

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton

Today, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018, is a special service of baptism for Angie Reeves, plus receiving into church membership of Jerome and Megan Peirson.  
The service is conducted by Minister Philip Wells

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Local community meeting (LAT) here 12<sup>th</sup> June - please pray

[www.calvary-brighton.org.uk](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk)

Sermons and talks - [calvary-brighton.sermon.net](http://calvary-brighton.sermon.net)



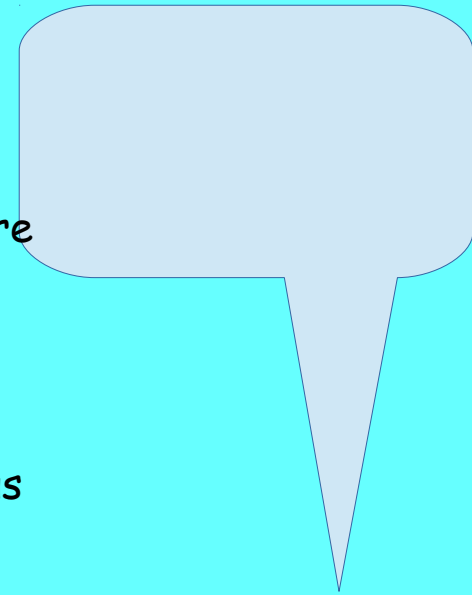
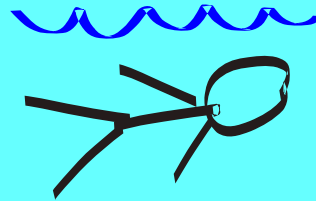
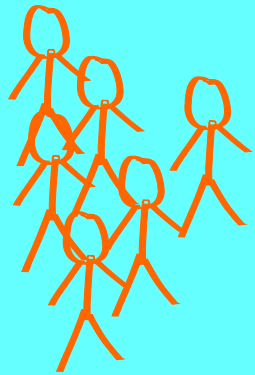
*What is a Christian?*



# What is Christian baptism?

Read Acts Chapter 2

- v.36 Peter: "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ"
- v.37 When the people [in Jerusalem, who had just asked for Jesus to be executed] heard this, they were cut to the heart and said ... "brothers, what shall we do"
- v.38 Peter replied, "Repent [=turn your life to God] and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"
- 41. Those who accepted his word were baptised, and about three thousand were added-to-their-number that day

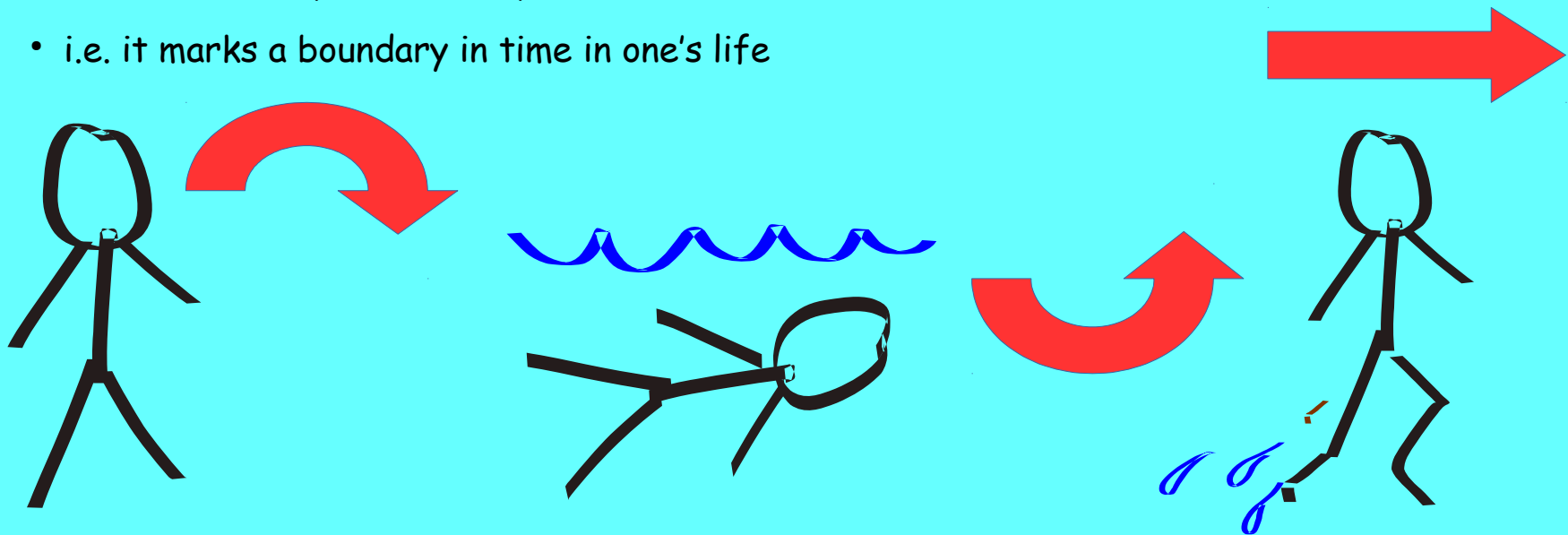


*A celebration of Christian baptism*

# What is Christian baptism?

Baptism is a bath/wash/immersion

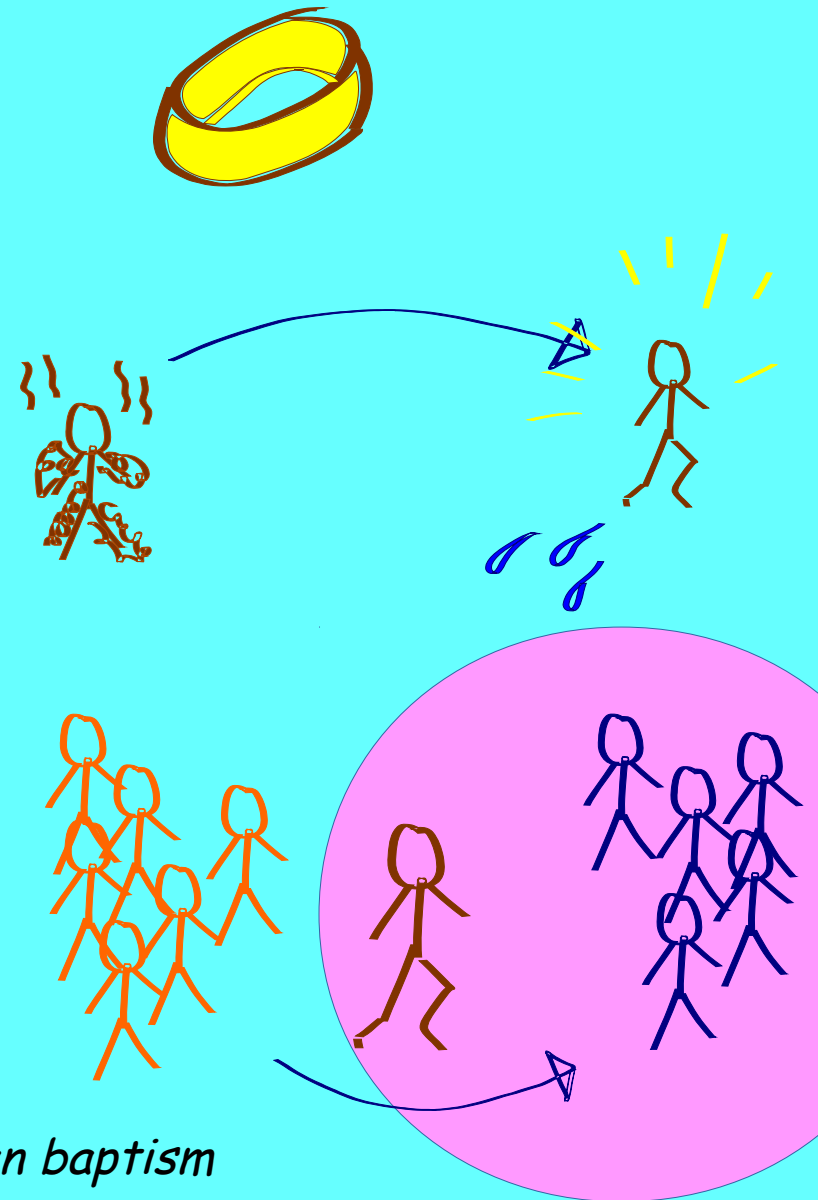
- Of believers in Jesus Christ
  - "those who accepted his message/word" v.41
- In the name of Jesus
  - "in the name of Jesus Christ" v.38 = linked into the goodness and power of
- In the name (x1) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit
  - So says Matthew 28:19 = Trinitarian God
- It has a before, a one-off, and an after
  - i.e. it marks a boundary in time in one's life



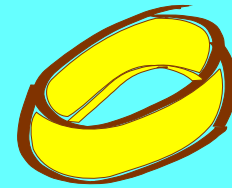
*A celebration of Christian baptism*

## It has meaning ...

- A sign of a spiritual and inward change, by God's power through faith
  - Putting on a ring as "sign" of marriage
- A sign of **washing**
  - Dirty → clean
  - Unforgiven → forgiven (through Jesus Christ)
- A sign of **belonging to Christ (who died and rose)**
  - "in the name of Jesus"
  - **And so belonging to the church of Jesus Christ**
  - "added to their number"



*A celebration of Christian baptism*



Outward Sign of the inner work of  
God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

For someone who now  
believes

It is a sign to/for  
believer, washing,  
belonging  
for Angie today



*A celebration of Christian baptism*



Welcome this service of baptism!

Prayer

Song 158 "Let there be light"

Bible reading Acts 2:36-47

short talk - What is the meaning of Baptism

Angie Reeves: my story of coming to Christian faith

Song 190 "How great thou art"

**Baptism - conducted by Elder Chris Fry - singing chorus of 676 afterwards**

Short prayer

Song - 587 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts ...

**Receiving into church membership - Jerome and Megan Peirson**

Short prayer

Bible reading - Mark 10:35-45

Talk - 3 questions that you might ask Jesus

Song - "the power of the cross"

Closing Prayer

*What is a Christian?*



# Three questions about this

## 1. Is it true?

- *Is there really a God?*
- *Or are these people kidding themselves?*
- *And would I have to kid myself?*

## 2. Is it real?

- *Does he really touch people's lives*
- *Or is it the stuff that only weirdos get into*

## 3. Is it good?

- *Will it make more a better person or a more stupid, restricted and useless person?*



# Three questions about this

*1. Is it true? Is there really a God? Or are these people kidding themselves?  
And would I have to kid myself?*

*– Not everything is true!*

*Not all religions are true"*

*And God and Jesus knew that and knew the difference*

*– God talked about "make-believe gods"*

- Called "idols"*
- Denounced them ... dead like them*

*– Jesus talked about "made up religion"*

- "their teachings are just rules taught by men" (Matt 15:9)*
- "you hypocrites" v.7*
- "you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition"*

*==> Jesus knew there was hypocrisy, make-believe, but he also knew there was the real thing. He hated the way hypocrisy shut people out from faith in the real thing.*

*==> don't get taken in, or shut out*

*What is a Christian?*



## Three questions about this

**Q2. Is it real?** *Does this really touch people's lives? Or is it the stuff that only weirdos get into?*

**1 : I'm sure you can tell whether people's lives are changed or not.**

**2 if it doesn't change peoples' lives then it is pointless and useless**

**3 you can't tell just by looking on the outside - people changed by God are not in heaven yet, and are still imperfect. Some people live inspiring & exemplary lives (apparently) yet are completely wrong with God.**

**Jesus said: "no-one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again"**

- (a) people cannot normally see the things of God
- (b) he really does touch and change people's lives ("born again")
- it's not just for weirdos, or nuns, or gurus, but for believers!



# Three questions about this

**3. Is it good?** *Will it make more a better person or a more stupid and useless person?*

**Q:** *how well have you succeeded on your own in terms of making yourself a "better person" "better relationships" "more productive" "wise and good example"*

**Answers:**

– *N.B. you become like what you worship*

*e.g. money ... dishonest, inhuman*

- *e.g. themselves ("human rights" ... incapable of seeing their wrongness  
e.g. abortion - which treats unborn babies sub-human)*

– *Worship Jesus*

- *Never told a lie, never put himself first, never had to apologise, never cheated, never found his feelings led him into foolishness, never got drunk, never had immoral sex, never got into addiction*
- *Perfect way of - showing love, showing anger, serving others, dealing with contradiction, being himself, selfless to point of giving his life for us*

– *==> if any of that rubbed off on his worshippers, I would say that is nothing but good ...*

*What is a Christian?*



# Three questions about this

## 1. Is it true?

- You don't have to kid yourself!
- it's about submitting to a powerful, upsetting and glorious Truth

## 2. Is it real?

- it's not just for weirdos or "spiritual" people
- God is able to do the impossible ... even for you

## 3. Is it good?

- Worshipping Jesus means putting everything into his hands
- That is completely radical
- But it is more good than anyone ever dreamed of

What is a Christian?



## Three questions about this

*What next?*

- *Start coming to church regularly*
- *Do a 1-1 bible study*
- *Do a Christianity explored course*
- *Go public and get baptised*

*"added to their number"*

- *God's put me in <> so "count me in"*
- *Class for church membership*

*Keep on walking with Jesus Christ*

*What is a Christian?*