



*Thinking about Baptism?*

Baptism is a joyful event in the life of a family and a spiritual celebration!

We would love to talk to you about the baptism of your child.

St Francis of Assisi Church

# WHAT IS A CHRISTENING?

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. Follow the links to find answers to your questions and to explore all that a christening means, not just on the

## EXPLORING MORE ABOUT WHAT A CHRISTENING MEANS

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.

## GODPARENTS

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. You can have more than three godparents if you wish.
- 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 with one, ideally, being confirmed.



## AT THE SERVICE

At baptism, parents and godparents make promises for the baby.

Parents and godparents are told in the service that it is their duty to bring up the child to fight against evil and to follow Christ. The vicar will ask the parents and godparents questions:

Priest: Do you turn to Christ?

Answer: I turn to Christ.

Priest: Do you repent of your sins?

Answer: I repent of my sins

Priest: Do you renounce evil?

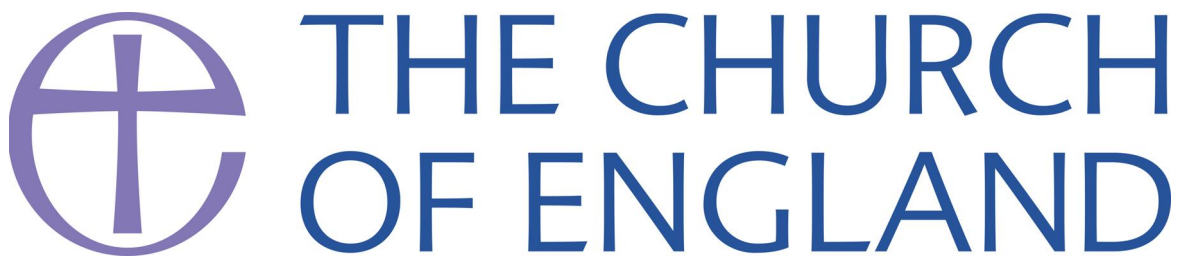
Answer: I renounce evil

The vicar, using holy oil will make the mark of a cross on the baby's/child's forehead. The baptism then follows. The child's candle is lit and the candle given to a parent or godparent.

## MORE INFORMATION

There is more information given on the Church of England website which provides more details on what is a christening, choosing godparents, christening gifts, preparing for the big day and the service, step by step.

[www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org)



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## WHAT'S NEXT?

Whether you're exploring the possibility of a christening or whether you've already decided, the vicar, Rev Jenny Nightingale, will be delighted to hear from you to talk about it. She will want to meet with you to talk through the service and to help answer any questions you may have.

Rev Jenny can be contacted on: [revjenny.stfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:revjenny.stfrancis@gmail.com)

Church office: 01202 529336 (Tues and Fri, 10am -12noon)

We warmly invite you to bring your child to a church service where they will meet other children and, when a bit older, join our Sunday School.



## 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 their days.

We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

