

Trinity Methodist Church - Building a Christian community where non-Christian and nominally Christian people are becoming deeply committed disciples of Jesus Christ

Getting Baptised In Church Information Pack

We are delighted that you are thinking about Trinity Methodist Church Hexham for the Baptism of your child. However, the worship at Trinity is rather different from many churches, so you probably need to come to worship on a Sunday morning at 10:30 to make sure we really are for you.

As Christians, we all believe that our relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important thing in our lives. Through worship on a Sunday, Bible Study and prayer, we endeavour to be more like Him day by day. We believe children should be an integral part of this learning too.

Each of us was born with the ability to know God, just as we are born with the ability to pick up language. We grow in both in the same way - by repeated exposure from the earliest years. As we speak to babies, and as babies hear conversations all around them, they gradually learn to pick up English. As we bring babies to church, and as babies hear church going on around them, they pick up Christianity. This continues throughout their years of childhood.

Clearly there is the need for formal lessons later on, but Christianity is something that we experience first, and are taught later. The earlier we can start, the better.

Trinity has everything in place for a great experience for babies, toddlers, children and teenagers. We have a child-friendly building, with new-mothers' room (including rocking-chair), crèche, Sunday Club and wonderful facilities. The children love coming, make friends and have a great time. They also learn values that will last a lifetime. Come and join the fun on a Sunday morning at 10:30am.

Baptismal Preparation

As you are seeking God's blessing for your child, I am sure you will want to start the journey towards the Baptism in the right way. We prepare parent(s) or guardian(s) for the promises they will have to make, through courses, either "Alpha" or "Christianity Explored". These are wonderful informal opportunities to share together over a meal and learn all about Christianity over a series of sessions. For those who are already Church Members, then these courses can be an excellent "refresher".

Hexham Community Church will be starting Alpha in September 2010.

If you don't live in Hexham, don't worry as there are courses running all over the country (indeed all over the world) and we will be delighted to put you in touch with a course near to you.

There is no charge for either Christianity Explored or the Alpha Course (although they may ask for a donation for food) and there is no charge for the Baptism.

The Service

The Baptism service is part of the normal 10:30 morning act of worship, which lasts about an hour. I will invite the parent(s), Godparent(s) and child to come to the front and ask three questions to the parent(s) and one question to the Godparent(s). The response in each case is **With God's help we will.**

1. Will you love *these your children* committing *yourselves* to care for them in body, mind and spirit?
2. Will you therefore ensure that *they are* nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community? (which means that you are promising to bring them to church each week)
3. Will you set before *them* a Christian example, that through your prayers, words and deeds *they* may learn the way of Christ?"

And to the Godparents:

"Will you, help *these parents*, to nurture *their children* in the Christian faith?"

I will ask the Christian name and then baptize your child, and after that you can sit down!

Videos are welcome as are photographs, but no flash photography during the service please.

What Happens Next?

To arrange a Baptism, come and see me at church on a Sunday (10:30am), and I will be glad to arrange an appointment to come round and share with you the information on Christianity Explored and the Alpha Course.

I will also need some information:

The full name, address and date of birth of the child:

The full names of the parent(s) or guardian(s);

The names of the godparent(s) (if any). Godparents must have been baptised themselves.

If you want anything special in the service, then we will do our best to oblige. You can choose a hymn and a reading, but let me know when I come round to see you - please don't leave it until 10 minutes before the service - it makes it difficult for our musicians!

Baptisms take place during the morning services.

We look forward to meeting you.

Rev David E Flavell
Trinity Methodist Church
Beaumont Street
Hexham
NE46 3LS
01434 601055
david@hexhamtrinity.com
<http://www.hexhamtrinity.com>
<http://www.rejesus.co.uk>

Who is Jesus?

Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago into an ordinary family. No one knows the exact date of his birth, or the exact place of his birth, except that it was somewhere in Bethlehem, a small town even today.

Jesus lived, taught and died in the small country of Israel. He taught ordinary people about the coming of the Kingdom of God, not an earthly Kingdom, but a Kingdom of peace, that people could find in their own lives. He healed the sick, forgave those who needed to be forgiven, and lived with the outcasts of society. Those who were rich and powerful did not like this, because He spoke with authority, and made their religious leaders look foolish.

They decided to have Him killed, and rushed Him through a kangaroo court so that nobody could stop them. The best moral system and legal system that humanity had yet produced was responsible for His death. They nailed Him to a tree to warn others not to mock the authorities. Nobody knows exactly where He was crucified, but it was somewhere just outside the old city of Jerusalem.

The difference between Jesus and any other man is that God raised Jesus from the dead. Even though the world thought they had got rid of Him, they hadn't. No individual has changed history more than Jesus, the Son of God.

Christians believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus is of vital importance. Now Jesus has risen from the dead, and conquered death, we too can live forever. We can be forgiven the times we have fallen short of God's standards. God is perfect, so we all fall short of His standards many times in our lives. We need forgiveness. How can we be forgiven? What do we have to do to be reconciled with God? Jesus said that He came into our world not to be our judge, but to be our Saviour. He came not to condemn us for our failings, but to help us overcome them. Christians believe that *whatever* we have done, *whoever* we are, *wherever* we have been, we can be forgiven. It doesn't cost money, it doesn't need good works, *all* we have to do is put our trust in Jesus, and believe in Him.

If Christianity is true, it is of world-shattering importance. If it is false it is of no importance at all. What Christianity can never be is moderately important.

One of the key hallmarks of a true Christian is a sense of gratitude to God, a thankfulness for his love and forgiveness. Baptism as a child makes no difference - if you are old enough to have children, you are old enough to make a decision for yourself. Having parents who go to church makes no difference, Christianity is not hereditary. Being born into a Christian family does not make you a Christian, just as being born in a stable doesn't make you a horse!

We all fail and few Christians are perfect, but if you want to try and follow Jesus, then that is enough. God accepts all those who sincerely turn to Him, whatever they have done in the past. Jesus Christ still changes people's lives today. And He can change yours. Come to Trinity and find out.