

WHAT HAPPENS PRACTICALLY?

We usually baptise people at a beach, or a pool or river, but it can be anywhere where there is enough water. It is often a public place, but we also create a sense of privacy around what we are doing, rather than making the baptism a spectacle. You are publicly being baptised in the sight of your family friends and church members.

1. You will have a chance to say why you have decided to follow Jesus, and be baptised. (Don't worry about speaking in front of a bunch of people – they will be your friends and family – people who love you) (But please don't feel like you have to say much or anything – it is up to you). Often people will pray for you then.

2. We go into the water to around waist height. (wear clothes that aren't going to be see-through when wet! Make sure you have something to change into afterwards.)

3. The person baptising you will ask you 3 questions like these:

Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

Do you turn away from all your sinful past and renounce all the works of the devil in your life?

Are you now committing your life to following, loving and serving Him for the rest of your life

4. They (usually a person on either side of you – and you choose who you would like to do the baptising) will lower you backwards into the water until you are completely submerged. (Symbolising death and burial).

Then they will immediately bring you up out of the water (symbolising new resurrection life). As they do this they will say something like "On the confession of your faith, and your desire to follow Jesus, we baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It will seem to go very fast - but keep in mind what you want to leave in the water, and what you want to receive from God as you come out of the water.

5. Often they will spend a short time praying for you, and they and others gathered there may speak some scriptures that are for you, or prophecies for your life..

6. Then you get to go and get dry and warm and hug lots of people!!

urban
vineyard

Baptism



WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

Baptism is common in most world religions as a symbolic act of leaving one thing and entering another. On the surface it seems a rather bizarre thing to do. To get into some water, put someone under the water and then bring them up, and everyone gets excited!! But it is a powerful life-changing experience. It is not salvation - it is your response to being saved. It is baptism into Jesus' Church, not any particular local church or denomination.

1. PUBLIC DECLARATION OF YOUR COMMITTED LOVE OF JESUS

It is a symbolic picture of what happened when you received Jesus' offer of salvation and relationship.

Baptism is a bit like the wedding ceremony – you have already given your heart to your fiancé, and they have given their heart to you, but the wedding ceremony is so important.

Receiving Jesus is entering into an exclusive and committed relationship.

Baptism is the public identification of your relationship with Jesus.

We practice believer's baptism, so a person must be old enough to know what they are choosing. It is an act that follows becoming a follower of Christ

2. ACT OF OBEDIENCE

Following in Jesus's example, and the directive of the Bible – Go and be baptised

All believers and followers of Jesus are commanded to be baptised.

Mt 28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Mk 16:16 Anyone who believes and is baptised will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

3. ONE OF THE 2 ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

Communion and baptism are the only 2 sacraments, or ordinances, to us to practice. It is an identification with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

Rom 6.1-9 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, a that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

4. ACT OF FAITH

Col 2.11-12 When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptised. And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Take the old habits, controlling things, things you are ashamed of, sin, etc into the water and bury them forever.

Ask God for the things you want to see in your new life.

As a ceremonial thing baptism has value – but it's greatest power is in the faith you attach to it. It is an act of faith, and of connection to the whole Church **Eph 4.3-5**

You will still face temptations – but you are burying the old life and its ways. When temptation comes to you, you need to remind yourself that the person who used to respond was buried on this day of your baptism.

5. GIFT OF A CLEAN CONSCIENCE

We all long for a clean fresh start when we become aware of what we have done wrong. Baptism provides a brand new start - we leave the old "me" in the water.

1 Pe 3:20-21 And this (Noah and family saved through ark) is a picture of baptism, which now saves you by the power of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Baptism is not a removal of dirt from your body; it is an appeal to God from a clean conscience.