

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SHERBURN

Your Child's Christening

Creator God,

*We thank you for the gift of the life of this child
who is to be baptized.*

*May your blessing of peace and joy be with them
and protect them all of their days.*

We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

During a baptism (or 'christening' – both words can be used for this) your child will be baptized with water. It's the start of an amazing journey of faith for your child and a special day for all your friends and family. We are delighted that you are considering taking this first step with us.

WHERE TO BEGIN...

If you would like to book a baptism at St Mary's, the first thing you need to do is contact the clergy. You can do this by coming to **St Mary's on a Tuesday evening between 6.00pm and 7.00pm.**

CAN MY CHILD BE BAPTIZED AT ST MARY'S?

In order to get your child baptized, we ask that you live in the parish. You can check on this website: www.achurchnearyou.com.

If not, we might still be able to arrange for the baptism here if you have a strong link to the church. Please speak to one of our clergy to check this.

WHEN DO BAPTISMS TAKE PLACE?

The baptism can be part of our main Sunday service at 10.45am, or later in the day usually at 1pm. Usually we just baptise one person in any one service although there may be exceptions: please talk to a member of the clergy if this is important to you.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

There is **no fee** for the service of baptism. It is given as generous gift from our gracious God.

The church would be very grateful if you and your guests could contribute generously to the collection at the end of the service. If you would like to share the collection with a charity, we can help with this. We do request a donation of £20 to cover the vergers' fee.

ABOUT CHRISTENINGS / BAPTISMS

Your child is precious to you and precious to God. You want the very best for them, and so does God. You want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others. A christening is just the beginning of this and so much more. Over the years to come, it's a journey you'll share together with your child by:

- **Being there for your child** to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- **Praying for your child** through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- **Showing them practically** how to make those good choices in life.
- **Helping them to learn more** about their Christian faith, through their church and in other ways.

It's a commitment to start as you mean to go on.

PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

In the weeks before the baptism one of the clergy will be in touch with you to make preparations for the service. They may ask you to come into church with them to talk through the service or they might visit you at home. This will help them to get to know you and your child before the service so that it can be comfortable for everyone!

It is good if you could visit the church in the weeks leading up to the christening so that the Sunday congregation can meet you as they will be praying for you and your family in the weeks leading up to the christening.

Godparents

Godparents are very important in the baptism of children and infants as they make promises on behalf of the child. There are two sets of promises that they will make with the parents:

Do you reject evil?

I reject evil.

And all its many forms?

And all its many forms.

And all its empty promises?

And all its empty promises.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

And put your trust in him?

And put my trust in him.

And promise to follow him for ever?

And promise to follow him for ever.

These are important promises. You will be thinking carefully about who you might choose from among your family and friends. We ask that those who you choose to be godparents are themselves members of the church through having been baptised themselves. There is no restriction on the number of godparents you may have or on their age, but traditionally three godparents have been chosen, and it is usual that they are over 16.

ON THE DAY...

Readings

The clergy will choose a reading from the gospel. You might like to choose another bible reading or other reading or prayer which is important to you.

Music

Sometimes people like to choose one or two hymns to be sung. This is only recommended if you think your guests would like to join in the singing. If so, there would be a small charge for an organist to play.

CAN WE HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING THE SERVICE?

We understand that you would like to have lots of photos taken of the special day. However, the service itself is a very special moment for you and your guests. From experience we have found that it is distracting to have too many photographs taken during the service. We would ask that your guests refrain from taking photographs during the service itself. There are usually opportunities for photographs after the service.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CHRISTENINGS / BAPTISMS

You can find lots more information about baptism/christenings on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org/>.

WHO DO WE CONTACT?

If you have any questions at all about the arrangements for the christening, please contact one of the following:

Vicar
Rev. Canon Dr Alan Bartlett
0191 384 2452
vicarsgss@live.co.uk

Associate Priest
Rev Allison Fenton
0191 372 1501
allisonjfenton@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to St Mary's for the baptism service and we wish you all the joys and blessings as you plan for your special day.