



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. The date and time of your service will need to be fitted around the availability of the vicar, and other services and events that happen in church on a Sunday.

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, who you respect and who 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 recommended donation for a baptism service is £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.

Baptism Preparation. In order to prepare for your service, we will invite you and your family, including godparents and grandparents, to a baptism preparation afternoon. These are relaxed and fun sessions, to which we especially welcome older children. It will give you a chance to meet the vicar and other members of the church team, to meet other families preparing for baptism, and to learn about the service and the commitment that you will be making.

Coming to Church. At the baptism your child will be welcomed into the family of the church, and you will make promises to bring them up to follow the Christian faith. We therefore suggest that if you are not already regular church attenders that you start coming to some services before the baptism service. Service times can be found on the church website. In particular there is a special family service at Highnam church on the 2nd Sunday of each month, at 9.30am (lasting 45 minutes)

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

We will then contact you to arrange the date and time for your service, and to invite you to the preparation afternoon.

We look forward to meeting you.

From the administrator, clergy and team of the Highnam Benefice
Highnam, Tibberton, Rudford and Taynton.