

Thank you for joining us for our Patronal Festival
with celebration of Holy Baptism.

If you have children of your own who have not yet been baptised,
or are interested in being baptised yourself if you have not been
already, please do speak to the Vicar, either after this service or
via email at vicar@stmaryspb.org.uk or on 01707 859 028.

You can find out more about our church,
including special services,
social events, and regular music recitals on our website,
www.stmaryspb.org.uk

You can also like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/stmaryspb
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St Mary & All Saints Potters Bar

Patronal Festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary



with the Baptism of
Arabelle Almé Burks

7th September 2025

What is Baptism?

Baptism and **Christening** are the same thing. Baptism comes from the Greek word that means “to dip” so you will see that water has an important role in this service. Christening refers to the fact that baptism begins with Christ’s baptism and through the baptism we celebrate today we share in Christ’s baptism. This is the way that we receive the life Christ offers to us. We are now alive “in Christ”.

Baptism is a wonderful beginning, the start of a lifelong journey rather than a single event. It is not a journey we travel alone. We are joined with all of God’s baptised people, the Church.

The baptism today takes place in the **Parish Eucharist**. As well as giving us his baptism to share Jesus also gave his followers the special meal, the eucharist, where we share his body and blood in the bread and wine that is blessed, broken and shared.

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.

Introduction to Holy Baptism, Common Worship

What is a Patronal Festival?

The majority of Church of England churches are named for a Saint: St John, St George, St Giles and so on. Most of these saints have at least one day in the calendar assigned to them as their feast day, and churches often take that feast day as an opportunity to celebrate not just the life of the saint they are named after, but also the foundation and activity of the church itself.

Our primary dedication here is to St Mary, the mother of Jesus, who in honour of her pre-eminence among the Saints has several feast days, one of which is tomorrow, 8th September. She is our patron saint, which is why this service is known as our Patronal Festival. Our readings and hymns celebrate Mary’s great “yes” to God, who willingly accepted the angel’s message and became the mother of Christ.

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

The Blessing (stand)

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises
and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

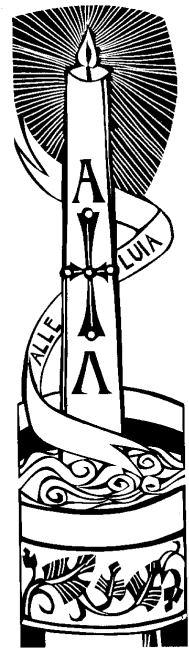
All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

All Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*The ministers, candidates, parents, godparents
and people depart.*

At Easter we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection by lighting the Paschal Candle. Today we use this to light a candle which is given to those who are baptised. It reminds us that Jesus has given his life for us. This good news is like a light shining in the darkness that we then take out into the world to share with others.



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We then say the following Post Communion prayer together.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water
and fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Notices

Final Hymn - 485 Thy hand O God has guided

During this hymn the parents and Godparents bring the newly baptised child up to the altar.

The Sending Out

The president says to the child:

Arabelle, today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.

Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.
With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The child is given a lighted candle, lit from the Easter candle.

God has delivered us from the
dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with
the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

The Gathering

Stand to sing hymn - 188 Ye who own the faith of Jesus (Omit *)

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

All **Amen.**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The service is introduced and baptism family welcomed

Confession and Absolution

Aware of our flaws and our need for forgiveness we turn to God and say,

All God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth.
You create us from nothing and give us life.
You redeem us and make us children in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God forgive you your sins, heal you by his Spirit, and bring you to
everlasting life, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis (sung)

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words
'Let us pray'.*

Almighty and everlasting God,
who stooped to raise fallen humanity
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary:
grant that we, who have seen your glory
revealed in our human nature
and your love made perfect in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image
and conformed to the pattern of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit

We sit for our first reading from Scripture (Isaiah 61:10-11)

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

In the first part of the service, The Liturgy of the Word, we reflect of what God is doing in our lives by listening to the Word of God in the readings from the Bible and making connections to them in the Sermon.



Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father**

*Everyone is welcome at our altar. Please come forward as directed.
If you receive Communion at your own church you are welcome to receive
Communion here.
If you do not receive Communion or would rather have a blessing please
come forward along with everyone else but carry this service book with
you so that we know to offer a blessing.*

*During the distribution of Communion the choir will sing the anthem Hail!
Blessed Virgin Mary by Charles Wood. We then sing the Communion Hymn.*

Communion Hymn - 297 Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer after Communion

Sit or Kneel

Let us pray,

God most high,
whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:
we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption
you visit us with your Holy Spirit
and overshadow us by your power;
strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience
and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

and looking for his coming in glory,
 we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
 As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
 we bring before you this bread and this cup
 and we thank you for counting us worthy
 to stand in your presence and serve you.
 Send the Holy Spirit on your people
 and gather into one in your kingdom
 all who share this one bread and one cup,
 so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
 and all the saints,
 may praise and glorify you for ever,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;
 by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
 for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Sit or Kneel

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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.**

Breaking of Bread

We break this bread
 to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.**

At the end of the reading the reader will say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

*The Choir will now sing a setting of the Song of Mary, called the **Magnificat**.*

*The sung response is "**My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour**"*

The second reading (Galatians 4:4-7)

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing the Gradual Hymn - 161 For Mary, Mother of the Lord

All turn to face the Gospel Reader

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:46-56)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

Parents and godparents play an important role in bringing up children. They make many choices on behalf of their children.

Today the very best is on offer, the grace of God freely poured out in baptism.



He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon - Fr Stefan Chrysostomou

After the Sermon we turn to face the Font for the Baptism. The baptism party follow the president to the font.

The Liturgy of Baptism

Presentation of the Candidate

People of God, I present to you Arabelle Almé Burks for baptism into Christ's Church.

The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome this child and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

Then addressing the baptism party:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives this child with joy. Today we are trusting God for her growth in faith. Will you pray for her, draw her by your example into the community of faith and walk with her in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism Arabelle begins her journey in faith.

You speak for her today.

Will you care for her, and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The child is addressed through her parents and godparents.

"Eucharist" means giving thanks. At the heart of the service we give thanks to God for all that he has done for us

When you looked with favour on your lowly servant you remembered your promise of mercy and gave the world through her your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Through him the hosts of heaven adore you and rejoice in your presence for ever. May our voices join with theirs in the triumphant hymn of praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,



God offers us the gift of peace. At this point in the service we offer the sign of peace to those around



us, not sharing our own peace but the peace God has given to us to spread abroad in the world.

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

We return to our seats.

We sing the Offertory Hymn - 185 Sing we of the Blessed Mother

As the hymn is sung a collection for the work of the church is taken, and the elements of bread and wine are brought to the altar with the offerings of the people.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All **All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Eucharistic Prayer (remain standing)

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
almighty Father, ever-living God,
to proclaim the wonders you have worked in all
your saints,
and on the feast of Mary, ever blessed,
to echo her praise of your loving kindness.
For you have truly done great things
and holy is your name,
and your mercy is on those who fear you
in every generation.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his
marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new
life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God
and neighbour?
I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

*The president makes the sign of the cross on the
forehead of the baptism candidate, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.
Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ
crucified.

***All* Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of
your life.**

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. **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

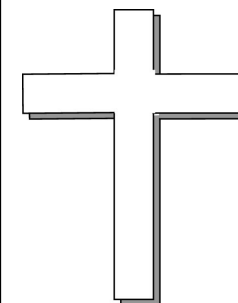
*The president stands before the water of baptism
and says*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Cross is the sign that
reminds us that Jesus has
given his life for us.

When we make the sign
of the cross we receive it
as a "badge" to show
that we belong to Jesus
and to his people the
Church, travelling
together the way of faith.

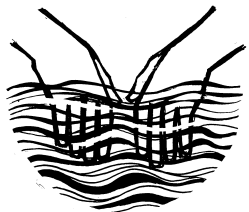


When we make the sign
of the cross we use HOLY
OIL. This is blessed by the
Bishop just before Easter
and using it is a link to
the wider Church. Oil has
traditionally been used
for preparing for a task or
as a sign of celebration!

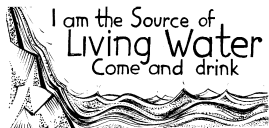


Water is a powerful symbol.

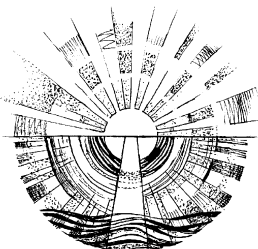
It reminds us that God washes and renews us.



It also reminds us of the new life offered to us through baptism



We remember also the waters of creation.



In the water we use today we share in the baptism of Jesus.



Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

Saving God,
give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

Saving God,
give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Saving God,
give us life.

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 sin.

Saving God,
give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith, and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

Let us affirm together with those who are being baptized our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

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

Baptism

Arabelle Alm  , I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

The president prays for the parents and godparents

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for Arabelle and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.

Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their homes from all evil.

Fill them with the light of your presence and establish in them the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for Arabelle, for the Church she has been baptised into, and for the world which we share with her.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: Arabelle by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The congregation celebrates the baptism with a round of applause.

When we pour the waters of baptism we use a shell. A shell was traditionally the badge used by someone who had been on a religious journey, a pilgrimage. Using a shell today reminds us that baptism is the beginning of the journey of faith which is the rest of our life.

