

A public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ.

To put your faith in someone is say that you wholeheartedly trust them.

On the day of Pentecost, recorded in the book of Acts in the Bible, a remarkable thing happened. The Holy Spirit had been poured out on a group of believers, who spilled out into the streets and began speaking in different languages.

On that day people from many nations were present and heard the gospel in their native languages. The Apostle Peter gave a speech and many in the crowd felt a conviction to make a response.

As a result, 3000 people made a public declaration of faith, **they firmly nailed their colours to the mast**, and were baptised.

In being baptised you are making a public declaration that you trust Jesus, in every aspect of your life, and stating your desire to follow him wherever he may lead you.

A public sign of starting a new life with Jesus

In his letter to the Christians at Rome, the Apostle Paul writes:

"... all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 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. (Romans 6:3-4)

Baptism is symbolic of being born again to a new life. Just as Jesus died, we too die to our old selves and our old way of life. And just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we too are raised to live a new life.

Going under the water is symbolic of being buried and, coming up again, symbolic of resurrection!

Why should I be baptised?

- Because Jesus was baptised and I want to follow his example.
- Because I am serious about being a follower of Jesus.
- Because I want to make a public declaration of my faith.
- Because I want to publically declare that I have been forgiven.
- Because I want to declare that I have died to my old way of life and I want to live a new life with Jesus.

If this is you, then come and have a chat with someone from the leadership team. We would love to have a talk with you!



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Thrapston baptist church



I'm interested in being baptised

*Knowing Jesus,
Making Jesus Known*

What's it all about?

As a Baptist Church, we practice what's called 'Believers Baptism' rather than 'Adult Baptism'.

The issue is not about how old, or young, you are, but about whether you have made a choice to follow Jesus, and you understand what it means to be a Christian* - someone who is a follower of Jesus.

The Greek word 'Bapto', from which we get the word 'Baptism', means to dip, to submerge. To baptise means to plunge or completely swamp. So our practice is to baptise people by full immersion, by that we mean they go fully under water - but only for a moment!

Whilst full immersion is our normal practice, there are exceptions of course. This may be for health reasons or that you have joined us from a different tradition and feel the validity of the baptism you have already received, perhaps in infancy. Do have a chat with us.

Having said all the above, what is important is the step of obedience and commitment to Christ, that people affirm at their baptism, rather than the amount of water!

We do not baptise infants, but instead offer a dedication or thanksgiving service, which can be just as meaningful, but normally concerns promises that parents make on behalf of their children.

* [If you are not a Christian yet and would like to have more information about becoming one, then please have a chat with any of the leadership team or have a chat with a Christian whom you trust.]

Are there any prerequisites to being baptised?

The word 'Gospel' means 'Good News' and it concerns three fundamental things that Jesus has done:

1. He died for our sins. We all know deep down that there is a flaw in our humanity. This flaw alienates us from a Holy God. Jesus set the record straight, by providing forgiveness for our sins and restoring our relationship with a Holy God who loves us intensely.
2. He rose again on the third day. The Easter story recounts a significant event in history. Jesus rising from the dead. This 'resurrection' was a victory over death itself. Jesus not only rose from the dead, but defeated death itself. This is indeed great news!
3. One day he will return. This is a promise that Jesus made repeatedly. There will be a time when Jesus will return. However, this time it won't be as a baby as he did before; not in obscurity but very publically. The Bible tells us that 'every eye will see him.' When he does so, he will take all those who have chosen, by their free will to follow him, to be with him for eternity. This is also great news.

So a Christian is someone who has responded to these three fundamental truths. This is the only prerequisite for baptism!

Why do we baptise people?

Jesus was baptised

There are a number of reasons why it is important that we take the issue of baptism seriously. Firstly, Jesus was baptised, and by doing so he set the example for all who would follow him. Although becoming a Christian is a private affair, in that it begins with a personal decision, baptism is a public declaration of our decision and the intention to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

A commandment to his followers

We baptise because Jesus commanded his followers to baptise. In the gospel of Matthew Jesus said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Public sign of being forgiven

In the book of Acts, the Apostle Peter says, *"Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."*

Repentance simply means to turn away from our old life and to turn towards God. In doing so, we admit we have sinned, that we need his forgiveness, and that we need someone to save us - that is Jesus! This we have already done in becoming a Christian. When we are baptised we are declaring this to be the truth that we have embraced.