

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH
HOLY BAPTISM at the 10:00 Family Service



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 a 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 whole family should come into the Church before the start of the 10 a.m. service, sitting anywhere in the downstairs of the church.

What happens?

During the hymn which follows the prayer of dedication, the baptismal party should come to the front of the Church. The father should stand at his wife's right, the "godmother" being on her left with the child on her left arm.

After the hymn has been sung the baptismal party 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 bring the child forward. The friend passes the child to the father who comes forward with his wife and presents the child to the Minister, who prefers to receive the baby on his left arm. The minister will then christen the baby with the chosen names 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 Grace.

After the service the family will normally remain 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.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

What if the baby cries?

Don't worry if your baby cries – it's supposed to be lucky!

Unwell?

Should the child be unwell, let the Minister know and he will arrange another date for the Baptism.

Birth Certificate:

Remember to bring the Birth Certificate.

Other Children among your guests.

Children are made welcome at the Family Service, so please encourage your guests to bring children. Should a child get very upset during the service, the normal practice is for a parent to slip out with the child, until he or she calms down.

Photographs:

The congregation asks that photographs should not be taken during the actual service. However, photographs can be taken in the Church after the Service is over.

Video:

The Kirk Session has agreed that a video may be made of a baptism, but only one camera per family, and with the video taken from the gallery.