

## How much does it cost?

There is no charge for a baptism service although we invite you to make a voluntary contribution towards the running costs of the church.

*May we suggest a minimum donation of £20 to help cover our costs.*

*Thank you.*

## What about the future?

I hope your, or your child's, baptism will be a wonderful and memorable occasion and that it will mark the beginning of a long and happy association with us.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07881 401404

Yours, in the love and peace of Christ

*Mary*

**Revd Mary Bradley**  
**Associate Minister**

For more information please have a look at the Church of England website:  
[www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org)



# YOUR CHRISTENING IN 2019

Thank you for enquiring about a christening.

Christians describe christening (or baptism) as an outward and visible sign of God's love. Whilst we believe that God loves all people equally, at baptism we consciously make a point of acknowledging his love. In the symbolism of the service we turn away from darkness to goodness and light.

I hope you will enjoy the symbolism and rich meaning of baptism and find it a meaningful expression of the start of your, or your child's, Christian faith.

This leaflet is designed to help you understand what baptism is all about, and explains how we approach it here at Holy Trinity, Meanwood.



## What is a christening (or baptism)?

- ◆ .... it is taking your place as a member of the church family.
- ◆ .... it is the first step on the road of faith.
- ◆ .... it is an act of commitment made by parents and godparents on behalf of the child.

## What baptism is not?

- ◆ .... just an excuse for a party.
- ◆ .... a spiritual insurance policy.
- ◆ .... something to do to keep the relatives happy.

## What does it involve?

- ◆ .... making promises publicly in church.
- ◆ .... teaching your child by example.
- ◆ .... encouraging them to explore their faith and to share it with others at church.

## What about Godparents?

Godparents provide support on the Christian journey. If this baptism is for your child you will need to choose at least three godparents. Parents can be godparents to their own children. Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, godparents must be baptised themselves. If you would like someone to be a Godparent but who isn't baptised then they can still support your child and be involved in the service by being a sponsor instead.

## What happens at the Baptism service?

The minister will lead you through the order of service and explain when to stand up or sit down. When it is time for the baptism itself you and your family will be encouraged to gather around the font.

The service contains a number of symbols which include:

### The Sign of the Cross

During the service the minister will make the sign of the cross on the forehead of you or your child. This is a symbol to remind us that as Christians we must not be ashamed to profess our faith and must fight against all that is unjust in the world.

### Water

Water is an important sign of life, both in a physical and a spiritual way. Just as we cannot live physically without water to drink, so we cannot live spiritually without the cleansing and renewing love of God. The water of baptism symbolises being washed clean by God.

### A Candle

You will be given a lighted candle during the service. This is to symbolise that in baptism we pass from darkness to light. Jesus is described in the bible as 'the light of the world' and we are told that as Christians we are 'to shine as a light in the world'. It is up to all of us to respond to this by rejecting all that belongs to the darkness of this world and to embrace a way of life that reflects goodness and light.

