

**St Mary's, Church Lane, Mirfield WF14 9HX**

**St John's, Hopton Hall Lane, Upper Hopton WF14 8EL**

**St Paul's, Newgate, Eastthorpe, WF14 8DD**



# WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is **the beginning of a journey** with God, which continues for the rest of our lives. It is the first step, showing our intention to follow the way of Jesus. It is **a celebration** for all: for parents, Godparents, relatives, friends and the whole church.



**In baptism** you, as parents, are:

Thanking God for the gift of life, declaring your intention to start your child on the journey of faith and asking for the church's support.

For your child, baptism marks the start of a journey of faith in Jesus Christ.

Baptism is the way we become a member of the local and worldwide Christian family. When you bring your child (or children) for baptism, you and the child's Godparents will be asked to declare publicly on behalf of your child that you believe in God and that you will bring your child up to follow the way of Jesus.

Everyone present promises to support you and to pray for you and your child (or children).

## **Why do we do it?**

We do it because Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan before he began his ministry. He made his promise and commitment to follow God. Jesus also told his first disciples to Baptise everyone who followed him. It is a sign of your desire to become part of the Christian family of the church, which walks in the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **What happens during the service?**

*(We really do hope you are able to come to a Baptism at church prior to your child's own Baptism service.)*

Firstly, your child (or children) will be **welcomed by name**.

We use the child's name to show that she or he is very special and that God knows us individually by name.

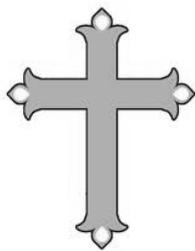
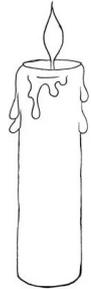
**The promises are then made** to God and before everyone present. The service paints a picture using symbols that remind us of Jesus' journey.

**The symbols we use are: light, the sign of the cross and water.**

### **Why do we use Light?**

Jesus is proclaimed as 'the light of the world'. (*John 1*)

We light candles to remind us of the light that Jesus brings into our lives. It is a symbol to us all to encourage us to reject the dark things in the world and to follow a way of life that reflects goodness and light.



### **We use the sign of the cross**

to remind us of all Jesus suffered for us. Christians believe he died for us. The minister will make a sign of the cross on your child's forehead and all may participate in this.

The cross is the principal symbol of Christianity - you see it in every church.

### **Why do we use Water?**

This is a symbol of God's salvation: the washing away of the power of evil and God's cleansing and forgiveness.

The minister will ask the parents and Godparents to gather round the font for the blessing of the water to be used in Baptism.



### **What happens afterwards?**

We hope your child's baptism will mark a new beginning. We do make special provision for families and young children within our services as well as having special gatherings throughout the year for babies and toddlers.

We hope that your child will want to take their journey further through Confirmation when they are old enough (from about 10 years old)

*For more information like this please visit:  
<https://churchsupporthub.org/baptisms/>*

# CLERGY

## Vicar

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## Curate

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## PARISH OFFICE

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The parish office is open on  
Wednesdays 16.30-1900  
and Fridays 09.30-1200 noon

Denise will be happy to help you and answer your queries,  
in person at the office,  
by phone or by email.

For more information please don't hesitate to contact us