

The Giving of a lighted candle This represents the light of Christ in all our lives. Our prayer is that your child will shine with the light of God every day of their lives. The candle also reminds us that we can all help bring light and joy into the lives of others.



A prayer for parents and Godparents

Lord Jesus, may the sign of your cross keep me strong
and faithful when life is hard.

When I am tired or troubled by things that have gone
wrong, refresh me and wash me clean.

The world sometimes seems a very dark place.

Practical stuff: if in doubt ask us!

We are friendly people and look forward to you coming to **your church**. Try and get everyone to church 15 minutes before the start of the service, which is normally at 12md on Sunday mornings, lasting around 35 minutes. Children are very welcome and we love to get them involved. We are happy for you to take photographs during the service but we ask you to do this respectfully. There is no charge for Baptisms but we are always glad of donations.

If you would like to know more or to book a Baptism please contact

Our Baptism Co-ordinator:

Barbara Lee tleeb@btinternet.com 0161 773 3128

or our Vicar, The Revd. Elizabeth A. Binns on 07976 818157

elizabethannabinns@gmail.com

WE HAVE A FAMILY SERVICE EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH AT 10^{am} IT IS A VERY FRIENDLY AFFAIR, SUITABLE FOR
ALL AGES LASTING 35 – 45 MINUTES.

IF YOU DECIDE TO COME ALONG PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN
SO THAT WE CAN SAY HELLO

Your child's Baptism at All Saints Stand



Thank you for bringing your child to be baptised at All Saints. We know it will be a day of celebration for you and your family and we will do our best to make it a wonderful event for you. But Baptism is about more than one day so please take a little time to read through this leaflet with your Godparents and (if they are old enough) your child.

Baptism: the start of a journey Baptism is an opportunity to thank God for the gift of your child and also means that he or she becomes a member of God's Church. It is the first step in a journey of faith. We realise that many families coming to Baptism are not regular church goers but this does not matter, everyone is welcome. Baptism is about new life and new starts.

Godparents: a serious undertaking Parents and Godparents have a very important part to play in Baptism and you will be called upon to make some serious promises. A Godparent is someone who will accompany your child on their journey of faith and that is why they too must be baptised. Godparents might not be regular church goers but they should be someone who will provide your child with a good example and be friend to them throughout their life. This is a long term commitment. When you choose your Godparents think carefully about what you expect from them, not just on the day or at birthdays and Christmas. What example will they provide for your child? Will the people you choose be in your lives in ten or twenty years time?

BAPTISM AND CHRISTENING ARE THE SAME THING

Christening is an old word to indicate membership of a church

The Baptism Service: first of all don't panic!

Everything you need to say will be on a service sheet or a screen and we will guide you through the service itself. There will be people from church to welcome you and your family when you arrive. All God's people have a responsibility to encourage and support you and your child in the journey of faith.

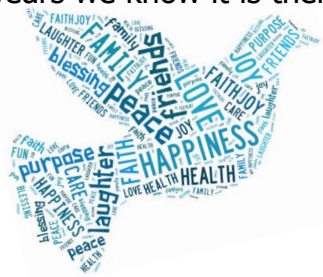
At the start of the service there will be prayers that help explain what Baptism means. A bible reading may be followed by a short talk or, if there are children present, an activity which helps explain a little more about the reason we are celebrating today.

Parents and Godparents will be reminded that they are speaking on behalf of your child and will be asked to promise to help and support your child on their faith journey.

The Decision The language of this part of the service is very traditional but what it is really asking you is to let go of things in your life that you are not very proud of and ask God for a new start.

*Do you turn to Christ?
Do you repent of your sins?*

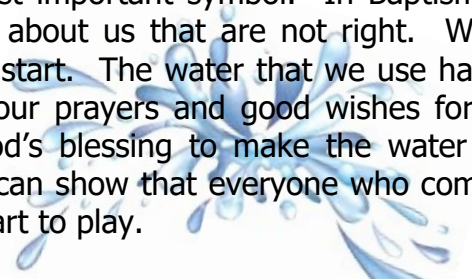
The signing with the cross The cross is the sign of Jesus Christ and it shows your child belongs not only to you and your family but also to the family of God. Holy oil will be used to put the sign on your child's forehead. Parents and Godparents will also be asked to put their own cross on the child. Jesus died on the cross to show how much God loves us and whilst no one can see the sign of the cross that anyone who is baptised wears we know it is there to remind us of that undying love.



WHAT IF THE PRIEST SAYS THE WRONG NAME?

It is a myth that the baby would be 'stuck' with the wrong name

The prayer over the water We all know how important water is and in Baptism it is the most important symbol. In Baptism God washes away all the things about us that are not right. We are born again, we have a new start. The water that we use has just come from the tap but all our prayers and good wishes for your child will combine with God's blessing to make the water holy. This is one of the ways we can show that everyone who comes to your child's Baptism has a part to play.



Affirming our faith We believe that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; so Jesus is God's Son and also God himself. It is a bit complicated, but don't worry even regular churchgoers sometimes have trouble with that one! The important thing is that God understands and loves us completely whoever we are. At this point in the service we are asked to stand and declare our faith. We don't want anyone to say something they do not believe but Godparents must feel comfortable affirming their faith otherwise they would not be able to accompany your child on their faith journey.

The Baptism A Baptism is not a naming ceremony but we will use your child's Christian names to remind us that he or she belongs not just to you but to God. The child will be splashed with water 3 times by the priest to remind us of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Welcome It might seem a little odd having a welcome almost at the end of the service but this is actually your child's welcome into the Church.

The Prayers We will pray for your child and for those who look after them, particularly parents and Godparents. Praying for your child is an important task for Godparents.



THE WORD BAPTISM ACTUALLY MEANS PLUNGE

It reminds us that people used to be Baptised in rivers!