

Information on Thanksgiving and Baptism Services Stanningley and Swinnow



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The Revd. Richard Coutts
e richard.coutts@virgin.net
t 0113 2575111

Where can I get baptised or arrange for my children's christening?

In Stanningley, the church of St Thomas usually holds baptism services on two Sundays of each month except August. Often baptisms are held in the afternoon at 2pm, but if desired may also be part of the main Sunday worship service.

In Swinnow the church of Christ the Saviour holds baptisms within the main Sunday worship service. This is at 11:15 am. [Back to Index](#)

Thanksgiving Services – What are Thanksgiving Services?

Most of us wholeheartedly celebrate the gift of each new child within our families, and may follow family traditions or local customs which mark the arrival of an infant. Very appropriately, many of us feel a need to give thanks to God, for any new life; especially so if the birth has been difficult or we are worried. A Service of Thanksgiving is different to a Baptism Service, but gives us a voice that can use to openly say "thank you" to God and to each other. So we gather as Family and Friends, and enjoy together with God, the wonder of a child.

Your vicar will help you to choose whether a Thanksgiving Service or a Baptism Service is most appropriate for you. Please get in touch with your local church to find about a Thanksgiving Service or about a Christening. (Baptized).

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To Email the vicar at St Thomas, Stanningley Click – [Here](#)

To Email the vicar at Christ The Saviour, Swinnow Click – [Here](#)

Contacting the Church

During a christening your child will be baptized with water. It's the start of an amazing journey of faith for your child and a special day for all your friends and family.

Your child is precious to you and precious to God. You want the very best for them, and so does God. You want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others.

A christening is just the beginning of this and so much more.

Over the years to come, it's a journey you'll share together with your child by:

- Being there for your child to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- Praying for your child through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- Showing them practically how to make those good choices in life.
- Helping them to learn more about their Christian faith, through their church and in other ways.

So it's a commitment to start as you mean to go on.

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Some Explanations Regarding the Christening Service

- What Happens at A Christening?

At a christening a child is baptized with water. This is the heart of a christening. There are several moments in the service which have a special meaning too. Follow each step to see what happens.

“... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

A Warm Welcome

The vicar will welcome everyone and especially the child who will be christened and their family. There will be a Bible reading, and the vicar will also talk about what a christening means.

The Promises

The parents and the godparents will make some important promises for the child in the service. Everyone promises to continue supporting the child from this moment. The vicar says:

“... People of God will you welcome this child and uphold them in their new life in Christ?”

Everyone present says:

“... With the help of God, we will.”

The Sign

Often, this is the point in the service when parents and godparents will be invited to come out to stand at the front with the child.

In many churches, a special oil may be used to make the sign of a cross on the child's forehead. It's a significant moment, which marks the child as belonging to God.

The vicar will say:

“... Christ claims you as his own. Receive the sign of the cross.”

The Water

Water which is blessed in the church's font will be poured over the child's head by the vicar. This is the child's baptism. It's a sign of a new beginning and becoming a part of God's family.

The vicar says:

“... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Prayers And Welcome

The vicar, or someone else from the church, will pray for the child and for all those who will support them in their path of faith. We all are invited to say the Lord's Prayer together which is printed in the service. Everyone present welcomes the child into the family of the church with words given in the service.

A Candle

A candle may be given to the child at the end of the christening or sometimes at a service soon afterwards.

The vicar says:

“... Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God.”

What's Next?

Families are warmly invited to come to church whenever they can. The church may also keep in touch in other ways. Even when people move, there will be a Church of England church local to them in their new parish, so we are always there for them wherever they are.

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Choosing Godparents

[Click here - for more about being a Godparent.](#)

Choosing the right people as godparents for your child is a big decision. Here are some key things which might help you decide:

Godparents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come. They may be relatives or friends of the family.

They'll be people who you know you can trust and who'll be there for your child to talk about the bigger questions in life; questions about faith, hope and love.

They should feel ready to make some big promises about faith for your child in church.

Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual. If you'd like more than that, talk to your vicar about the practicalities and they'll be pleased to advise.

Parents may be godparents for their own children, providing they have at least one other godparent.

Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, godparents must be baptized themselves. Ideally, they should be confirmed too, but check with the vicar about local policy on this.

If you're thinking about asking someone who is under 18 to be a godparent, talk to your vicar first. There's no minimum age for godparents, but they must be mature enough to understand the responsibilities they're taking on; your vicar can help you decide if this is the right choice for your child and the young godparent.

You can talk to your vicar about choosing godparents and involving them in the christening preparation. [Click here - for more about being a Godparent.](#)

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More About Being a Godparent

Godparents are among the most important people at a christening, who make big promises to encourage their godchild to grow in faith and commit to helping them understand how to live their life in a Christian way.

Alongside your godchild's parents, you will;-

- Give your time to your godchild to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- Model and encourage them to develop Christian values – being kind and compassionate towards others, being generous towards others in need with time or money and standing against things in the world that cause injustice and suffering.
- Pray for your godchild through the ups and downs of their life and their faith journey.
- Show them practically how to make good choices in life, for themselves and for others. This might mean talking to them about how to stay healthy, how to resist temptations that can harm us and other people, how to care for God's amazing world and how to handle peer pressure as they grow older.
- Help them to learn more about the Christian faith, through their church and in other ways. Going to church with them, talking about what the Bible shows us and helping them learn how to pray are all brilliant ways to support your godchild.

It's a demanding role, but help is always at hand, through your church, online, and of course from God, who will bless all you do to help your godchild.

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Christening – What does a Christening (Children's Baptism Service) Mean?

At a Christening (child's Baptism), we meet as family and friends, before God in church, to witness and participate in moments of holiness, as a child or an adult becomes an adopted child of God in the family of the church. If we are an adult we may choose to take this special step for ourselves, or if we are a child, other people may say the words of promise on our behalf. Whatever our age and however we approach baptism, it is a service of beauty and joy which is full of God. Yet baptism is only a start to living. We can make either good or poor choices as we lead our lives, choices that take us further away from, or closer to, God and those we love.

We recognise that baptism is a life step, in which a person joins the family of the church. But for an adult, this might mean significant life choices and changes, as one encounters God in a new way. Your vicar should help you understand and contend with questions over these new pathways, especially in regard to the service itself and what it means for your future, and for your life.

As Parents and Godparents who bring children for baptism, before participating in the service, some important and searching questions will need to be considered.

Each of us are created wonderfully different, but in a christening service, we set aside our own particular wants and desires, so that our beloved children may gain their own special experience of the blessings, love and care of our God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We do not command God according to our own desires, but he knows those things that we each want and need. As we find time to pray and talk to him, we gradually learn more about our God, and we let go of some of the selfish thoughts and yearnings we each have. Parents and Godparents, especially in their role, should know that they can and should, help those who are young to grow and become mature in faith, wisdom and common sense, and be healthy in body, mind, emotions and spirit.

For anyone who is baptised, a new start with God is made. The old life is gone, the new life, walking with God, has come. This is not always an easy life. God may seem to ask more from us than we wish or are able to give. Remember that God honours those people who honour him, but experience tells us not to expect any instant Karma or pay-out for good deeds. God doesn't choose to work that way; but he does act in great love and he does respect our decisions.

Baptised infants and children, grow up in the care, acceptance, and love of the family of the church, and perhaps most importantly in that unique love of their own family. God delights to be with his beloved at all stages of their developing lives, and desires to bless them and help them along the unfolding path of their lives.

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Meaning – for an Adult

For those who are not infants, baptism offers an opportunity to stand out for God as a Christian. We have chosen to stand on God's side of the fence, and in this service, together with friends and family, we celebrate that decision. We ask for Gods blessings, and we hear prayers for ourselves and for those we love. We make public vows, and so we also openly make a new start with God. As we live, we seek to renew that relationship with God each day of our lives. This can be exciting and exhilarating and challenging. But God, who is our friend, accompanies us and helps us on our journey. In Baptism, we make the important step of joining the family of the church, who support and love us as we grow in wisdom and maturity in Christ.

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Meaning for Family and Friends

A christening service is an opportunity, to meet up as family and friends, to witness and celebrate the baptism of a beloved child within the family.

Since we are all different people, we will each recognise different meanings in the baptism service, and this is natural right and good. Our relationship with the child who is to be christened, our own spirituality, our knowledge of God and of the Church, and our desire to participate, will all play a part in determining how we feel, and what significance service has for us.

There are significant recognised meanings associated with baptism, and although these do not encompass every feeling we have, they do help us to focus our minds and hearts, and spirits upon the one who is to be baptised.

1. Water

The water of baptism that is poured in the font, and is blessed by God through the prayer that the vicar reads, actually means much more than we might imagine.

Water means both death and life.

Water is dangerous but we need it. We know that both children and adults can die from drowning, but without enough water we die of thirst, and we cannot be wash, or clean our clothes.

Water is LIFE and also DEATH.

Water is cleansing.

Water is refreshing.

Water represents the love of God.

A baptism that happens in a river, sea or lake will usually require the person to dip under the surface of the water. Here they cannot breath or live, so it is **as if** they have died. Yet they arise from the water and take a new breath, both of promise and of resurrection hope for the future. After baptism, we seek to live **for** God and **for** each other as we travel with God along the Christian journey ahead.

2. The Cross

On the cross, Jesus stretched out his arms and gave his life to save us.

With one hand he took hold of humankind, with all its flaws, failures, hatreds and sins, and also with all it's wonders; it's love, its imagination, its artistry, and creativity. With the other hand, he took hold of his beloved Father, the God who we worship. In bringing forgiveness of our sins, Jesus also brought the two of us together – God and Humanity; a relationship restored. This friendship and love of God is expressed in the one act of sacrifice and self-denial which we remember on Good Friday.

In the service, the sign of the cross is marked on the forehead of each candidate, using holy oil, and the priest will guide you in any ways you might participate in this. This sign of the cross shows that Gods friendship, forgiveness and love are always present with your child.

3. The Candle

Towards the end of the service, the vicar will light a candle and, with some words, give it to a parent or Godparent. The Candle is normally lit from the large Easter Candle, which is first lit on Easter Sunday to remember and celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive.

The candle represents that same life and light of Christ, which is given to live within the child who is baptised. They carry this light, and at times may be dim, but at other times may shine very brightly. It will drive out darkness in our lives, and counter the acts that we all hide away from in shame. This light helps us talk to God, and be gradually more and more at peace with God and with those we meet. It helps us to challenge injustice and oppression and gives us courage to be strong in facing down evil. We each carry this light of Baptism for the blessing of other people.

Which Service - Thanksgiving or Baptism?

You will need to speak with your vicar to discuss whether Baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving is appropriate for your family members. Choosing one or the other option is yours alone, but often the vicar will have something helpful to say that guides you in your decision.

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Are Baptism Services Different in Different Churches?

Each church is slightly different, and may have baptisms within differing services and times of day. Each vicar has their own preferences too.

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Can more than one person be baptised in a single service?

Yes several people can be baptised in one service. This can be a mix of children and adults. There are physical limits to the total number of people who can attend, so it is preferred if the candidates are related, or have people that they know in common. You can discuss this with your vicar.

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Can I have a Hymn in the Service

Yes, you can have one or even two hymns in the service, but it is best to choose very familiar ones, so that people sing them. The churches are not the same, in that they have different ways of providing, music, but please talk to the vicar about what hymns you would like. If you do not want any hymns then this is fine too.

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How do I book a Baptism Service?

Contact the vicar by [email](#) or phone (0113 2575111) and if leaving a message, state your name, contact number, email and brief details of your enquiry.

The website [AChurchNearYou](#), allows contact and information about the parish and so you can contact the vicar through this route too. Please enter your postcode, and your parish and nearest church will be displayed. The vicar will provide you with a list of possible **Sundays** for each month that you might book, and we hold baptisms at **St Thomas, Stanningley at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm** depending on demand. At **Christ the Saviour, Swinnow**, because baptisms are always held in the **Sunday morning** service, the time is always **11.15am**. Sundays get booked up with baptisms quickly, so it is worth arranging your service early, but it is important to remain flexible over dates and times.

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What is the Cost of a Baptism or Thanksgiving Service?

There are nil church charges for a baptism or thanksgiving service. If you choose to have an organist to play hymns, then the organist will charge a fee which you will be required to pay.

We suggest that although the services are free, we hope that you and members of your family and friends might consider giving donations towards the church to help keep it open for the future.

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Rehearsal and Preparation

The day before the baptism (Saturday), as parents, you will normally need to bring your child who is to be christened, along with the godparents and any other interested people, to the church to meet with your vicar, for some preparation and a rehearsal before the service on Sunday. For services at Christ the Saviour, the rehearsal is often at 10:30am, whilst for St Thomas' we usually meet at 5pm.

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The Day of the Baptism

Arrive at the church around fifteen minutes before your service begins. Because this is a fairly formal occasion which is held in the presence of God, there is an expectation that people wear clothes which are appropriate for church.

Make sure you are sitting in a good spot. The vicar or church-members will help you if you can't find appropriate seats.

At the end of the service you will be given a baptism certificate for each candidate you have brought with you, and also you will be able to take the candle home too, so that you can re-light it on birthdays and anniversaries.

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What Comes after Baptism?

Here are just a few suggestions to help you live out the Christian journey as part of everyday life – at home, school or with other Christians at church.

At Everyday Times

- **Say thank you** to each other and to God – at meals, for presents, for just being there.
- **Going out from the house** to school or work or friends – ask for God's blessing on the person who is setting off on a journey.

[GodVenture](#) and [Faith in Homes](#) have some great ideas on this

At Bath Time – the water of baptism promised a new start with God.

This could be a good time to say sorry for things that have gone wrong and remember God's forgiveness.

At Bed Time – telling stories, saying prayers and taking time to look back over the day is a great way of sharing the journey together. Share Bible stories – for every experience in life, there will be a Bible hero who has shared it.

At Other Times

- **Thinking of others** – children will begin to understand there are others around them and across the world who live without enough food, shelter or love. Talk to them about charities and how your family can help, perhaps by giving in some way. Look out for special family activities.
- **Go to church or church events together** – your local church will welcome you to a Sunday service or perhaps they have a toddler group, Messy Church or other special activity.
- **Sad times** – sometimes there are difficult things in families. People get ill or die, relationships break up, choices are made that don't work out well. Don't forget to ask for God's help in these times too.

- **Remember their christening anniversary** – show them the photos of their christening day. Light the christening candle again and remember together what that day meant for the whole family. Write a thank you card to godparents.
- **Record the memories** – starting photo albums or scrapbooks is a fun way to record the special times on their amazing journey.
- **Pray** – keep praying for God’s blessing and support. [Back to Index](#)

Please Keep in touch

We would love to keep in touch with you after the service. Please make sure that you fill in a contact card, which has on it some consent tick boxes so that we can occasionally contact you with information on future events and services.

It's always wonderful to hear news of how children are developing and growing in God's love and care. We will continue to pray for your children, your family and your friends. Do please, feel free to come to any services at any time. [Back to Index](#)

Who to Contact?

Please feel free to contact the parish vicar (The Revd. Richard Coutts)

Email richard.coutts@virgin.net

Tel 0113 2575111

Or Our Parish Baptism Administrators

For St Thomas, Stanningley

Joan Armstrong

Email j.armstrong7@talktalk.net

Tel 0113 2553591

For Christ The Saviour, Swinnow

Diane Seary

Email diseary@msn.com

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Some Prayers We Can Say

A Blessing Prayer

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of the life of this child who is to be baptized. May your blessing of peace and joy be with them and protect them all of their days. We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen

A Prayer of Thanks and Praise

For children who are a gift from you, Loving God,
We thank you and we praise you.
For the laughter and smiles of your children,

We thank you and we praise you.
For the sleepless nights and endless washing,
We thank you and we praise you.
For the tearful nights and morning hugs,
We thank you and we praise you.
For all the love your children show us,
We thank you and we praise you. **Amen**

A Prayer for Parents to Say

Bless us as parents as we celebrate the christening of our child.
Watch over us that we may be examples of your love, peace and joy to our children,
friends and all who come into contact with us.
Bless our child's godparents, as they commit to support our newly baptized child.
Guide them as they offer help and support to us and our children, now and
throughout their amazing journey of life.

Bless our child's grandparents, as they see their family growing.
Encourage them to pass on their wisdom with gentleness and truth, offering love
and joy to us and our children.

Bless our friends, as our lives change and move on.
Inspire them to be a listening presence, a calming influence and a source of joy, as
we share new experiences together.

Bless our family and friends, Loving God, watch over and protect us all. **Amen**

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Baptisms at St Thomas' are usually at 2pm, but may occur in the Main Sunday Communion at 9.30am

WELCOME – *A warm welcome to St Thomas' Church.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your people new life
in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you
in faith and love, and grow into the full stature
of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and
reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

All **Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life. Amen**

READING FROM THE BIBLE

Luke Chapter 18 vs. 15-17 - Jesus Welcomes Children.
or Luke Chapter 3 vs. 16, 18, 21-22 - Jesus' Baptism.
or a bible reading of the day.

THE ADDRESS

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord adds to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome *N* and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

The minister asks the parents and godparents only
Parents and godparents, the Church receives *N* with joy. Today we are putting our trust in 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?

Ans. **With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism *N* begins *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?

Ans. **With the help of God, we will.**

THE DECISION INCLUDING A RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

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 Parents and Godparents, those of age and those who have been baptised -

Do you reject the devil
and all rebellion against God?

Ans. **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit
and corruption of evil?

Ans. **I renounce them.**

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

Ans. **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ?

Ans. **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Ans. **I submit to Christ.**

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

Ans. **I come to Christ.**

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate.

N, Christ claims you for his own. ✠
Receive the sign of his cross.

All **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.**

Parents and Godparents may also sign the candidate.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for evr.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise**

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The prayer over the water

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Brothers and sisters, I ask that, according to your own faith, you might profess together with the parents and Godparents, the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ who redeemed mankind?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church

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

THE BAPTISM

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 his saints in glory. **Amen.**

THE WELCOME AND PEACE

God has received you by baptism into his Church.

All ***N*, we welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the spirit of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

PRAYERS - *For the Baptised, their Family & Supporters*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As your children, born again in Christ, we say

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

THE GIVING OF THE CANDLE

A lighted candle is given to the candidate or sponsor.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. *N*, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father**

THE BLESSING

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle us in the faith: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God**

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Baptism at Christ the Saviour is part of the Main Sunday Service of Holy Communion. (11:15am)

WELCOME – *A warm welcome to Christ the Saviour Church.*

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord adds to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome *N* and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

*The minister asks the **parents and godparents only***

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *N* with joy. Today we are putting our trust in 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?

Ans. With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *N* begins *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?

Ans. With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION INCLUDING A RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

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 Parents and Godparents, those of age and those who have been baptised -

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Ans. I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Ans. I renounce them.

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

Ans. I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ?

Ans. I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Ans. I submit to Christ.

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

Ans. I come to Christ.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate.

N, Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.



All 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.

Parents and Godparents may also sign the candidate.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

Praise God who made heaven and earth, **who keeps his promise for ever.**

All

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give thanks and praise

The prayer over the water

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen** ✝

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Brothers and sisters, I ask that, according to your own faith, you might profess together with the parents and Godparents, the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ who redeemed mankind?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

All I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church

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

THE BAPTISM

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 his saints in glory. **Amen.**

THE WELCOME

God has received you by baptism into his Church.

All N, we welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

THE GIVING OF THE CANDLE

A lighted candle is given to the candidate or sponsor.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. *N*, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father

The service resumes with the prayer

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Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

WELCOME – A warm welcome to St Thomas’ Church.

A **very warm welcome** to you all its fantastic to be able to welcome you all to St Thomas’s Church **today to celebrate the baptism of N**

*A particular welcome to you **all**; to the sponsors and all family and friends.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His loving-kindness is everlasting. *1 Chronicles 16:34*

INTRODUCTION

We are here today to give thanks for N with **her** family and **her** friends, and to support **her** parents in their responsibilities with prayer and love. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God’s purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns supreme.

The works of the Lord are great:

All his mercy endures for ever.

Mary gave birth to a child and called him Jesus:

All he will save his people from their sins.

He will be called the Prince of Peace:

All his kingdom will last for ever.

Loving God, you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of peace;
help us to walk the path of your truth
and fill our lives with gratitude and faith,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BIBLE READING

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV*

“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him,
and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will **give thanks** to Him in song.” *Psalms 28:7 NIV*

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ *Luke 2.22-24*

ADDRESS

THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING

Do you receive **this child** as a gift from God?

Parents We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

Parents We do.

God our creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We thank you for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life. We thank you that we are known to you by name and loved by you from all eternity. We thank you for Jesus Christ, who has opened to us the way of love. We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

NAMING CEREMONY

What name have you given this child?

Parents Her name is N

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God’s blessing on N . Heavenly Father, we praise you for **her** birth; surround **her** with your blessing that N may know your love, be protected from evil, and know your goodness all **her** days.

All May she learn to love all that is true, grow in wisdom and strength and, in due time, come through faith and baptism to the fullness of your grace through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The minister prays for the parents

May God the Father of all bless **N’s** parents and give **them** grace to love and care for **children – and we especially pray for N**. May God give **them** wisdom, patience and faith, help **them** to provide for the **N’s** needs and, by **their** example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

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GIVING OF THE GOSPEL

To the Parents, a copy of a Gospel is presented

Receive this book.
It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

To supporting friends

Will you do all that you can to help and support *Jason and Chelsey* in the bringing up of N?

With the help of God, we will.

Amelia's wider family and friends

Will you do all that you can to help and support *N's family as she grows up within her family's care and in the love of God?*

With the help of God, we will.

PRAYERS

These prayers may be said.

All God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of N,
entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding,
ready to guide and to forgive,
so that through our love
she may come to know your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS - For N, her Family & Supporters

All Using the prayer that Jesus taught us we say
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Ending

The minister says a blessing.

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw *you* to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen *you* in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill *your* hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with you always.

All Amen.