

A dynamic splash of clear blue water against a light blue gradient background. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a series of droplets and a large, flowing splash that curves from the bottom left towards the center. The lighting highlights the texture and movement of the water.

# WATER BAPTISM

BAPTISM

EXCEL  
CHURCH



# WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

The word “Baptism” in the original Greek language is “baptisma” or “baptizo”. It means to fully immerse or to submerge. If someone is baptised, they are completely placed under the water and then immediately raised up out of the water.

In Matthew 3:16 it says that, “As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water”.

The same happened in the Book of Acts 8:39 where Philip baptised an Ethiopian eunuch and he too came up out of the water.

So water baptism is being fully immersed in the water.



# WHO CAN BE BAPTISED?

**Baptism is always offered to new believers here at Excel church. As soon as people declare and make that decision to follow Jesus then baptism should be a priority.**

**Jesus himself commissioned it when he said in Matthew 28:19, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”.**

**The Apostles in the early church preached the Gospel with power and followed that great commission and baptised many new converts. So water baptism is for new believers.**

## **A NOTE ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM**

**According to Biblical teaching there is no such thing as infant baptism, they are unconscious of their sin despite the Bible showing us that we were all born sinners. Babies cannot decide whether they want to follow Jesus or not. Baptism is being fully immersed in the water for those that believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. “Rantizo” is the Greek for “sprinkling” and the proper Biblical method is “Baptizo”, full immersion.**

**So we conduct proper baptism rather than the traditions of men. Not to leave the children out, we do have special “dedication services” where we dedicate our infants to God in the Biblical manner.**

# WHY BE BAPTISED?

**Baptism is that next step of obedience after believing in Jesus. The Bible tells us to repent of our sins and then be baptised.**

**You don't become a Christian because you have been baptised, you get baptised because you have become a Christian.**

**Baptism is similar to a funeral service, so as a person is fully submerged into the water they are publicly and symbolically showing that their old lifestyle is dead and buried. As they come up out of the water they show that they are adopting a new nature.**

**The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“ If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come.”* Baptism is a separation with the old life and a brand new start.**



## Who can attend the Baptism Service?

Once you have made this decision to be baptised the church will set a date. It is always a good thing to invite family and friends to the service. This is a wonderful opportunity to show them that you are serious about following Jesus. Even if those that you invite do not believe what you believe, it is still a chance for them to begin to understand what God has done for you. Pray for all those who have been invited that they too would come to a relationship with Jesus.

The Bible tell us in Colossians 4:5 that we should *“Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders, make the most of every opportunity.”*

## Will I feel different after being baptised?

Everyone's experience of water baptism is always unique to them. There is no particular way in which you should feel when you come up out of the water. Many people will feel relieved, some are often tearful, others are joyful but then there are those who feel just the same as when they stepped into the water. How you feel is not important, the fact that you have acted in obedience to God is what really matters. He has seen your heart and the decision you have made has been the right one.

# FAQS ABOUT BAPTISM DAY

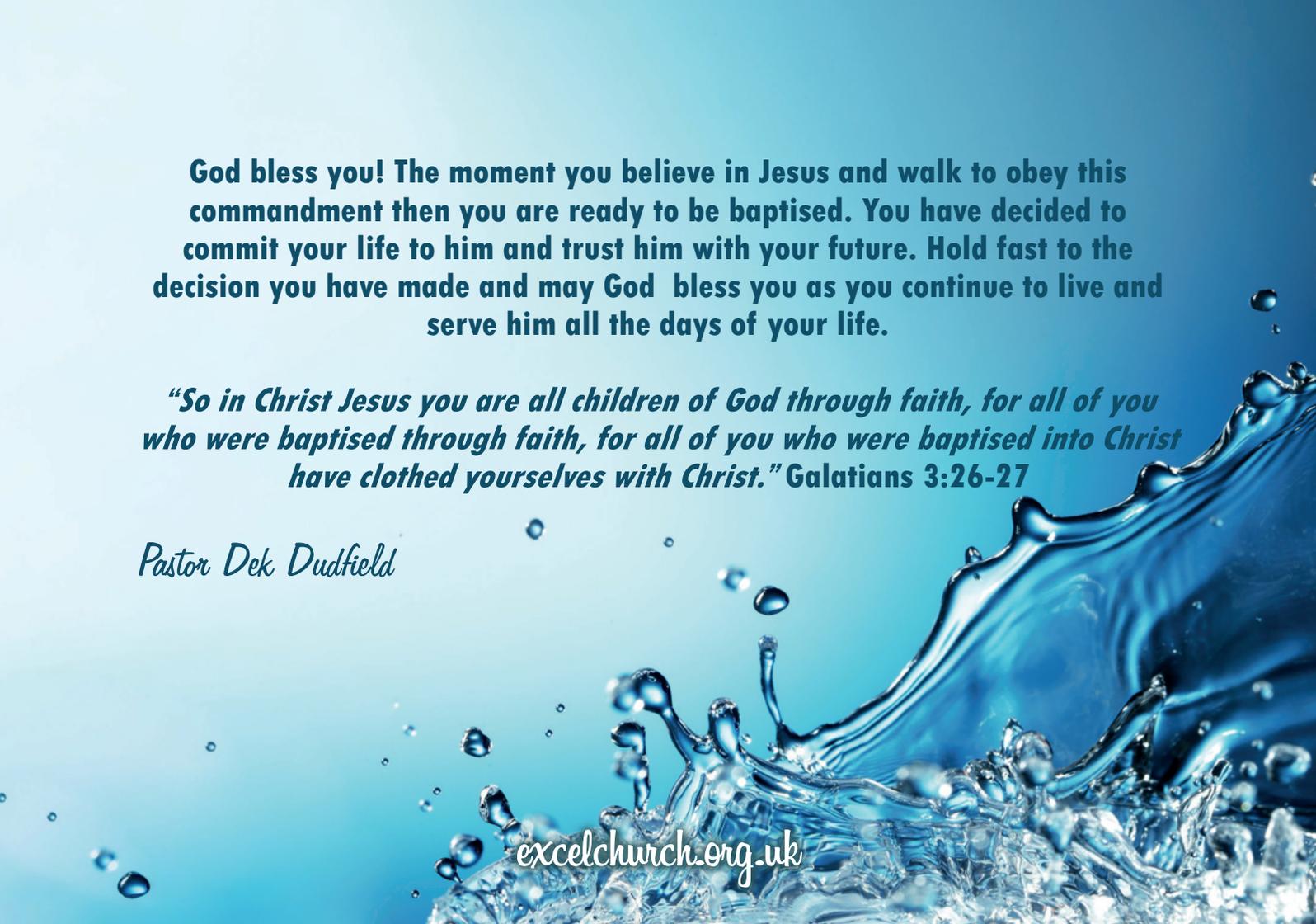
## What practical steps do I need to take?

Before the service takes place you need to prepare a short testimony. This can either be spoken or read out; the choice is yours. It's a great opportunity to let others know what Jesus has done for you. Just tell the truth in a couple of minutes, it does not have to be long and complicated; just do a brief explanation.

Also ask a spiritual role model to pray and bring a Bible verse (not a Bible reading) which will be your baptism verse. It would help if they could let us know the verse in advance and then be willing to read it on the day.

As for clothing, there are no rules, just wear what you feel comfortable in. Be aware of any garments that are light in colour which lead to exposure when wet. Swim wear under clothing is always an option. Also ensure that there's no inappropriate words or pictures on your clothes.





**God bless you! The moment you believe in Jesus and walk to obey this commandment then you are ready to be baptised. You have decided to commit your life to him and trust him with your future. Hold fast to the decision you have made and may God bless you as you continue to live and serve him all the days of your life.**

*“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Galatians 3:26-27*

*Pastor Dek Dudfield*

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