



Baptism

**Thank you for enquiring about a Baptism service for your child.
It is always a joy to welcome children and their families to church for
this special service.**

About Baptism. Baptism for a young child is often called christening – the meaning is the same. In Baptism a child (or an adult) is welcomed as a member of the church, and from that day onwards will be known as a Christian. When a young child is baptised the parents and the godparents make promises on behalf of the child. Firstly they promise to bring up the child in the Christian faith, by setting them the right examples, by bringing them to church in the future, by teaching about Jesus, and by praying for them. The parents and godparents are then asked to make the promises of the Christian faith on behalf of their child, in believing and following Jesus Christ. The child is signed with the sign of the cross on their forehead, is baptised with the water, and is given a special lighted candle as a sign of God's love.

Arranging your service. Because of the nature of the promises, and the welcome the child is given into the church, a baptism service is always held in church on a Sunday.

It may be held within the main parish service, or later on Sunday morning (usually about 12 – 12.30). The vicar will discuss with you as to which you would like, and which would be most appropriate.

Please indicate on the form the month that you would like to have your service, and the vicar will phone you to discuss dates and times. We will try to fit around your requests as far as possible, but sometimes there are other events happening in church, and because we are part of a group of 4 churches the vicar has other commitments each Sunday which will affect her availability.

The service usually lasts 35 – 40 minutes.

We always like to make each baptism service special and personal for you and your child. There will be the opportunity during the service for a member of the family, godparent or friend to say some words, or read a poem or reading of your choice. You may like to have a hymn or song during the service. If you have older children, we love them to be involved in the service as a way of remembering their own baptism. The vicar will discuss these things with you when you meet.

Godparents : It is usual to choose 3 godchildren for each child. These may be good friends or relatives, whom you respect and whom you wish to be part of your child's future. The godparents promise to help bring up the child in the Christian faith and for this reason it is necessary that they are already baptised, though it does not matter which denomination of the church this is.

Is there a charge? There is no official fee for a baptism, as it is a service of welcome of your child to the church. We ask that you consider giving a donation to the church, as all of our church running costs need to come from donations and fund raising. A usual donation for a baptism service is around £50. There will also be a collection plate at the back of the church for any of the congregation who would also like to leave a donation.

What happens next? Please fill in the attached form, and return it to our parish administrator. Please include landline, mobile and email address.

The vicar will then contact you to discuss the date and time for your service, and will arrange a time to meet with you. The meeting is a time for the vicar to get to know you and hear about your children and family; to discuss the service, and to help you understand the promises that you will make at the baptism. You may like to invite some of the godparents and/or grandparents to this meeting.

I look forward to meeting you.

Rev Helen Sammon,
Vicar of Highnam, Rudford, Tibberton and Taynton.