

ON THE DAY OF BAPTISM

Please bring your child's full birth certificate to the Vestry about 10 minutes before the service starts. You are invited to leave the child with their 'godparents' in the crèche.

THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM

After the sermon the congregation will sing a Baptismal Hymn during which the Church Officer will bring the 'godparents' and the child into the Church.

A short introduction to the Service will be read out to remind us what Baptism is about. After the questions have been put to the parents, the father should present the child to the minister who will then baptize him/her. The child is then handed over to an Elder or a member of the congregation who will present the child to the 'family' into which they have been adopted.

The minister will then remind the parents of their responsibility to bring their child up in the Faith. A Certificate of Baptism will be presented. The Service will conclude with a Prayer and a Hymn. The birth certificate can be collected from the vestry after the Service.

RESPONSE OF THE BAPTIZED

In the Service of Baptism the child is described as being 'engaged to be the lord's'. In other words there is nothing that suggests that a child who is baptized is already a Christian. The child must make his/her own response. To help with this there is a Divine and human side.

God has reached out His grace to your child and invited him or her to be His child.

The responsibility for ensuring the human side of teaching and encouraging the child rests with the parents, the Church and the child.

PARENTS: They promise to bring up the child in the ways of Christ and His Church. This can only be done effectively where parents are practicing Christians. If they are not, the parents are in effect saying 'I want this for you but not for myself'.

CHURCH: The Church will take every possible opportunity to encourage your child to grow into Christ by providing the following:

- Your child's name is added to the CRADLE ROLL and contact will be made through birthday cards until the child is of an age to start Sunday School, usually about 3-4 years.
- A CRECHE is offered each Sunday morning in the Vestry for small children and babies. There is always a lady on duty at the crèche to take care of children.
- Your ELDER is there to encourage and help you and your child, and will do this by regular visits to your home.
- ORGANISATIONS are provided for all ages in the Church from Parents and Toddlers, Playgroup, Sunday School and Bible Class etc.
- The Minister is always available and can be contacted at the Manse. The Minister will also visit the Church Playgroup and Rising Fives, Nursery Class, both Primary Schools and the Academy.

THE CHILD: There has to be a response to what God has done. God's greatest desire is that your child will enjoy 'eternal life'. This is only possible when, after accepting what Jesus Christ has done for us to remove our sins and set us right with God, we invite Him to be Lord of our lives. It is our prayer that every Baptized child will be able to do this.

For more information and to arrange Baptism please contact your District Elder or the Minister.



Kemnay Parish
Church of Scotland

INFANT BAPTISM



'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, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'

(Matthew chapter 28 verse 19)

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

If you were to ask that question in a room full of people you would probably get as many answers as there are people. For some, Baptism is giving a child a name or recognising that child as a person. For others, it is something that always been done in their family, it is 'traditional'. None of these answers goes anywhere near to what the Bible teaches about Baptism. This leaflet aims to explain what Baptism is and what happens at the Service of Baptism.



PICTURES OF BAPTISM

After Jesus' death and resurrection He met with his disciples and commanded them to go out and make disciples, to Baptize them, and to teach them all he had commanded them. This is what the Church still does today.

The Church of Scotland practices both Adult or Believer's Baptism and Infant Baptism. If you have not yet made a public profession of your Faith, been Baptized, and become a member of the Church, please ask the Minister for more information. There is a separate leaflet for Adult Baptism and Church Membership.

To help us understand what Baptism is, the Bible gives us a number of pictures such as being 'washed clean from our sins' (1 Corinthians Chapter 6 Verse 11) and of 'dying and being raised to life' (Romans Chapter 6 Verse 3-4).

WHO IS BAPTISM FOR?

There was a time when almost everyone in the Parish was a member of the Church and when parents asked for Baptism, it was simply arranged after instruction and preparation. This is no longer the case. Many parents are not members of the Church and wonder why we cannot simply arrange the Baptism of their children. They feel they have a right to have their child Baptized and the Church is denying this right.

But no one has the right to Baptism, just as no one has the right to the salvation of God. It has nothing to do with our rights, but God's undeserved kindness or His grace.

Baptism does not do something for a child, rather it demonstrates the grace of God and asks parents by their own life, example, and teaching of their child to bring this grace into operation. This is so the child may, in their own time, make their response to Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Saviour and Lord.

The practice of the Church and the teaching of the Bible is that Baptism is for believers and their children, and this is still the case. A lot has changed in society. The result is many parents are denying their children Baptism because they are not believers i.e. they have not accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and do not belong to His people, the Church.

WHERE DOES BAPTISM TAKE PLACE?

One of the pictures the Bible gives us of Baptism is that of a child being grafted into Christ's body the Church. The right and proper place then is in the presence of Christ's body, the local congregation. When children are Baptized, members of the congregation have a part to play. They are asked to show all of the children in our fellowship a good example by their worship, witness and work, and to support the parents in the spiritual nurturing of their children.

QUESTIONS PUT TO PARENTS

During the Service of Baptism the following questions are asked:

1) Do you present your child to be Baptized, earnestly desiring that he/she might be grafted into Christ as a member of His body the Church?

Here parents are asked if their wish is for their child to become a Christian i.e. to become one with Christ, by accepting Him as their own Saviour and Lord, and then to become one of His people as a member of His Church.

2) Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Here parents are asked to state that they do believe in God and they accept Jesus Christ as their own Lord and Saviour. If parents are able to state this it follows that they themselves should be ready to become a member of Christ's Body the church.

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?

The responsibility for leading a child to Christ is in the hands of the parents and they can only do that by their own example and the help of God.

Where there is one parent who is not a member of the Church they will be asked to support their husband or wife in the promises they have made.



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