

Reflection on the Baptism of Christ

As we consider the baptism of Christ, I suggest that we also reflect upon our practise of baptism within this church. Here is quiz for you! I am assuming 'normal' times rather than current restrictions.

What would your response be if a neighbour asked:

Your website talks about baptism, but why can't I have my child christened?

What is the meaning of baptism?

Is it alright to have ten Godparents? Or none?

What fee does the church charge for baptism?

Can I have my child baptised on a Saturday afternoon? Or a Monday evening?

Can I have my child baptised straight away?

What promises do I have to make? Will you check that I am keeping them?

What happens at a baptism?

Why do Christians say that baptism is important?

Can I have my child baptised at any church I choose?

My partner and I are not married, can we have our child baptised?

Can I be baptised in a swimming pool or the sea?

Can you have baptism without water?

What is your experience of baptism?

Does your church enjoy baptising people?

Rev Sarah

Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 6 December to the end of January:

Meeting ID: 894 0983 2572

Passcode: 061920

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 17.01.2021 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS

OT 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)

NT Revelation 5: 1-10

Gospel John 1: 43-51



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 10th January 2021

The Baptism of Christ

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

Churches are able to remain open for public worship and private prayer during this **lockdown**, and we intend to continue our opening for this week, with a review on Friday. There is a balance to be had between spiritual care, a public witness of the faith, and the risk to health. We will keep you posted.

At this time of year we have often joined our Methodist friends for the **Covenant Service**. This is not happening at present, so here instead is the Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering[=patient endurance]; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing: I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen. *Fr David*



Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Genesis 1: 1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Acts 10: 1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptised?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptised with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in

tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Christmas Lights One suggestion for brightening our spirits and those of others is that we leave up our lights until Candlemas, through the early evening darkness and the darkness of this new lockdown.

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter Update for January 2021 We are delighted that so many members of the congregation are knitting blanket squares. This comforting activity is resulting in three more large blankets to add to the five already being enjoyed at Parkland House. Eight inch squares are the best – any wool, any colour, in garter stitch.

Nattering is on Thursdays via Zoom from 11.15am to 11.55am, thanks to Vanessa for setting this up for us, whilst we aren't able to meet in person. All information from Jenny on 01392 498725

House Group. Starts again on Tuesday, 12th January. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Standing Committee will meet via Zoom on Wednesday 13th January, time to be confirmed.

PCC will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, 27th January at 7.30pm

