

## Using the baptism liturgy

These service outlines are examples and are not exhaustive.  
Some things worth remembering:

- Less is more – for everything extra that goes in – look to see what might be deleted
- Words / tradition matter – what might seem wordy or possibly incomprehensible is generally appreciated by our families – it makes it feel special, traditional, that God is involved
- It is fine to provide extemporary interpretation – it gives a more personal feel
- Personalising is different from customising – families love a personal touch – as simple as using God-parents' names and the name of the child and other children regularly
- Be confident in local custom
- Part of the idea of Common Worship is to make something common across the Church which can work with local custom
- Sticking to the basic shape as laid out in Common Worship doesn't mean using every single text
- Alternative promises (from the ASB but printed in Common Worship) can be used at 'The Decision'

Below is the link to the Common Worship Initiation Services

<http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/christian-initiation/baptism-and-confirmation.aspx>





## Baptism in a Eucharist

### Greeting

*You might use a Thanksgiving Prayer for a child here*

### Introduction

*Candidates can be presented here – it can slow down the momentum though*

### Collect

*Collect of the day or a generic baptism collect – don't forget the alternative collects*

<http://www.churchofengland.org/media/41111/adtlcollects.pdf>

### Readings and Psalm

*Only one reading is needed – notice the Gloria has been omitted – it can be included*

### Gospel reading

### Sermon

### Presentation of the Candidates

### Decision

### Signing with the cross

*Parents and Godparents can do this too*

### Prayer over the water

*There are seasonal prayers as well as the standard 'off the peg' item. There is much imagery in each prayer – sometimes too much for people to engage with. Consider the responsive prayers too. See <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/christian-initiation/baptism-and-confirmation.aspx>*

### Profession of Faith

### Baptism

*A generous sprinkling of the congregation as a reminder of baptism allows a breather from the otherwise formal nature.*

### Commission

### Prayers of Intercession

*These can be omitted altogether or brief petitions could be incorporated into Eucharistic Prayer G, but make sure you pray for the family and children somewhere in the service.*

### Preparation of the Table

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

### Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

### Breaking of the Bread

### Giving of the Bread and Cup

### Prayer after Communion

*This can be cut to just one – either corporate or said by president alone*

### Blessing

### Giving of a Lighted Candle

### Dismissal

*For a single baptism this shouldn't take more than 70 minutes*



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## **Baptism outside the Eucharist – either stand-alone or as part of a family service**

### **Greeting**

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### **Introduction**

*Candidates can be presented here – it can slow down the momentum though*

### **Collect**

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<http://www.churchofengland.org/media/411111/adtlcollects.pdf>

### **Readings and Psalm**

*Only one reading is needed – notice the Gloria has been omitted*

### **Gospel reading**

### **Sermon**

### **Presentation of the Candidates**

### **Decision**

### **Signing with the cross**

*Parents and Godparents can do this too*

### **Prayer over the water**

*There are seasonal prayers as well as the standard 'off the peg' item. There is much imagery in each prayer – sometimes too much for people to engage with. Consider the responsive prayers too. See <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/christian-initiation/baptism-and-confirmation.aspx>*

### **Profession of Faith**

#### **Baptism**

*A generous sprinkling of the congregation as a reminder of baptism allows a breather from the otherwise formal nature*

#### **Commission**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

*These can be omitted altogether or brief petitions could be incorporated into Eucharistic Prayer G. Make sure you pray for the family and the child somewhere in the service.*

#### **Blessing**

#### **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

#### **Dismissal**

The above can be worked in with café church or messy church. It is a permissive liturgy – look for key words like 'may'! The idea of Common Worship is that it can be adapted.