

The minister will invite the congregation to say:

Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and continue his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your life.

The Giving of a Lighted Candle

The parents and children who have been baptised are asked to come forward and a lighted candle is given to each child. The minister says,

Receive this light...this is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

The congregation will be invited to respond:

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father

The Welcome

Representing the whole Church we welcome the newly baptized

Minister: God has received you by baptism into his Church...

All say: **We welcome you into the Lord's family.**

We are members together of the Body of Christ:

We are children of the same heavenly Father:

We are inheritors together of the Kingdom of God.

We welcome you.

In our church we welcome to baptism all those who wish to profess membership of Christ's church. As the water is poured, baptism becomes a wonderful sign of God's grace and forgiveness of our sin. Baptism reminds us of our inclusion in God's promises as we are all his children. This baptism is recognized across many Christian denominations. **In God's name we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

The Catholic Church in Ireland, The Church of England, The Church of Ireland, The Church of Scotland, The Church of Wales, The Congregational Federation, The Congregational Union of Scotland, The Episcopal Church in Scotland, The Independent Methodist Churches, The Lutheran Council of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, The Methodist Church in Ireland, The Moravian Church, The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, The Presbyterian Church of Wales, The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, The Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, The Union of Welsh Independents, The United Free Church of Scotland, The United Reformed Church, The Wesleyan Reform Union.



**Putnoe Heights
Church**



The Church of England and the Methodist Church in Partnership

An Order of Service for Baptism

A background image showing blue water ripples on a light blue surface, centered under the title.

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them everything
I have commanded you.**

Matthew Chapter 28 Verse 20

Introduction

We bring *these children* whom God has entrusted to us and claim for *them* all that Christ has won for us. Christ loves *them* and is ready to receive *them* with the arms of his mercy and to give *them* the blessing of eternal life. Children are brought to be baptized with water as a sign of the new life in Christ and to be made members of God's family the Church.

The Water is Blessed

Gracious God, we thank you for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit, for your sustaining, cleansing and life-giving power. Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation and you led your people to freedom through a parted sea. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus. He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan and anointed with the Holy Spirit. He passed through the deep waters of death and lives for evermore. He offers living water and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The minister extends their hand over the water

Pour our your Holy Spirit, that those who are baptized in this water may die to sin, be raised with Christ and be born to new life in the family of your Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Promises of the Church

Congregation, please stand

Members of the Body of Christ, who are now in his name to receive *these children*, will you so maintain the common life of worship and service that *they* and all children in this church may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

With God's help, we will

Congregation say

Heavenly Father, in your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. Surround

***these children* with your love; protect *them* from evil; fill *them* with your Holy Spirit and receive *them* into the family of your church; that *they* may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of your love. Amen.**

The Parents and Godparents Make Promises

*Parents and godparents of the children will be invited to gather around the font. Please bring with you your service sheets.
The minister says to the parents and godparents*

Those who bring children to be baptized must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. It is your duty to bring up this child to fight against evil and to follow Christ. Therefore I ask these questions which you must answer for yourselves and for this child.

Minister	Do you turn to Christ?
Parents and godparents	I turn to Christ
	Do you repent of your sins?
	I repent of my sins
	Do you renounce evil?
	I renounce evil

The minister says to the parents:

Do you then present your child to be baptized?

Parents please respond

We do

The minister takes the child to be baptised and says:

(Name)	I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. I sign with the cross, the sign of Christ.
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Do not be ashamed to confess
the faith of Christ crucified.