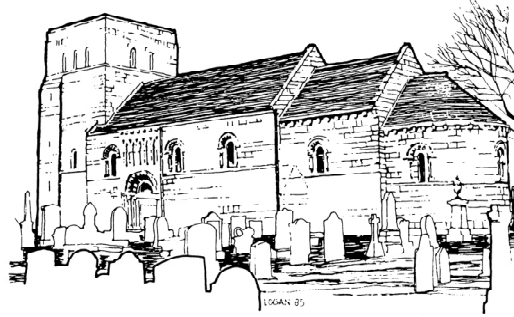


DALMENY KIRK **HOLY BAPTISM**



DALMENY KIRK

Jesus said:
“Let the children come to me;
do not try to stop them;
for the kingdom of God
belongs to such as these.”

Baptism and the Church.

In this Sacrament, believers and their children are received by name into the Church and sealed as Members of the Body of Christ. Baptism and Church Membership are thus closely related.

If you are interested in having a child baptized, the first thing to do is to see one of the Ministers. Provided one or other of the parents is able to take the baptismal vows, arrangements can be made and a mutually convenient date will be set. The minister will arrange to meet with you to discuss the significance of the Baptism and to confirm the arrangements.

The Practice of Baptism:

Where to go?

The father and other members of the family attend the 10.00 a.m. Service, sitting anywhere in the church for the first part of the service. If possible with the father at the end of a row.

The mother, the child and the friend to carry the baby should arrive for 10.20. Come into the Church Hall and wait in the lounge. An elder will look after them there.

What happens?

After the offering and prayer of dedication a baptismal hymn will be sung. During this hymn, the baptismal parties will be led by an elder up the pulpit aisle to the front of the Church. The father should also come forward and stand at his wife's left, the "godmother" being on her right with the child on her left arm.

After the hymn has been sung, the baptismal parties should remain standing while the meaning of Baptism is explained. The minister then asks the parents the following questions:-

Minister:

“Do you present your child to be baptised, earnestly desiring that he may be grafted into Christ as a member of his body, the Church?”

Parents' Answer:

“I do.”

Minister:

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

Parents' Answer:

“I do.”

Minister:

Do you promise depending on the grace of God to teach your child the truth and duties of the Christian faith; and by prayer and example bring him/her/your child up in the life and worship of the Church?”

Parents' Answer:

“I do.”

After the Vows are taken, there is a short prayer. The minister will then invite the parents to present the child to the minister. It is suggested that the “godmother” passes the child to the father who then presents the child to the minister. The minister prefers to receive the baby on his left arm. The minister will then name the baby and baptize with a little water on the forehead.

After the Baptism the baby is generally handed to the mother.

After declaring that the child has been baptized, the minister asks the Congregation:

“Do you promise to be faithful to your calling as members of the Church of Christ, so that (child's/children's first name) throughout his/her life may grow up in the knowledge and love of Christ?”

Congregation's Answer:

“We do”

The Service concludes with a final singing and the Benediction.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

After the service:

After the service your guests can remain in the in the Church while the Baptism is entered into the Cradle Roll and the minister records that the Baptism has taken place on the Birth Certificate.

Photographs and Video:

The congregation asks that photographs and video should not be taken during the actual service. However after the formalities have been completed the family may wish to pose by the font so that photographs can be taken and video cameras used.

Birth Certificate:

Remember to bring the Birth Certificate.

Other Children among your guests:

Our 10.00 am service, including baptism, may last about an hour; too long for most young children.

If any of your guests have young children, it is suggested that one of their parents bring them to the Church Hall at 10.20 o'clock. They can then slip into the Church while the offering is taken, which is prior to the actual baptism. A duty elder will advise on the correct time to go into the church.

These comments do not refer to big brothers or sisters of a baby being baptised. They should be brought with the baby to the church hall at 10.20 am, and then come to the front with the mother and godmother, and so be part of the family while the baptism takes place.