

It is advisable that you come along in plenty of time so that you can gather yourselves. Spaces will often be reserved at the front of the church.

Enjoy the service, it's a celebration and ask any questions you might have.

## 9. Anniversary

On the anniversary of the Baptism, those baptised are invited to bring their baptismal candles along to a service where they can be re-lit as part of a celebration of their joining the church. At this service a blessing may be given.

## 10 Conclusion

We hope this booklet will be of use. Please ask any question which we have not covered. We hope you will see that Baptism is very important, not only to you, but to the existing church family and that we will do our best to make it special for you.

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## Birstall and Wanlip

**St James' Church, Birstall &  
Our Lady & St Nicholas, Wanlip**



St James



Our Lady & St Nicholas

## How **not** to be submerged by your Baptism



A guide to getting the most from your Baptism; the preparation and the service.

## Introduction

It is very exciting when someone comes forward to be Baptised (also known as Christened) and the service is a time for rejoicing.

The purpose of this booklet is to answer your questions about the special nature of Baptism and of the service. Baptism isn't something to be taken lightly, but after thought and prayer and perhaps some instruction.

### 1. What is Baptism

Baptism is the ceremony which is celebrated to welcome people into the church family. At Baptism adults say certain things and make certain promises, You will be asked to say things like, “*I turn to Christ*”; “*I repent of my Sins*” and “*I renounce evil*”, amongst others.

These are public statements of your willingness to take your place within the family of the church and promises between you and God to live according to his teaching. At the Baptism of young children, the parents and Godparents speak on their behalf and make promises to bring the child up within the church family.

### 2. First things first...

Before you can be expected to make public statements of what you believe and make serious promises to live your life in a new way, you will probably want to come and find out about the church family you intend to join, to meet other members of the family and to share with us in our worship. You may wish to discuss with the vicar or someone from the church what it truly means to be a Baptised member of the church, but **first things first**, come and join us at one of the services held at 10am on Sundays; the first Sunday of each month is our All Together informal worship and all others are Holy Communion. (*10am is a weekly Parish Worship/Communion service*).

Someone will meet you at the church door, show you where to sit and give you the books you'll need .

### 3. The Paperwork.

After you have been to a service or two, got to know a few people and got a feel for what it means to be part of the church family, it's time for a visit from the [Baptism visitor](#) to talk about the meaning of Baptism, the content of the service, to fill in an application form and fix a date for the Baptism.

### 4. Godparents.

A Godparent is a sponsor, who along with the believing parent, wishes to support the child in their Christian upbringing.

It is important to choose Godparents carefully. Godparents must be Baptised themselves. They may be members of other Christian denominations, but not of other faiths.

### 5. Who is a Christian?

Someone who believes that Jesus is God's Son, but also that he was human and therefore shared and understands our human suffering.

Someone who believes that Jesus came to teach us about God and guide us in living a better way, and in doing so brings us closer to God.

Someone who believes that Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead to give us a place in heaven. (Eternal life).

Someone who believes that Jesus lives in our hearts and makes all Christians one family in God; someone who follows Christ!

### 6. Preparation and understanding

By now you will realise that Baptism is a serious undertaking and that you will be making promises which will change the way you live your life.

If you feel that you need to know more before the service takes place then a visitor can arrange to come and talk with you further about your understanding and perhaps show you a video.

### 7. Rehearsals

A rehearsal can be arranged for the week before the Baptism Service so that you will feel comfortable in the knowledge that you know where to stand and what to say. This can be arranged when the date for the Baptism service is agreed.

### 8. The Service.

The Baptism can be held at the 10am 'All Together Service' on the 1st Sunday or at 3pm on a Sunday afternoon. Discuss this with the vicar/visitor.