

Baptism is for people who have become Christians themselves and for the children of Christian parents.

Q What Questions Are Asked?

Baptism is a public declaration that a person trusts in Jesus. For the baptism of children at least one parent must be able to honestly make the following promises before God and before God's people.

Q. Who is your Lord and Saviour?

A. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.

Q. Do you trust him in your whole life?

A. I do.

Q. Do you bring your child to be baptised as a witness of your desire and prayer that they will grow up to be a true follower of Jesus?

A. I do.

Q. Jesus has commanded us to teach those who are baptised in his name. Do you promise to teach the Word of God, the Bible, to this child.

A. I do.

Q. Do you promise to pray for them and to set a godly example for them in your life?

A. I do.

Q. As part of your godly example do you promise to be faithful in your attendance at Church?

A. I do.

Q. Do you promise all these things so that by God's grace your child may become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ in all their life?

A. I do.

Q Where To From Here?

Thanks for taking the time to read this leaflet. It may not have answered all your questions – it might have even raised some new ones for you.

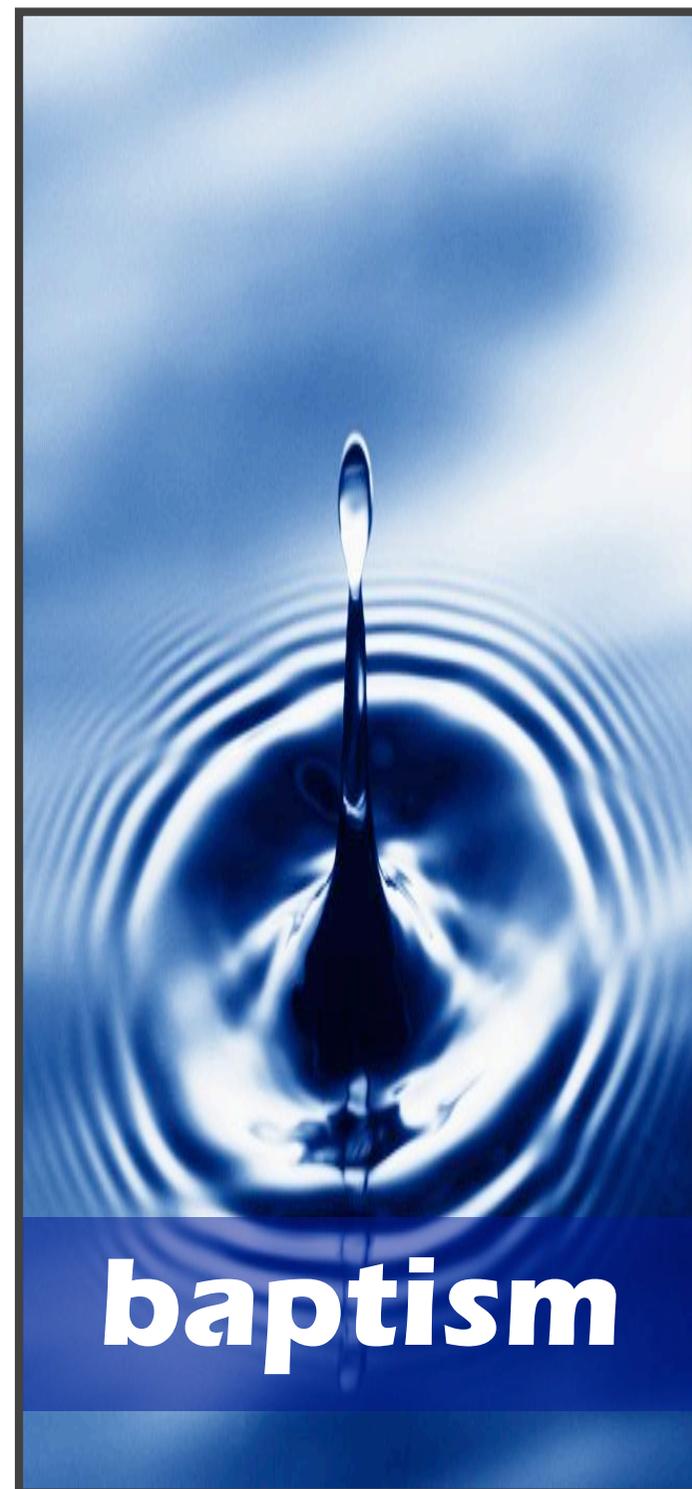
Having thought about what this leaflet says you are now in a good position to decide whether or not baptism is for you.

Either way please contact the church office regarding your decision. If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian before you make a decision please contact the church office.

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Congratulations

Congratulations on the birth of your child! Your enquiry shows that you want the best for them. This leaflet is designed to help you answer some of your questions about **baptism** and to explain to you what baptism is all about.

Q What Is Baptism?

Let's bust some myths about baptism:

- ❑ Baptism is **NOT** a naming ceremony in the way the word *christening* is often used.
- ❑ Baptism is **NOT** a way of registering your child with the church.
- ❑ Baptism is **NOT** a guarantee of Heaven
- ❑ Baptism does **NOT** make a person a Christian
- ❑ Baptism is **NOT** for everybody

- ❑ Baptism **IS** a symbol of Christian commitment to Jesus Christ.
- ❑ Baptism **IS** a sign of being committed to the local church.
- ❑ Baptism **IS** a reminder of the way into Heaven.
- ❑ Baptism **IS** appropriate for Christians and their Children.

In the Bible baptism is always associated with deep spiritual matters. It is a 'public washing'. Just like water washes away dirt,

baptism reminds us that Jesus' death on the cross washes away our sin. Baptism is a symbol that a person has turned from their sin and wants to be forgiven and live a completely new life with Jesus as their Ruler and Saviour.

Q Why Does The Presbyterian Church Baptise?

Because **Jesus** commanded his disciples:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:18-20

Therefore Christians are commanded to:

1. Make Disciples or Followers of Jesus
2. This means baptising them and teaching them to obey everything Jesus said.

The Bible says the promise of forgiveness is for everyone who trusts in Jesus, including their children.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

Q Who Then Should Be Baptised?

The Presbyterian Church will only baptise:

1. Adults who become Christians by trusting in Jesus.
2. The Children of Christian parents, because they are part of God's family too. 1 Corinthians 7:14

Q Who Then Is A Christian?

Being a Christian is not about being moral. It is much more than that.

This is God's world. He made it and us so we are answerable to him. God made **Jesus** the ruler of the world and he has the God given right to control our lives completely. Everyone has rejected Jesus' right to rule over them. This rejection could be expressed in anything from indifference through to being openly hostile towards him. The Bible calls this rejection – Sin.

Christians are people who have stopped rejecting Jesus and have put him in control of their lives. They recognise that their rejection of Jesus deserves God's judgment but Jesus came and took the punishment they deserve in his death on the cross.

A Christian is someone who has **accepted** God's offer of forgiveness and new life.