



# Thanksgiving and Baptism Services



This leaflet is designed to be a guide to parents who want to acknowledge their new born child as a gift of God and outlines the two ceremonies that take place in Dunfermline East Parish Church. We hope that it will help you and your family decide which ceremony would be most appropriate for you and your child.

Please contact us if you'd like to talk further about either of the ceremonies or if you would like to arrange a Baptism or Thanksgiving.

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## SERVICE OF BAPTISM

This service is designed for those who are members of the church and actively committed as Christians - participating in the church's life and worship and following Jesus Christ in their every day lives.

It is for those who wish and are able

- to testify their faith in God and their personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- to continue their commitment to being active within the life of the church
- to bring their child up as part of the church family teaching them about the Christian faith so that they too might grow up to follow Jesus Christ.

Baptisms (sometimes known as Christenings) normally take place during our Sunday morning service.

The Promises that are made are as follows:

*Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?*

*I/WE DO*

*Do you promise to teach your child the truths and duties of the Christian faith and bring him/her up in the life and worship of the church?*

*I/WE DO*

*Will you by prayer and example teach him/her what it means to be a Christian and do all within your power to ensure s/he grows up to follow Jesus Christ?*

*I/WE WILL*

The child is then presented to the minister and baptised in the presence of the congregation with the words:

*.....(Names of child) I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy spirit rest upon you and remain with you now and always.*

## SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

This service is designed for those who are not actively committed Christians but who wish:

- to acknowledge God's goodness to them
- to ask for God's blessing upon their child
- to commit themselves to being loving and responsible parents in the context of the Church's worship and with the encouragement of the local church

A thanksgiving service/ceremony can be held during the regular Sunday service or at another time. The ceremony may also take place at another venue, by arrangement with the minister, such as in the family home or at a hotel.

The child is presented to the Minister and given thanks for in the presence of the congregation with the following words and a prayer:

*.....(Names of child) we rejoice in your birth, and in the name of the church of Jesus Christ declare that God the Father loves you, God the Son died on the cross for you and pray that one day the Spirit will lead you to know Him for yourself.*