

WHAT DOES THE SERVICE LOOK LIKE?



THE BAPTISM SERVICE

1) The Service

The form of the service is a carefully crafted response of the whole faith community to God's love and grace in Jesus together with its understanding of what it is to be the people of God.

The Greeting:

The greeting is significantly a welcome into the Family of God. It crosses all the divides that we regard as important. It reminds us that our identity is rooted in Christ.

The Introduction:

This simply underlines what we have stressed so often. It is all about God's undeserved love and what that has won for us by the loving obedience of Jesus on the cross.

Support for the child:

Without support, teaching and training, no child will be able to live out the promised baptismal vows in a way that will lead to Confirmation.

2) The Renunciation

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Implications:

things to repent of; matters to be put right; apologies to be made – so we can make these vows to God in good faith

3) The Blessing of the Water

(See Parents' Booklet)

4) The Allegiance

It is a good idea to explore the things that the parents want this to mean in their child's life.

Look at how God's goodness and love could be reflected in all sorts of everyday situations and issues. How in other words, we can live out our Christian witness to Jesus without having to talk about it the whole time (in a world in which people so often use words insincerely).

5) The Baptism

Here God is longing to engage you because God knows exactly what God is doing. Are we equally ready?

**"God as
Community
in unity"**

6) And So?

Baptism cost God the cross.

There is a cost of baptism to you.

Is this what you want?

Are you prepared to commit yourself to this?