large insects like grasshoppers. People wanted to hear what John was saying - was he a prophet sent from God? Some people even thought he might be the Messiah, the Son of God, however John told the people he was not the Messiah but he was the person sent by God to prepare everyone for the Messiah's coming.

John told the people to give up their sinful ways, to stop doing wrong and being selfish and to start thinking about other people. As a sign that people were ready to change John would baptise them in the River Jordan. One day Jesus came to be baptised. John knew that Jesus was the Messiah and told him that it should be the other way around and that Jesus should baptise John. But Jesus said that he wanted John to baptise him as it was all part of God's plan. As Jesus came up out of the water a dove flew down to him, the dove was a sign of the Holy Spirit, and the voice of God could be heard saying that Jesus was God's son.

## Activity - dove

You will need: a circle of card or a paper plate, pencil, colouring pencils or felt tips, scissors and glue



1. Draw the dove's body, wings, eyes, beak and legs on your paper plate as shown in the picture.



2. Cut out the body and wings.



3. Glue the wings to the back of the dove's body.

