

## Baptismal Service - Dead men don't rise – do they?

### *A dishonest man*

Here lies a man who while he lived  
Was happy as a linnet.  
He always lied while on the earth  
And now he's lying in it.

### *Sir John Strange*

Here lies an honest lawyer,  
And that is Strange.

### *In Memory of Beza Wood*

*Departed this life*  
*Nov. 2, 1837 Aged 45 yrs.*

Here lies one Wood  
Enclosed in wood  
One Wood  
Within another.  
The outer wood  
Is very good:  
We cannot praise  
The other.

### *In a Lincolnshire churchyard*

Here lies the body of Mary Jones  
Who died through eating cherry stones  
Her name was Smith not Mary Jones  
But Smith don't rhyme with cherry stones

The grave of Jesus – empty! Baptism is all about death and rising again.

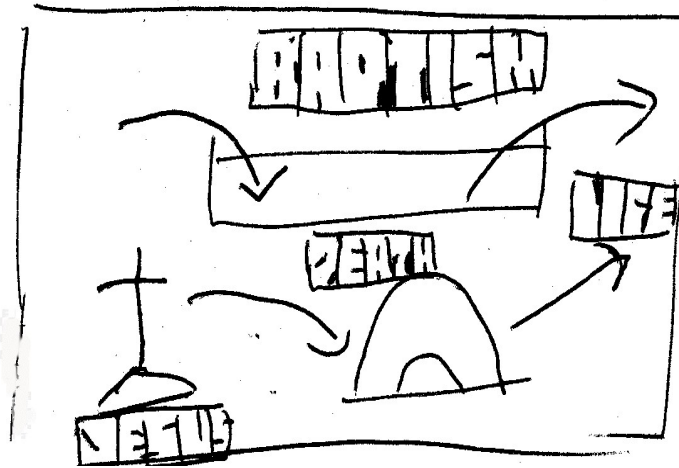
What are we going to do this morning? We are going to put Jasmine into this pool of water. We are going to get her thoroughly wet before we pull her out again. Why on earth do we do that? Because she wants to show all of us that she is following Jesus and that's one of the ways Jesus asked us to show it.

It seems a strange thing to do? Is there anything in the water? No, this is standard Anglian tap water. It comes from the local supply. We haven't done anything with it, we've given no blessing to it, and it will do Jasmine no good whatsoever other than to give her a bath – and she probably has had one today anyway!

Baptism is something Christians are supposed to do near to their accepting Jesus into their lives. It doesn't make Jasmine a Christian. If getting people wet made them a Christian then, I would make as many people as wet as possible!

So what does it mean? We're going to put Jasmine into the water, immerse her and then she'll come out. It's a picture of what Jesus did nearly 2000 years ago. He died on the cross, was buried in a tomb and three days later He rose back to life.

Why? Because God offers us a brand new life; the Bible describes it as eternal life. He also offers us forgiveness for the things that we have done that are wrong - against God, against ourselves and against other people. God calls these sin. In fact as I put Jasmine into the water this morning, it shows that in Jesus she has died to the things in this world, to sin, and she is now going to walk in a way that honours God in her life. We can also see the water as being a picture of the way God cleans out all the mess in our lives when we come to Him.



The thing is, if Jesus was raised from death, then He's alive today. And that means that He can be known. You can know Jesus. He can be part of your life. In fact Jesus is life-changing – and He can change your life this morning. Whether you have problems in life, or whether you just need answers to life and death – Jesus is the answer! He even raised people from the dead still. Testimony – Dennis.

So what about you? Do you want to know Jesus? Do you want to know you are right with God? Then you can right now. All you need to do is trust that Jesus died for you, to deal with your sin and to bring you a new life and decide to follow Him.

It's simple. All you have to do is pray. I'll even help you with that. Just say this prayer quietly to yourself as I say it.

My Lord and my God.  
 I have lived life my way.  
 I have done many wrong things.  
 I repent of all my sin.  
 Please forgive me.  
 Lord Jesus, I trust you now to be my Lord and my Saviour.  
 Thank You for dying in my place.  
 I ask You now for Your gift of eternal life.  
 I give my life to You and want You to be my Lord.  
 Help me to live for You by the power of Your Holy Spirit.  
 These things I pray in Jesus' name.  
 Amen