

Welcome to St Marys

We are delighted that you are here to celebrate baptism as parent, godparent, family member or friend.

Baptism or Christening? There is no difference between a christening service and a baptism service. Some churches will use the word 'baptism' and some the word 'christening'. Babies are 'baptised' during a 'christening' service just as couples are 'married' during a wedding service. Christening is a traditional English word which means to become a member of the Christian church. Baptism means to be immersed in water. During a christening service a baby or child will be baptised with water and welcomed into the community of the local church.

Whatever you call it, this service marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues throughout our lives. Here we may also remember our own baptism and commit ourselves anew to walking in Christ's way with those who are now to be baptised.

This service includes vivid and powerful symbols of our faith **water**, which cleanses and refreshes us; **the cross**, anointed on our forehead in oil to mark our following in Christ's path of self-sacrificial love and a **lighted candle**, to show our lives as illuminated by Christ, the Light of the World.

Jesus said 'Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And remember, I am with you always'.

Pray regularly for those being baptised today as we shall too.

Revd. Paul Mackay
Revd. Jacky Lindoe
The Churchwardens and PCC 2016

Welcome and Preparation

The priest welcomes the congregation and informally explains some of the key aspects of the service.

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

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.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful 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.

Bible Reading

*And at the end the reader may say 'This is the word of the Lord'
Please respond **Thanks be to God***

A short talk will follow...

Promise of Support

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

With the help of God, we will.

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy. Today we are trusting 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?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin *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?

With the help of God, we will.

Do you turn to Christ? **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins? **I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil? **I renounce evil.**

Signing with the Cross

The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying
Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**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.**

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

Profession of Faith

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist? **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again? **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church. **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Prayer over the Water

The priest stands before the water of baptism and says.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan: we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith, and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Baptism

*The priest pours water
on each candidate saying:*

N, I baptise 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 the saints in glory.

Amen.

A time of prayer

Let us pray,

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for these children and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith. Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their home from all evil. Fill them with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of grace and life, in your love you have given us a place among your people; keep us faithful to our baptism, and prepare us for that glorious day when the whole creation will be made perfect in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Other prayers may be included and we conclude with the Lord's Prayer
(Contemporary version)*

**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.**

The Blessing

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

Giving of a Lighted Candle

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

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

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

A collection is taken: *we are often asked how much it costs to be Baptised. No fee is required for the service, but should you wish to help continue the work of this church please give as you leave, you may also donate by 'Gift Aid' using the envelopes in the pews in which case this will add a further 25% to your donation at no further cost to yourself.*

THANK YOU!

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This church has facilities for those who have hearing impairments - please ask one of the churchwardens or sides persons for details.



We ask that all mobile phones are either turned off or put on to silent before the service begins.

Please also respect and remember that others around you may want to pray quietly before the service begins and at its conclusion. Thank you.