



# Frequently Asked Questions About Baptism?

## St Mary's Church, Thorpe

### Q. What's the difference between a baptism and a christening?

These names are sometimes used as interchangeable for the same service. Technically to "christen" means to name a child, and baptism is the whole service, including the pouring of water over the child's forehead three times, and is one of the sacraments of the Church.

### Q. What is the right age for baptism?

Baptism can happen at any age. What matters is that those concerned are committed to bring up a child as a Christian. Teenagers and adults may also be baptised. This is celebrated with confirmation by the Bishop. You can only be baptised once, but there are ways of renewing your Christian commitment publicly as an adult - your priest will be able to advise you.

### Q. I'm not a regular churchgoer. Can I still have my child baptised?

Yes. The Church of England believes that God's love is available to all, regardless of their background. You may wish to find out more about the Christian faith and what joining the Church involves before you make a decision about baptism. St Mary's runs regular courses for enquirers. Ask one of the clergy team about these.

### Q. What does it cost?

The Church of England charges a small fee towards the costs of the certificate and baptismal candle, and we ask for this to be paid in advance of the ceremony. There are no other charges for a service of Holy Baptism.

However, we do ask you and your guests to be as generous as possible in supporting us with a donation upon arrival. Please help us by making your donation in one of our yellow gift-aid envelopes, completing the information required and dating the front. (Only those who pay income tax are eligible to claim gift-aid on their donations).

### Q. Who should I choose as Godparents and how many?

Traditionally each child has three godparents but we have made provision on the application form for four. Godparents must have been baptised, because they are making Christian promises before God and have a special role. It's about helping a child to come to know God, encouraging them in their spiritual life and supporting them in their membership of the local church.

During the service the priest asks Godparents, as well as parents, to declare their intention to support the child. The priest asks if they are 'prepared to walk with [the child] in the way of Christ' and will 'help them take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church'. Godparents need to be able to answer honestly 'Yes' to each of these questions.

### Q. Where do my guests park their cars when attending St Mary's Church, Thorpe?

There is only limited car parking available at St Mary's Vicarage and in Church Approach so most of your guests will need to find on-street parking within wider Thorpe Village. When parking at the Vicarage, please only park cars on the red gravel area. (We must keep the driveway clear at all times for Emergency access.)

### Please note:

Baptism families and their guests **are not able to** TASIS School car parks, facilities, grounds or buildings.