

## These are important aspects of Baptism

### The Water

Water is poured upon the forehead it is a sign of life, cleansing and refreshment to sustain our spiritual needs. This is done in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### The Cross

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead, signifying that Jesus died for our sins.

### The Candle

A candle is given to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world. The responsibility lies with parent and Godparents to light the way through life.

### The Declarations

Q. Do you turn away from sin?

A. **I do**

Q. Do you reject evil?

A. **I do.**

Q. Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

A. **I do.**

Q. Do you trust in him as Lord?

A. **I do.**

## Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
We give you thanks and ask for your  
blessing on our family.

We thank you for the gift of life  
and the gift of love.

We thank you that you know  
and love us for ever.

We ask that you will protect  
and guide us through our lives  
and teach us your ways. Amen

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The Church of England has a lot of helpful information about Christenings/Baptism and suggestions for how to pray with your child at

[www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org)



# Thinking about Baptism

If you would like to talk about Baptism please do not hesitate to contact

Rev Paul Ellis  
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## Welcome

### A Precious Gift!

We believe that Baptism or Christening is a really important and precious gift from God regardless of the person's age. We hope you'll find this information helpful.

### Preparation

As baptism needs serious thought, we like to take some time in preparation. We do this through visiting you at home, where we can get to know you and talk about the Christian faith. We do try to make this age appropriate to the person to be baptised – of course Godparents are welcome to join in this too.

We believe that Baptism in itself does not make someone a Christian; this is a choice we make personally, but baptism is about putting someone on the pathway to be able to make that choice in their own time. As they grow in faith, we would expect that in time they will take on these promises for themselves at Confirmation.

Baptism connects us into the church family world-wide, so it is good for you to come and get to know us here, by visiting us regularly on Sundays so that we get to know you and your family.

Preparation is to discuss these things and help you to understand the significance of the promises you (and the God-parents) make during the service. We would expect that God-parents are themselves baptised and of parental age.

## The Baptism Promises

Adults and teenagers make promises on their own behalf; God-parents and parents make the promises on behalf of their children until they are ready to make their own choices.

In the promises, we say that we will turn away from all known wrong, all that goes against God's ways, and instead that we will turn to God, for him to be in our lives.

Baptism commits us to

- Grow in our own understanding of the Christian faith and teach our Children
- To teach our children in simple prayers and to pray for them
- To become part of the church community

### Practical Help

Coming into a new church can be a bit scary for the first time, even for parents, but church is a very different and friendly place these days, still it's possible to feel anxious about things; Please don't worry, we are used to children of all ages and understand what it's like trying to get them ready and sorted to go out.

We know and understand that children cause noise and a bit of hustle and bustle. It's not a problem.

- St Mary's services start at 11.00 am, but don't worry about being late; we understand last minute hitches with feeds and nappies.
- Start bringing your child to church so they become familiar with the surroundings, even

before they can understand, tiny babies will get used to the sights and sounds and start to feel at home.

- Sunday's can sometimes be complicated, but come as a family if you can; it's easier for two adults to look after more than one child.
- You can bring your prams or pushchairs, we have ramps and space for them in church.
- There are nappy-changing facilities at the back of church.
- Don't come empty-handed, bring something to occupy your child, a quiet soft toy, a book, bags of sweets; things will also be available with our Tot's Team who are dedicated to caring for families with young children. Children over 3 years would be able to attend Kids for Jesus and enjoy their own activities in the Church Hall..
- As your child gets a bit older you can begin to share the service with them and explain what is happening so that it becomes a normal part of their life.
- If it all gets too much, don't feel you have to struggle alone, we can help, but if you need to leave early, nobody will mind.

### Arranging a Baptism Service

After reading this leaflet, you would like to start baptism preparation please do speak to one of the clergy to arrange this with you. After that we will arrange a date for the service that is convenient to you, please note our Baptism dates are normally towards the end of the month and always in our main service at 11am.