

Use powerpoint ‘Family Service – Jan 2017’

Slide 1 –Preston North End Football Ground

Bad enough mentioning Birmingham City Football Club – why Preston?

They are in the FA Cup 3rd Round – playing Arsenal

Show picture of mascot

There can be some pretty scary supporters. In recent years they maybe haven’t had much to cheer about.

They were in the FA Cup Final – in 1954 against West Bromwich Albion, losing 3-2

Show picture teams coming out

There aren’t many supporters this side of the water – I knew one in Belfast. In fact you could say that to be a supporter of Preston North End is to stand out as different from everyone else.

This morning I want to talk of ways of being different, of standing out in a crowd

Show slide of two punks

Some people dress differently and do their hair differently.

Then we are all different

Go through slides of black, Asian, old and young

God loves us all, no matter where we come from, how old we are – even how we dress.

Show slide of two punks

The difference we are talking about this morning is who we follow

Show slide of follow me

Lesson told of Baptism of Jesus – I want to think about our own Baptism. When we have a Baptism, at one point in the service I will say:

*In baptism, God calls us from darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.*

That means very consciously choosing – choosing different attitudes, different behaviours, different priorities in life in the sort of people we choose to be.

Bible talks about repentance – it uses a Greek word:

show slide 'metanoia'

That's what John and Jesus meant when they told people to 'repent'
Turn around, change direction, take a different journey through life

Show slide of follow me