

Application for Baptism at _____ Church

Due notice, normally of at least a week, shall be given before a child/candidate is brought to the church to be baptised. As baptism is a significant commitment to the Christian faith, the PCC request that baptisms take place on a Sunday (unless there is a clear pastoral reason that prevents this).

Christian Name/Surname of Child or Candidate:	
Child/ Candidate Date of Birth:	
Preferred Date(s) for Baptism Service:	
Preferred Time: <i>Usually within our Sunday Communion Service at 9.45am or separately at 12noon.</i>	
Home Address:	
Contact Number:	
Email address:	
Christian Names/ Surnames of Parents:	
Have you been baptised?	
Have you been confirmed?	
Occupations of Parents:	
Names and Addresses of Godparents/ Sponsors:	1) Baptised: Yes/No Confirmed: Yes/No 2) Baptised: Yes/No Confirmed: Yes/No

	3) Baptised: Yes/No Confirmed: Yes/No
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It is not essential for parents to be baptised and confirmed in order to get their child baptised unless they are to be godparents.

Church law requires godparents to be baptised and confirmed, but the requirement of confirmation can be relaxed in certain cases.

It is usual to have three godparents, two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex, but to have one godfather and one godmother is sufficient.

Parents may be godparents to their own children, provided that the child has at least one other godparent.

Sponsors in addition to godparents are permitted.

If the candidate is an adult it is usual to be confirmed at the same time and to use sponsors rather than godparents. In which case, the sponsors should be baptised and confirmed.

Unless there are strong pastoral or historical reasons, a child/candidate should normally be baptised at his or her parish church or the church the parents normally attend.

The Sunday services are generally at the following times: Holy Trinity: 08.00am; 09.45am. St Augustine: 09.30am (unless 3rd Sunday of a month: 11.30am.)

Please tear off this half of the booklet and return it completed to:
Bev McDade, Parish Administrator, Rectory Cottage, Rectory Lane, Skipton, BD23 1ER

The Parish of Holy Trinity Skipton is required by law to keep the information overleaf in order to make accurate records in the baptism registers of the churches. These registers are permanent. Please indicate your consent:

YES/NO

In addition the Rector and PCC would very much like to remain in contact with you for the purposes of notifying you about news, events, activities and services in the Parish. Please indicate your consent or otherwise:

YES/NO

*You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Data Privacy Notice" which is available from our website (www.holytrinityskipton.org.uk) or from the Parish Office. You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the Parish Administrator: The Parish Office, Rectory Cottage, Rectory Lane, Skipton, BD23 1ER or by email at: admin@holytrinityskipton.org.uk
 Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.*

Baptism (or Christening) is a serious and significant commitment. As a parent or godparent you should be able to give a clear account to your child (when they are old enough to ask) as to why you decided to make this commitment on their behalf. That it seemed like the right thing to do is probably not a good enough explanation!

Jesus asks his followers to join him in two clear, holy and profound acts of commitment which, he said, would bind us closely into the presence of God. Both these activities are things Jesus himself did: the first is baptism; the second, sharing in the meal of bread and wine we call Holy Communion.

For two thousand years people from different nations, cultures and traditions have identified themselves with Jesus by being baptised and then joining together with others to share regularly in the holy meal of bread and wine.

Of course, there is much more to being a Christian, like following the teachings of Jesus on a day-to-day basis. However, baptism and Holy Communion have been given to us as gifts by Jesus in order to help us with our often challenging journey through life. They help us keep our faces turned to God when the distractions, hardships, temptations, sufferings and deceits of life combine to overwhelm us. They are not miracles of perfection and nothing to do with being holier than thou; they are generous gifts of forgiveness, love and hope, into which all are welcome and through which we become more fully who we were created to be.

Unless we look to faithfully commit to a pattern of life shaped around baptism and communion – the shape of most worship in church – it is difficult to receive the deep inner blessing of these generous gifts – known as sacraments.

We know that children are shaped by the example of their parents and this is no less true with regard to the commitment of baptism. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unfair, to expect a child to understand and make an informed decision about their own faith and

conviction, if their parents/godparents do not set an example to them and discuss with them their own faith. This is why the decisions and vows you make on behalf of a child are so serious and significant because they shed a light upon your own values and commitment.

None of us have all the answers and we should be very careful about limiting the magnitude and mystery of God by simple explanations. However, baptism and Holy Communion are about a shared act of commitment wherein we journey together with one another, helping, seeking, searching, loving and forgiving through the wisdom and divine grace of Jesus Christ.

If you decide on baptism for your child or yourself, the churches of Holy Trinity, Skipton and St Augustine, Draughton commit to doing all we can to travelling with you on your journey and welcoming you wholeheartedly into the family of Christ's church.

Please do be in touch if you have any questions or queries.

As a parent or godparent you should ask yourself:

Are you prepared to the best of your ability to give the child a Christian upbringing within the family of Christ's Church?

Will you help the child to be regular in public worship and in prayer, not only by your teaching but also by your example and your prayers?

Will you encourage the child in due time to take Holy Communion and come to confirmation?