

Your Child's Baptism (Christening) at Hornsea Benefice

St Nicholas Hornsea - St Lawrence Atwick - All Saints Skipsea

It's great to know you're thinking of baptism for your child. At baptism you promise to raise your child to know God loves them, and to help them follow Jesus as a member of the Church.

Please take the time to read this leaflet: it will help you understand what baptism is and why we believe it is the best start for your child.

Jesus was himself baptised, and he told his followers to baptise others as a sign that they had turned away from their old life and begun a new life as his followers. Now they were members of the Church and at the start of an exciting new journey through life with God.

In baptism, we thank God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledge his love. We decide to follow Jesus as part of his family, the Church.

The Baptism Service

Parents and Godparents publicly promise to do your best to raise your child to follow Jesus, as part of the wider Church family. The local church members welcome your child and promise to support, encourage and pray for him or her, and for the whole family.

You will find out more about the service and the promises you will make when you meet with the priest who will baptise your child.

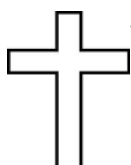
If you are worried about making the promises, please ask us about having a Service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child. In this service, you thank God for your child and your child is prayed for. You can still choose to have a baptism service for your child at a later date.

Symbols

There are three important symbols in the baptism service:

Water will be poured on your child's head as a sign of beginning a new life with God. The priest will usually do this three times.



 **The sign of the cross** will be made on your child's forehead with oil. This is like an invisible badge to show that Christians are united with Jesus and must not be afraid to stand up for their faith in him.

A lighted candle will be given to you for your child as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world and as a keepsake to remind you and your family of this special day.



FAQs

Shouldn't our children make their own decisions?

One day they will. But in the meantime you probably make decisions for your child every day. When they are older they will be able to declare their faith for themselves at a Confirmation Service.

What's the difference between a baptism and a christening? None. They are different names for the same thing. Here at church we prefer to call it baptism.

What does it cost? The baptism service is our gift to you. There is no charge.

What is the right age for baptism? The promises you will be asked to make are quite big, so what matters is that you believe it is the right thing to do for your child. You can only be baptised once, but there are ways of renewing your commitment publicly as an adult.

What about Godparents? Godparents must themselves have been baptised.

Godparents make the same promises as parents to help raise your child in the Christian faith as part of the Church family.

It is an important and responsible role. In the Church of England you must choose at least three godparents, but usually not more than five.

They can be family members or friends, but choose people who will take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and pray for you and your child.

I'm not a regular churchgoer. Can I still have my child baptised? The Church believes that God loves everybody. Ask us about the ways we can support you and your family as you journey together.

There are, however, some rules (called qualifying connections) as to where you can have your child baptised. If you live in the parish where you'd like the baptism to take place, then we will always be able to offer a service.

If not, you must fulfil one of the conditions listed overleaf, and have the permission of the Vicar of your own parish.

Qualifying Connections for Baptism

- ◆ That one of the parents has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or** was baptised in the parish concerned **or** was prepared for confirmation in the parish **or** has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months
- ◆ That one of your parents, at any time after you were born has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or** has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months
- ◆ That one of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish

What next? Congratulations! Now your child is a member of the worldwide Christian community. We have services where you and your child are welcome to continue your journey of faith alongside us.

Baptism makes a brilliant start on the lifelong journey of faith for you and your child. We hope your child's baptism will be a wonderful and memorable occasion and that it will mark the beginning of a long and happy association with us.

Any queries? Speak to us at the Church Office on 537203, or call the Vicar on 532531.

Or visit the Church of England Website at

<https://churchofenglandchristenings.org>