



Above: Ellie Bolton emerges from the water after her sea baptism; left: Abigail Bacon and (below) Chloe Bacon are baptised by immersion

# Baptism drama marks real faith

**THESE children and young people marked their commitment to God, by being baptised in the most dramatic way.**

Five of them were fully immersed in the water in two baptism services organised by St Jude's Church, Southsea.

Chloe Bacon, aged 8 and her sister Abigail, 6, were baptised in a baptismal pool outside the church after a morning service last month, with crowds of congregation members gathered round them.

The vicar, the Rev Mike Duff, plunged both of them under the water three times as he baptised them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The pair had spoken from

the front of church during that morning's service about the reality of their own personal faith.

When asked why she wanted to be baptised, Abigail said: "Well, Jesus was baptised. And I want to be part of God's family."

And Chloe said: "Because I want to follow Jesus and learn more about him."

A week later, congregation members gathered at the seafront near the Blue Reef Aquarium to see three more siblings declare their faith in God.

Ellie Bolton, aged 15, Alex, 12 and Annabel, 9, were baptised in the sea by Mike Duff and the church's curate the Rev Adam Denley.

Curious passers-by watched



as the baptismal party waded into the sea in wet suits and clerical shirts. Enthusiastic worshippers from St Jude's thronged the seafront and

cheered as the siblings were each lowered under the water three times, signifying their new lives in Christ.

All three subsequently talked in church about their decision to mark their personal Christian faith by opting for baptism by immersion.

"These children and young people are from church families where the parents waited until the children were old enough to profess faith for themselves before bringing them for baptism," said Mike.

"It was an absolute joy to hear them speak about their faith, and delightful to be part of services where we could formally welcome them into the Christian family."

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Katy with the Lord Mayor

## Cathedral author publishes children's book on spiders

CATHEDRAL worshipper Katy Hounsell-Robert has written a second book for children.

*Sophie's (Friendly) Spiders* is about a child, Sophie, who is terrified of spiders, until she becomes one and understands how they feel and live.

It is also about a middle aged woman, Mandy, who feels she has done nothing with her life. Her vicar recommends she goes to Zimbabwe as a volunteer to work in a children's home. She makes friends with the spiders in her hut, and ultimately meets up with Sophie.

Katy, who also writes for the Church Times, has seen her first book, *Ben's Bees*, dramatised and staged as a play at the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth over the summer.

She said: "The Mandy story is all based on a real woman and real events which I wrote about some years ago in an article for Yours magazine and it inspired a lot of mature people to volunteer."

Her newest book was launched at Cumberland House earlier this year, with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth,

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