



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



St Mary's Church, Haverhill & Withersfield

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.



DUTIES OF PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

Priest: Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church. As they grow up, they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trust in God, and come to confirmation.

Parents and godparents, the *children* whom you have brought for baptism *depend* chiefly on you for the help and encouragement *they need*. Are you willing to give it to *them* by your prayers, by your example and by your teaching?

Parents & godparents: I am willing

Priest: 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.

We thank God therefore for our baptism to life in Christ, and we pray for *these children* and we say together:

All: Heavenly Father, in Your love You have called us to know You, led us to trust You, and bound our life with Yours. Surround *these children* with Your love; protect *them* from evil; fill *them* with Your Holy Spirit; and receive *them* into the family of Your Church; that *they* may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of Your love. Amen

THE DECISION

Priest: Those who bring children to be Baptised must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. It is your duty to bring up *these children* to fight against evil and to follow Christ. In Baptism God calls us out of darkness into His marvellous light. Therefore I ask these questions which you must answer for yourselves and for *these children*:

Priest: Do you turn to Christ?

Parents & godparents: I turn to Christ.

Priest: Do you repent of your sins?

Parents & godparents: I repent of my sins

Priest: Do you renounce evil?

Parents & godparents: I renounce evil.

Each child receives Holy Oil on the forehead.

Priest: I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All: Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world, and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life

Priest: 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.

All: Amen



THE BAPTISM

Priest: Praise God who made heaven and earth

All: Who keeps His promise for ever.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Priest: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised 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 their sin. Send Your Holy Spirit upon them to bring them to new birth in the family of Your Church, and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life. For all might, majesty, authority and power are yours now and forever.

All: Amen

Priest: Parents and godparents, you have brought these children to Baptism. You must now declare before God and His Church the Christian faith into which they are to be baptised, and in which you will help them to grow. You must answer for yourselves and for these children.

Priest: Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

Parents & godparents: I believe and trust in Him

Priest: Do you believe and trust in His Son Jesus Christ who redeemed mankind?

Parents & godparents: I believe and trust in Him

Priest: Do you believe and trust in His Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

Parents & godparents: I believe and trust in Him

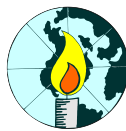
Priest: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Priest Baptises each child and gives a lit candle

Priest: Receive this light. This is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

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



Priest: God has received you by Baptism into His Church.

All: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members together of the Body of Christ. We are children of the same Heavenly Father. We are inheritors together of the Kingdom of God. We welcome you!

PRAYERS *(these and/or others may be used)*

Lord God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we thank you that by Your Holy Spirit N has been born again into new life, adopted for Your own, and received into the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Grant that N grows in the faith into which s/he has been Baptised, that N will profess it for themselves when s/he comes to be C Confirmed, and that all things belonging to the Holy Spirit may live and grow in them. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, we pray for N's parents and godparents. Give them the spirit of wisdom and love, that their homes may reflect the joy of your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank You for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been Baptised in Your Name. Keep us faithful to our Baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen**



THE BLESSING

Priest: The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you now and forever.
All: Amen

*Baptism is free but a plate for donations for the Church's work is available
Please leave this card for future use. Thank you.*