

Baptism

What is Baptism?

There are two important things that Jesus commanded his disciples to do. One was to celebrate the Lord's Supper (or Communion) and the other was to baptise.

These two things are celebrated as Sacraments (ordinances) within the Church, and we celebrate baptism in response to Jesus' command to baptise.

Baptism is not a naming ceremony. Commonly you will hear a baptism being referred to as a 'Christening' which can be slightly misleading. Whilst the name of the person being baptised will be pronounced, this is not the main function of baptism.

Baptism signifies a washing in water which reminds us that when we believe in Jesus, our sin and our uncleanness have been washed away and we are forgiven by God, because of Jesus sacrifice on the cross. It also signifies our part in the visible church body - both the local church and the worldwide church.



Baptism can be administered in different ways. Baptism comes from a Greek word which means 'to immerse, dip or sprinkle'. Commonly in the Church of Scotland, baptism is administered by the minister from the front of the church by sprinkling water over a child's head from a font.

Who is Baptism for?

Baptism can take place at any age. Commonly it is infants who are baptised in the Church of Scotland.

When a child is baptised, it is the parents who, trusting in the promises of God, bring the child with the anticipation that the child will one day put their faith in Jesus.

When an adult is baptised, it is in response to their personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

What is required of you and what are your responsibilities?

Infant Baptism

When an infant is baptised, the responsibility lies with the parents.



One or both of the parents are required to take vows which affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to bring the child up within the church (Please see **Appendix 1** for the vows).

As this is the case, it is important that at least one of the parents has to be a member of the church and has professed faith in Jesus Christ. If you are not a member, then please speak to the minister about membership (contact details below).

In membership, a person:

- professes publicly their faith in Jesus Christ
- promises to spend time reading God's Word and in prayer
- promises to give a fitting proportion of their time talents and money to the Church
- promises to regularly meet with their fellow Christians in worship.

It is important that the parents realise that they are promising to bring the child up in the Christian faith. This means coming to church on a weekly basis or as regularly as possible with their child.

The congregation also take a vow to welcome the child into the church family and to share with them the Christian faith.

If you feel you are not able to take the vows in good conscience, then it is better to opt out at this time. There is nothing worse than going through a baptism ceremony, and then feeling guilty because you are not living up to your vows. It is also discouraging for the congregation to see a child being baptised and then never see them in church again.

Adult Baptism

Adult baptism is for those who have not been baptised as a child and is a response to your personal faith in Jesus Christ and his ongoing work in your life. As an adult, you will take the vows of membership of the church (see **Appendix 2**).



Arranging a Baptism

Baptism is a great celebration within the church and it is a happy and joyous occasion. If, having read the notes and requirements above and the vows below, you would like to have a baptism for yourself or for your child, please arrange an appointment with the minister, who will give you more information. Contact details are below:



Contact Details:

Minister: Rev James McNay
Tel: 01294 823186
Email: j.mcnay@lycos.com



Appendix 1

Vows for Infant Baptism

In presenting your child for baptism, desiring that he/she may be grafted into Christ as a member of his body, the Church, do you receive the teaching of the Christian faith and confess Jesus as Saviour and Lord?

Parent: I do.

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to teach your child the truths and duties of the Christian faith; and by prayer and example to bring him/her up in the life and worship of the Church?

Parent: I do.

(Congregational vow)
Do you welcome (child); and do you renew your commitment, with God's help, to live the truths and duties of the Christian faith, and by prayer and example share with them the knowledge and love of Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Appendix 2

Vows of Membership

Believing in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and confessing Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, do you promise to join regularly with your fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's day?

Candidate: I do.

Do you promise to be faithful in reading the Bible, and in prayer?

Candidate: I do.

Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents and money for the Church's work in the world?

Candidate: I do.

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to profess your loyalty to Jesus Christ, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?

Candidate: I do.