

# **A Service of Baptism**

**The United Benefice of  
Haslemere and Grayswood**



# It is good news...

It is good news that you wish to have your child baptised. Well done on making this important decision.

At the service of baptism you will make some public and important declarations about what you will do for your child, where you stand in relation to God and his purposes for your life, and what you believe. Please do take time to read this booklet; it contains the words we will be using at the baptism service. In particular may I draw your attention to the questions on page 4; these questions are addressed to parents and godparents alone. It is of course important that you understand these questions and mean the responses that you will be making. So please ask if there is anything you are unsure about.

The baptism service isn't, though, simply about the commitments you'll be making. At the heart of the Christian story is the good news about Jesus and how, because of him, we can know God and his help in our lives. So you will not be going it alone. As you seek to fulfil your commitments, God will guide and strengthen you.

Also, God does not intend Christians to live isolated lives but rather to support and encourage one another. For that reason being part of the church is an important aspect of baptism too. We therefore look forward to journeying with you.

This comes with our prayers for you at this time.

Revd Chris Bessant  
Rector, The United Benefice of Haslemere and Grayswood

*Welcome*

*Introduction to Baptism of N*

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 God's family, we have a new dignity  
and God calls us to fullness of life.

*Presentation of the Candidates and address*

The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors. The president asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?

**I do.**

**Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.**

**The president invites the baptismal party to the front of the 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 *N*  
and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

At the baptism of children, the president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *N* with joy.  
Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith.  
Will you pray for *them*,  
draw *them* by your example into the community of faith  
and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism *N* begins *their* journey in faith.  
You speak for *them* today.  
Will you care for *them*,  
and help *them* to take *their* place  
within the life and worship of Christ's Church?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

### *The Decision*

A large candle may be lit. The president addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

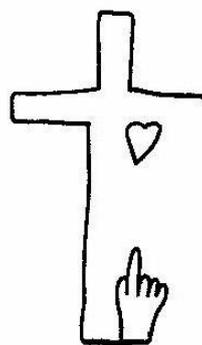
In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.  
Therefore I ask:

Parents/Godparents

Do you turn to Christ?  
**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?  
**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?  
**I renounce evil.**



## *Profession of Faith*

### **The president addresses the congregation**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together and on behalf of N the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## *Signing with the Cross*

The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own.  
Receive the sign of his cross.

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross. When all the candidates have been signed, the president says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.  
**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 ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font. 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.**

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.

We praise you, loving Father,  
for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ.  
He was baptized in the River Jordan,  
where your Spirit came upon him  
and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers  
to baptize all who turn to him.  
Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,  
that those who are baptized in it  
may be cleansed in the water of life,  
and, filled with your Spirit  
may know that they are loved as your children,  
safe in Christ for ever.

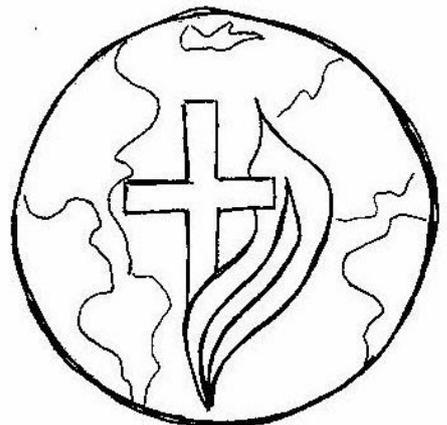
For all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *Baptism*

**The president or another minister dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them, saying**

*N*, I baptize you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**The president says**



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 Welcome and Peace*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.  
We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**The congregation may greet the newly baptized. The baptismal party  
can return to their seats**

## *Commission*

Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, a minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words

We have brought *N* to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *children* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that *they* may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *this family* by prayer, example and teaching. As *their* parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *N* in *their* early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *N and their whole family* in the way of faith.

One or more of the following prayers may be used

### Prayer

Faithful and loving God,  
bless those who care for *N*  
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.  
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,  
and protect their home from all evil.  
Fill them with the light of your presence  
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of grace and life,  
in your love you have given us  
a place among your people;  
keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and prepare us for that glorious day  
when the whole creation will be made perfect  
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

If the newly baptized are old enough to understand, these words may be added

*N and N,*  
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.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
**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.**

### *Giving of a Lighted Candle*

The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle. These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision. When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says

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

### *The Dismissal & Blessing*

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

