

THINKING OF GETTING BAPTISED in Tranent Parish Church?



Here's some helpful information for you...

BAPTISM is one of only two 'sacraments' in the Church of Scotland. (A sacrament is an outward sign that God is doing something special on a spiritual level). The other sacrament is Holy Communion.

It is about welcoming someone into God's family and starting a new life in relationship with Christ.

Baptism is a sign that we have 'died' to the old life and have been reborn into a new life, just as Jesus died and came back to life. Christians believe that Jesus lives within us by his Holy Spirit. When Jesus himself was baptised, the Holy Spirit came down on him like a gentle dove: that is why baptism pictures often have a dove on them. By being baptised, we are following the example of Christ. Just as He took away all our wrongdoings (sins) when he died on the cross, so baptism is a sign that our sins have been washed away. In baptism, we celebrate God's free gift of forgiveness and a new start for those who believe in Christ.

Within the Church of Scotland, a person can only be baptised once, but this can happen at any age. Until recent years, infant baptism was the norm, following the example we read about in the Bible (Book of Acts Chapter 16). of whole households - including children - being baptised .

Also, Jesus said "Let the little children come to me", so we give parents the option of bringing their children for baptism and in this way, being welcomed into the church family just as Jesus Himself welcomed little ones.

Baptism is about relationship: we baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - the perfect relationship of love. That love underpins the vows that are taken at baptism. In the case of a child, the parents normally take the vows and at least one parent must be baptised themselves and be on the membership roll of the church. The reason for this is that baptism is just the start of a journey: faith needs to be nurtured within a church family, so parents are asked to show commitment in terms of being involved in the church.

VOWS: Parents of a child being baptised or adults who are being baptised themselves are asked to confess their faith during a Sunday service by answering a question such as: "Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you confess Christ as your Saviour and Lord?"

In addition, parents are asked: "Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to teach your children the truths, duties and joys of the Christian faith and by prayer & example, bring them up in the life & worship of the church?"

If there are Godparents, they may wish to make a simple vow too.

If parents feel that they can't answer "I do" to these questions in good faith, they may wish to consider asking the Minister to perform a simple blessing for their child, rather than the sacrament of baptism. We always advise people considering baptism to come along to a few church services and see how you feel about being part of the church family: after all, baptism is about being welcomed into that Christian community so it makes sense to explore what that will be like.

MUSIC at a baptism service:

Think about whether you have a favourite hymn or piece of music you would like to use during the service of baptism and why it would be meaningful for you. Let the Minister know and she will try to incorporate your choice into the service.

BLESSING OF A BABY:

A blessing does not replace baptism, which is a sacrament. If a baby receives a blessing, they could still choose to be baptised later in life. A short blessing ceremony may be offered to parents who have carefully considered baptism and have decided that they are not ready to state their beliefs or make any commitment. In the first instance, parents should contact Erica, the Minister, to have an informal chat about what they desire for their child.

See also: http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/life_events

INVOLVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Baptism is a very important step, and a big celebration for the whole church, so please do invite all your family, friends and neighbours to share in the joy!

Tranent Parish Church always supply a large, personalised cake for the whole congregation to share, along with tea and coffee, after the service in the gathering area.



FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT THE MINISTER:

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