

Holy Baptism at Holy Trinity, Hampton

Baptism is the most important and significant experience on our Christian spiritual journey. It is the start of our journey with God, his Son, Jesus Christ and God's continuing presence in the Holy Spirit. It is also the first step in our response to the generous and abundant love of God. It is also the moment when a foundation is laid for a new life centred on Jesus. Whether for an infant, child, teenager or adult this a joyous moment when someone is being brought into the church, rejoicing in what God has done for us in Jesus, making serious promises and declaring the faith.



People are never baptised alone. They are baptised into a community centred on Jesus Christ surrounded by people promising support and prayer for the future; a community that also shares in the new life that the baptised has chosen. This life embraces everything good, just, beautiful and God-given in this world sustained by the sure and certain knowledge that God is making all things new and has started to do so in his son, Jesus. This life also involves our renouncing of everything that distorts, defaces or disfigures this world and instead is a life that seeks to bring in and be part of God's vision for this world: justice, mercy, love, and peace.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Jesus' own life. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there is a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

Being Baptised

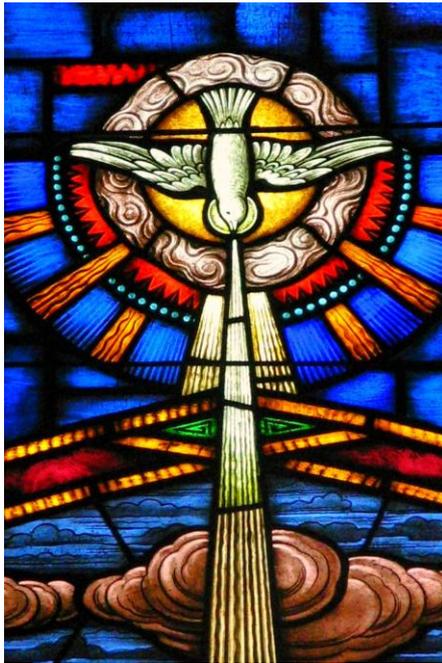
If you are seeking baptism either for yourself or for your child here at Holy Trinity in Hampton it is our expectation that you already have a deep and lasting connection with this parish church, are already a parishioner here, or that you intend to become a practising Christian here. It is also our expectation for prospective candidates to attend the church on a number of occasions leading up to the day of baptism. This expectation of being part of the community also extends after the day of baptism.

Baptism also requires a commitment on the part of parents (of children to be baptised) and godparents (who must be baptised Christians themselves) to:

- Pray for the candidate or candidates.
- Set an example of Christian character and witness to them.
- Accompany them on their spiritual journey.
- Care for their life in the church.
- Help them take their place in the church.
- Help them to learn to live as Jesus within the life and worship of the church.

For an adult candidate, the exact nature of the commitment is no different, but is instead focused on themselves so as they may lead a life centred on Jesus.

As you may well be aware, baptism is so vitally important that it is conducted as part of the worship services in the parish.



All Things Considered

If, in reading some of these things, you feel that you are not quite at the stage of either being baptised or not able to answer these questions on behalf of your child, but would still like to journey in faith then by all means, get in contact with the Vicar to discuss how you would like to express your response to God.

For children there is a service of Thanksgiving for a Child (perhaps the closest to what used to be known as a 'christening service'). For adults there are a series of stages in which to explore faith and Christian life.

The Baptism Service

The Baptism is normally conducted during the 10am Sunday Eucharist when the faith community of the parish is present, and able to welcome you, pray for you and support you in this significant moment. A Baptism can also take place during the Wednesday 10am service and also the Sunday 8am service.

For Further Information

Please contact the Vicar on our 'Contact Us' page for further information.