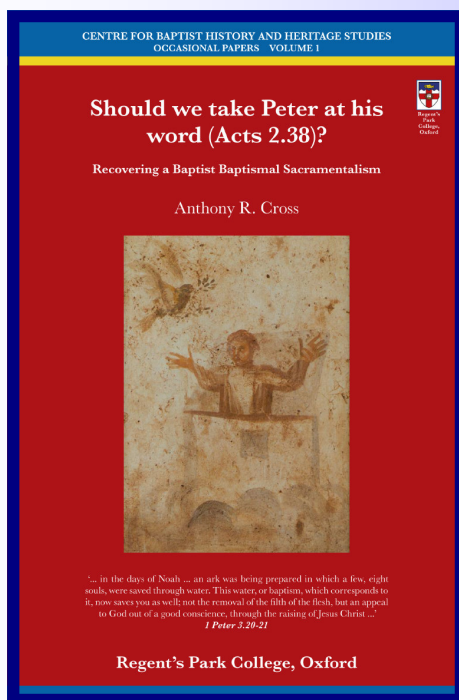


# Centre for Baptist History and Heritage Studies Occasional Papers Volume 1

## Should we take Peter at his word (Acts 2.38)? Recovering a Baptist Baptismal Sacramentalism

By Anthony R. Cross

This is the first in a new series of volumes in the  
Centre for Baptist History and Heritage Studies Occasional Papers



**Anthony R. Cross** is Director of the Centre for Baptist History and Heritage and a Research Fellow, Regent's Park College, and a Member of the Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford

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Cross challenges the widely held assumption, not least among Baptists, that baptism is merely symbolic, a believer's testimony to what God *has* done in the past. He examines this position biblically, theologically and historically and finds it wanting. Restating an understanding more faithful to biblical and early Baptist teaching he argues that baptism always has been an integral part of becoming a Christian and that it was always faith-baptism. Cross also contends for an evangelical use of the term sacrament, as he affirms what God *does* in baptism in the present. This restatement of a key Baptist conviction is particularly addressed to all who claim scripture as their rule of faith and practice, urging the necessity of reform of both the theology and practice of baptism in the contemporary church.

'This lecture is a scholarly and timely plea for Baptists to move forward in the study of the New Testament theology of baptism. His presentation is extremely well documented and makes stimulating reading.'

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'This contribution to our understanding of baptism is intellectually stimulating, pastorally related and spiritually nourishing.'

**Brian Haymes**, one time Principal of the Baptist Colleges in Manchester and Bristol

'Cross demonstrates what Baptists have known all along but some have forgotten: water baptism is no afterthought, but along with faith part of the conversion process. With this, he simply "takes Peter at his word", whether in Acts 2:38 or 1 Peter 3:21.'

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