

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's the difference between a baptism and a christening? Nothing. They are the same thing, but churches normally say 'baptism'.

How many people can I invite? We often have two baptisms together, and so because of space constraints we please ask that you limit the total number of guests to 50 (adults and children).

What does it cost? Nothing. The baptism service is free.

What are the godparents for? Godparents make the same promises as parents to help raise your child in the Christian faith as part of the Church family. It is a very important and responsible role and so please choose carefully.

Who should we choose to be godparents? This can be one of the most difficult choices to make. Godparents can be family members or friends, but please choose people you trust to take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and pray for you and your child.

Godparents MUST be baptised themselves and need to understand the promises they are making. It's worth noting that we are not able to Baptise adults just to be godparents.

Does being a godparents make them legal guardians? No. The role of godparents is a spiritual one – to encourage and pray for their godchild.

How many godparents should we have? In the Church of England you must choose at least three godparents. Two should be same sex as the child and one of the other sex. Parents can be godparents at the same time.

SYMBOLS AND SIGNS

The baptism service involves many important symbols.

The Sign of the Cross. The minister will make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead. This is like an invisible badge to show that Christians are united with Christ and must not be ashamed to stand up for their faith in him.

Water. The minister pours water on your child's head as a sign of being washed free from sin and beginning a new life with God.

Candles. Jesus said 'I am the light of the world.' During the service you, on behalf of your child, will be presented with a lit candle to remind you of the light Christ is in your child's life.

Further Information

We hope your child's baptism will be a wonderful occasion and that it will mark the beginning of a long and happy relationship with Finningley Church. If you would like more information, or have any questions, then please do get in touch.

THE PARISH OFFICE

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OR

BAPTISM COORDINATOR

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Your Child's Baptism

INFORMATION 2025

We're delighted that you're thinking of baptism (also called christening) for your child. Your child is precious to you and precious to God.

At baptism you, and the child's godparents, promise to raise your child to know that God loves them, and to help them to follow Jesus as a member of the church.

We hope this guide will help as you think about Baptism for your child and prepare to take the first steps with them on their Christian journey.



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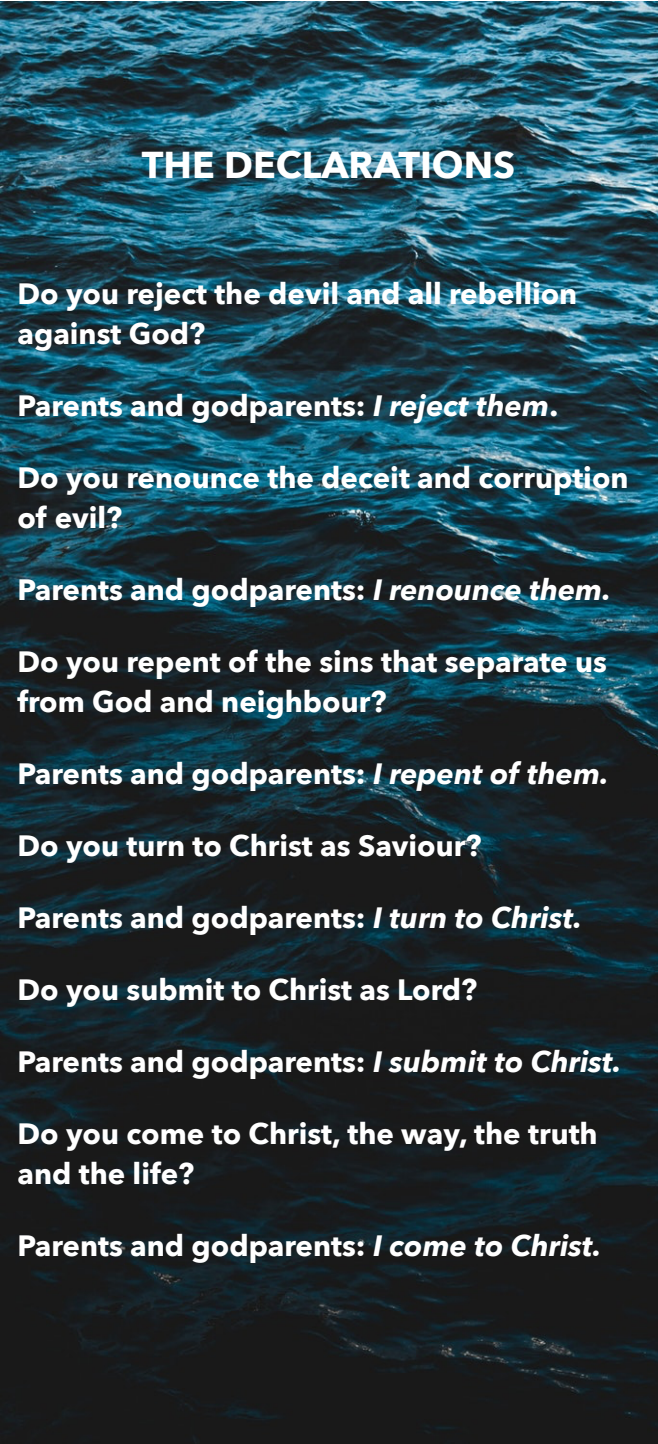


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THE DECLARATIONS

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Parents and godparents: *I reject them.*

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Parents and godparents: *I renounce them.*

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

Parents and godparents: *I repent of them.*

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Parents and godparents: *I turn to Christ.*

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Parents and godparents: *I submit to Christ.*

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

Parents and godparents: *I come to Christ.*

Baptism Information 2025

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

First, we ask that you and your child come along to church and experience a service with us. These are at 9.15am every Sunday, or on the 1st Sunday of each month at 3.30pm we have Cafe 3:30, which is aimed primarily at families with children. (For more information please see our website or social media pages.) This is an opportunity for us to welcome you and for you to meet us. This, we hope, will be the first step on the journey.

After the service please say 'hello' to one of our Ministers, our vicar, who will introduce you to our Baptism Coordinator, Karen.

Karen will then talk to you about available dates and arrange to visit you at a time and date convenient for you. We will show a short DVD, and then chat a little about the service and the promises that you and your chosen godparents will make. If it is possible then please ask your godparents to come along. If everyone is happy we will then arrange the date for your child's baptism.

Baptisms usually take place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 12.30pm in a special baptism service. They are family friendly and should last around 30 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE BAPTISM SERVICE?

During the service you and the godparents will publicly promise to do your best to raise your child to follow Jesus, as part of the wider church family. The local Church family, those who will be there and those you met on your initial visit, will welcome your child and promise to support, encourage, and pray for them and for you as a family.

You and the godparents will be asked to bring your child to the font, containing the water for baptism. Our minister, Neil, will then ask you to make some promises on behalf of your child. After that your child is baptised, and then welcomed into the Church.

Don't worry about things going smoothly. Neil will make sure that you know what to do and when.

MAKING PROMISES

During the service you and the child's godparents will make six declarations on behalf of your child, and they appear in the blue box on the left hand side of this leaflet. You all declare your own Christian faith in front of everyone and promise to help your child to follow Jesus.