



Getting baptised



Baptism is the "rite of entry" into the Christian Church - it is the way we confirm and seal our personal decision to follow Christ in a public way. It has been for all generations of Christians a part of what it means to enter into the Family of God. To baptise is the command of Jesus to his followers. See Matthew 28:19.

What happens in baptism?

The Bible is rich in images of what baptism is and what it represents. Just a few of them are referred to here.

Washing away sins.

See Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16.

Dying and rising again to a new life.

See Romans 6:1-5 and Colossians 2:12.

United with Christ and his body.

See Galatians 3:26-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.

Receiving God's Holy Spirit.

See Acts 2:38 again, and Matthew 3:16.

Who should be baptised?

Christian believers who have responded in repentance and faith.

Look at the succession of events in the life of the new believer in these passages: Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38 and 41, 8:12-13

Nothing should delay the baptism of a repentant believer.

Look at: Acts 8:35-38, 10:47-8, 16:31-34

It's not the end.

Baptism is a beginning, not an end. It launches us into the "baptised life", a life in union with Christ. God continues to work in us all that has been claimed at baptism.

How should I be baptised?

The word "baptised" in its original form meant to be drenched or immersed. The only form of baptism we read about in the Bible is baptism by immersion - anything else wouldn't make sense of the word the Bible writers used to describe it.

In Dovedale we baptise believers at their request and on profession of faith because we believe this is the way the Bible says baptism should be practised. We baptise people "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" as Jesus commands us to (Matthew 28:19). We don't refer to "adult baptism" but to "believers' baptism".

To sum up...

Baptism is a means of grace: God giving us what we don't deserve. It is a time and place God has chosen to meet us and work his life in us. By itself, the water only gets us wet, but when baptism is approached in faith, God's Holy Spirit works in the believer to unite us with Christ.

If you've got any questions about anything on this leaflet, or anything else please do get in touch with our minister, Wayne Clarke on 280 7253.

"Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Acts 2:38

"Be baptised and wash your sins away." Acts 22:16

In Christ we who are many form one body... Romans 12:5