

Cottingley Church
Baptism for a Child

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What It Is About:

Baptism is a service, to welcome a person into the life of The Church (whether they are a child or an adult). When we baptise children we are welcoming them as part of the Church family, and we are asking you (and your partner) to help them be part of that family.

In the service there are some symbols which remind us what we are doing and why. We use water to baptise, reminding us that God washes us clean from things we have done wrong. We give a lighted candle, lit from a church candle to show that the person who is baptised is now part of the Church

What happens at this service:

- We read some words from the Bible.
- We ask the parent/s and godparents some questions, including some about our own relationship with God.
- We sign the child with the sign of the sign of the cross.
- We bless the water.
- We pour water (only a little) over the child's head as we baptise them
- We pray for the child.
- We welcome the child to the Church.
- We pray.
- We give a lighted candle.

What you need to do before the service:

- Talk to the minister and decide if you think baptism is the best option for your child at this time.
- The minister may ask you to come along to some events at church, to get to know some people from the church into which your child will be welcomed.
- Arrange a time and date for the service: this will normally be during a church service, so that the church may welcome the child.
- Find some godparents. These are people who agree to help encourage your child in their faith as part of the church family. These people normally need to have been baptised. If this is difficult please talk to the minister.
- Invite family and friends.

What you need to do during the service:

There will be some words to say and promises to make, which you will find on the service sheet.

What you need to do after the service:

As part of baptism you as a parent make promises to bring your child up as part of the church. Cottingley Church would love to help you do this.