

Baptism is a privilege, and it is the parents' responsibility to enable the church to baptise with integrity. Family and friends are warmly welcomed to share in the service of celebration.

Baptismal Service

Parents, God-parents and child meet with minister in vestry before service then escorted in.

Opening Hymn and Prayer

Minister- Meaning and Institution

Parents/Guardians-Promises

Congregation-Promises

Baptism

Prayer and Hymn.

Children to Sunday School and Crèche.

Thinking it through

- Are you ready for the baptism of your child?
- Are you willing to take your place in the family of faith?

If you have any further questions please contact:

Rev. Eric Boyle, Minister

Ph: 01988 402314



Baptism

Wigtown Parish Church
(Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity Number: SC014552

Congratulations

The arrival of a new baby is a significant event and we rejoice with you in the life of this child. It is a natural time to be aware of God's presence and to be full of thankfulness. It may also be a time for asking spiritual questions, seeking spiritual direction and making or renewing spiritual commitment among God's people. Baptism is a significant marker in the Christian faith. This booklet should help you to explore the principles of baptism and the promises you would be making in support of the child. It will also outline some of the practicalities involved in holding a Baptismal Service in Wigtown Parish Church.

Thinking it through..

- How have you been aware of God's presence at this time?
- Why do you wish your child to be baptised?
- What questions do you have about baptism?

The Practicalities of Baptism

Baptism is offered to the children of communicant members and to those who, although not full members, have shown that they want to be actively involved in the life of the Church.

You will be expected to attend church services regularly before taking a decision regarding the baptism.

Obviously there would be no point in saying that you would like to become involved if you come and discover that our services don't suit you.

If neither parent is a member of the Church we will also expect one (but preferably both) to take part in a series of classes which are held for those thinking about what it means to be a Christian and about Church membership.

Those who live outside this Parish and are not members will be asked in the first instance to approach their local Parish minister.

By making this promise, you are committing yourselves not to sending the child to Church, but to bringing the child with you to Church.

These promises are only meaningful if you mean what you are saying. You will be asked to stand and should respond to the questions by saying, 'I do' together.

If you feel unable to make these promises just yet, but would still like to mark your thankfulness—a service of thanksgiving may be held.

Thinking Questions

- What do you think it means to, 'confess Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord?'
- In what ways will you encourage your child to know Jesus and grow up in the life and worship of the Church?

The Principle of Baptism

Baptism is a physical outward sign of an internal spiritual reality; a symbolic act of what happens to us when we commit our lives to Jesus Christ.

Baptism speaks of God's offer of salvation and eternal life for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is open to believers and their children (Acts 2:39). But since a child cannot understand these things we bring the children into the fellowship of the Church and promise to bring them up in the knowledge and way of Jesus Christ.

Baptism is a sign of entry into God's family and a sign that God takes us as we are at any age and challenges us to follow him. Children who have been baptised must fulfil or confirm their baptism when they are old enough to decide for themselves whether or not to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. Not all those who are baptised choose to follow through with this commitment.

Baptism is a public act among God's family who promise also to help in the spiritual development of the child.

There is nothing magical about baptism. It is not an insurance policy or lucky charm for the future.

Baptism is fulfilled when we confirm our faith.

Baptism shows God's love for and acceptance of little children even before they can understand properly. By baptism children are welcomed into the Church of Jesus.

Think about your own faith journey:

- Who helped you grow spiritually?
- What do you think it means to commit your life to Jesus Christ?
- How does God challenge you to follow him?
- What part has baptism played in your life?

The Promises of Baptism

The promises made by parents/guardians at baptism are very important and should not be made lightly. These are made in response to three questions.

1. 'Do you present your child to be baptised earnestly desiring that he/she may be grafted into Christ as a member of his body, the Church?'

It is important that you make this promise because you want it so, not because anyone else thinks it a good idea. You are making the commitment.

2. 'Do you believe in one God- Father, Son and Holy Spirit- and do you confess Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord?'

Making this promise may involve asking tough questions of yourself and further exploration of the Christian faith.

3. '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?'