

for the baptism register

Please detach this cover from the booklet,
complete the form, and hand it to your baptism contact.
Keep the inside pages for your own information.

Your child's full name:

Date of birth:

Mother's name:

Mother's occupation:

Father's name:

Father's occupation:

Your address:

Your telephone number:

Your email address:

This section is to be completed by a St James
representative.

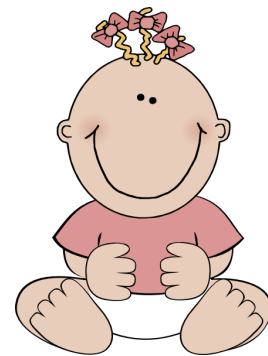
Date of baptism:

Approximate number of guests:

St James

at the heart of Thornton

the baptism of children



information for parents

knowing Jesus and making him known
in our community and beyond

Name of 1st Godparent:

Year and place of their baptism:

Please include their address
so that we can send them some information:

Name of 2nd Godparent:

Year and place of their baptism:

Please include their address
so that we can send them some information:

Name of 3rd Godparent:

Year and place of their baptism:

Please include their address
so that we can send them some information:

Name of 4th Godparent:

Year and place of their baptism:

Please include their address
so that we can send them some information:

choosing Godparents

It is worth thinking carefully about the people you would like to be godparents to your child.

It is usual to have three godparents - two of the same sex as your child and one of the opposite sex. You can have more if you want to. Parents can be godparents to their own child.

Godparents make exactly the same promises as parents in the baptism service. In other words:

- to pray for your child;
- to help your child grow up to follow Christ;
- to help your child take his/her place as a full member of the church.

It is important that the godparents you choose are old enough to understand what these promises mean. They must also be able to make them honestly. Being a godparent is a long-term commitment. **Godparents must be baptised** - please check this.

Children who are old enough to make the promises for themselves do not need Godparents, though you may still wish to choose some.

What if we decide that we can't make the promises?

Children are baptised on the understanding that they and their parents will play a full part in the life of the church

If, after careful thought, you do not feel able to make that commitment, there is an alternative to baptism which you may prefer, known as **Thanksgiving for the Gift of Child**.

We would be very happy to discuss this with you. Ask one of our representatives if you would like more information.

contact us

My baptism Representative:

Phone:

Rev. Harry Gwinnett
harry@james4u.org

01274 83 11 09

Rev. Gloria Hardisty
gloria@james4u.org

01274 83 32 80

the baptism of children



information for parents

We are delighted that you are thinking of having your child baptised. We hope it will be a wonderful and memorable occasion, and that it will mark the beginning of a long and happy association with St James church

Please read through this booklet, and carefully consider the promises you will make on behalf of your child during the service.

A member of our baptism team will be available to chat through any questions you may have, and to arrange a date for the service; they will also do their best to help in any way they can.

5 FAQs

- 1: What's the difference between baptism and christening?** *None. They are different names for the same thing.*
- 2: How much does it cost?** *Nothing - it's free!*
- 3: When can we have our child baptised?**
*Baptisms are usually held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 2pm * also see page 7*
We try to keep the maximum number of baptisms to 2 on any given Sunday.
Everyone in the congregation will be asked to promise to uphold your child in his/her new life in Christ.
- 4: What if an older child or an adult wants to be baptised?** *It's not too late! Ask us about it.*
- 5: Can anybody be a godparent?** *Yes, so long as they have been baptised and are mature enough to be a Godparent. There is more information on choosing godparents on page 8.*

about baptism

To answer the question, **What is baptism?** we need to think about another question: **Who is Jesus?**

Christian people believe that the man we know as *Jesus* was no ordinary man, but rather:

Jesus was God come to earth...

- to show us the best way to live;
- to help us understand about God, and especially God's love for us;
- to make a way for us to enjoy a relationship with God - in this life and the next.

Most of what we know about Jesus' life and teaching is recorded in four small books which changed the world - the gospels of *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*.

They tell the story of a carpenter from an obscure village in northern Israel who became a teacher, healer and miracle-worker. When his claims became too controversial, he was arrested by the ruling authorities and put to death by being nailed to a cross.

Three days later, his tomb was found to be empty and more than 500 people testified to having seen him alive again over a period of 40 days.

He left behind a little group of followers - the Christian church - which grew as God gave them courage in the face of persecution. The Holy Spirit empowered them to spread the message about Jesus, and perform miracles in his name. The story of the early church can be found in the Bible, in *The Acts of the Apostles*.

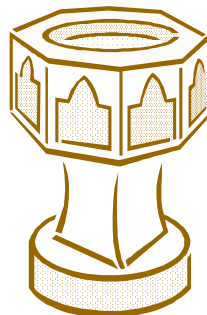
After his death and resurrection, Jesus told his followers: *Make new disciples from all nations, and baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*. This has been done ever since in Christian churches throughout the world.

The baptism of children involves five main elements:

1. Your promises
2. Baptism in water
3. The sign of the cross
4. Prayers for your child
5. A welcome

the big day

If you are a member of the worshipping community the baptism will normally take place in the service
If you are new to St James the baptism would normally be in the afternoon



Please aim to be at the church at least 15 minutes before the service.

It's a good idea to come to another baptism service before your own so you can see how things are done.

Parking

Most people park on the road outside the church on Thornton Road

Seating for your guests

There will usually be one row of seats reserved for you, your child(ren) and Godparents. Other friends and family members may sit anywhere they like.

Relax and enjoy!

There will be prayers, a Bible reading and a talk as well as the actual baptism. We hope you will be able to relax and enjoy the service. The minister will make sure you know what to do. There may be other children baptised at the same service.

Children

Children are very welcome. Please don't worry if they make a noise.

Toilets

There are toilets (including baby-changing facilities) in the community area



After the service you will receive a certificate recording your child's baptism.

3: the sign of the cross



The minister will make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead.

This is like an invisible badge to show that Christians are united with Jesus Christ and must not be ashamed to stand up for their faith in him.

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

4: praying for your child

The service will include prayers for your child. We will ask God to be bless your child every day of his/her life, and finally to welcome him/her into heaven.



*May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.***

5: a welcome

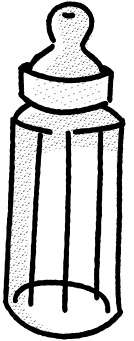
At the beginning of the service, the members of the congregation promise to support your child as s/he grows in faith. After the baptism, they say some formal words of welcome to acknowledge that your child is now a member of the church.

*There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body. **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.***

1: your promises

Parents make several significant promises and statements of belief during the baptism service. It is important that these are made honestly. They are a 'contract' between you and God about the way in which you will bring up your child.

Some people worry that they are imposing their own views on their children; but of course, from the moment they are born, you make many choices on their behalf. For example, you don't wait until they are old enough to ask for milk before you feed them. In the same way, it is right to give them spiritual nourishment and teach them about the love of God from an early age.



Please read through the words from the baptism service. Tick the appropriate box, and jot down any questions you may have and we'll be glad to discuss them with you.

*Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ? **With the help of God, we will.***

*In baptism these children begin their journey in faith. You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church? **With the help of God, we will.***

As parents, you promise:

- to pray for your child;
- to bring them up as a member of the church
- and to show them what it means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ.

MUM

With the help of God, I will.

I have a question about this part of the service

DAD

With the help of God, I will.

I have a question about this part of the service

choosing to follow Jesus Christ

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and our neighbour?

I repent of them.

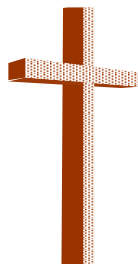
Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

'SIN' - what does it mean, exactly? The clue is in the spelling. It's about putting *I* at the centre of everything - doing what *I* want, living as *I* choose. We all have a selfish streak that causes hurt to others, and comes between us and God.



Christians believe that Jesus Christ is God, and that he came to earth as a human being to deal with our sin through his death on the cross.

As parents, you promise:

- to turn away from the sin which keeps God at a distance and spoils our relationships with other people;
- to recognise that Jesus Christ is God's answer to our problem with sin;
- to put Jesus at the centre of your lives and live in line with his teaching.

MUM

With the help of God, I will.

I have a question about this part of the service

DAD

With the help of God, I will.

I have a question about this part of the service

the faith we share

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

MUM

I believe and trust in God.

I have a question about this part of the service

DAD

I believe and trust in God.

I have a question about this part of the service

2: baptism in water



Just as our bodies need water to drink, so our spiritual lives need the cleansing and refreshing love of God.

This is symbolised in the water of baptism, which will be poured on your child's head in the name of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the Bible, baptism is a picture of being **washed clean** from sin (Acts 22:16). It is also a picture of a **new birth** and a **fresh start** (Romans 6:3-5).