

[FOR MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THE CATHEDRAL]



Thank you for your approach regarding a baptism for your child. The minister will come to see you in due course. However, below is a reminder of our practice in the Cathedral.

#### THE CEREMONY

Baptisms now take place near the start of the service. Thus you should come to the sacristy by 10.40am, so we can enter your child's details in the register. (Don't forget to bring the birth certificate!) The minister will go and start the service, then during the baptismal hymn, the beadle will lead you and the godparents, if you have any, to the front of the congregation.

#### THE PREAMBLE

The minister explains how baptism is a seal of what has already taken place, namely that the child belongs to the church through the active involvement of the parent(s) in its life and worship.

#### THE PROMISES

The parent(s) are then asked to affirm their commitment in the following vows:

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

[I do]

*In presenting your child for baptism, do you promise, God helping you, to teach him/her the truths and duties of the Christian faith, and by prayer and example to bring him/her up in the life and worship of the church?*

[I do]

#### THE BAPTISM

After dedicating the water, the minister will nod to whoever is presenting the child, usually the father, and as the father hands the

baby over, the minister will say: "You name your child?" The father answers with the baby's full name. The minister then baptises the child using the Christian names, then hands him/her back, usually to the mother.

There is then a prayer, presentation of baptismal certificate, and the start of the remainder of the baptismal hymn, during which the beadle leads the family out to the nave.

#### WHAT DO I DO NOW?

You can make an initial contact by sending an email to Dr. Robin Stevenson at [robstevenson@doctors.org.uk](mailto:robstevenson@doctors.org.uk) or by phoning him at 01360 770308 saying whether you'd like to discuss a blessing or baptism. Or, feel free to put a note in collection plate asking the minister to call.

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