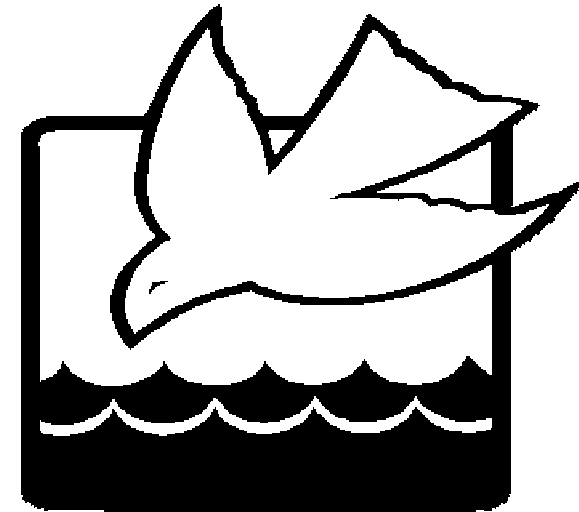
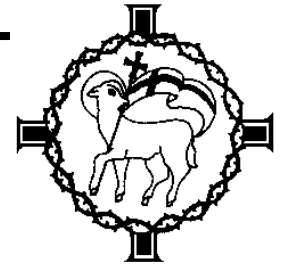


To a new baptised member of the Church,

With lots of love from all your family, friends and all at St George, Stalybridge on this special day.

**St George's
Parish Church
Stalybridge**
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER



**Baptism (or
Christening)
of children**

Welcome and Introduction — Vicar

Following the tradition of Jesus who welcomed children into his community, we celebrate the presence of children within our community at St George's

We affirm the love of God made known in children who are brought for baptism and the sacredness of the covenant shared between their parents and sponsors, family and friends,. We will all promise to support the children as they live and grow in the Christian faith. The wider community of the local church welcomes them, promising support and prayer for their future.

Baptism marks an important step in our journey with God in Jesus which continues for the rest of our lives. It is a step in response to God's love. It is a joyful occasion when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Jesus, making serious promises and affirming our faith. It provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with a new member of the worldwide Church.

Prayer

Creator Spirit, in the waters of baptism refresh us and welcome us. **All: Renew us in life and love.**

As once we were held in the waters of our mother's womb
All: hold us in your power and peace.

The Easter Candle is lit.

Gospel Reading

Presentation of Child *please sit*

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A sponsor gives the child a lighted candle lit from the Easter candle

Vicar says

Name, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

The Dismissal

Let us all go in the light and peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.



Prayers

Followed by

Let us pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in the words which Jesus gave 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.

The presentation
of a small gift to
the child from
our congregation
at St George's



Vicar: People of God, will you welcome *name* and uphold *her/him* in *his/her* new life in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support and care.

Vicar then says to the parents and godparents:

Do you desire to have *name* baptized into this Christian community?

We do

Will you encourage *name* to learn from the wisdom of our forebears in being compassionate and kind and walking humbly with God?

We will

Will you help *name* to appreciate the life and teachings of Jesus, along with the spiritual gifts of other religious traditions?

We will

Will you journey with *name* to discover and cherish the wonder of God's life and love and the preciousness of all creation.

We will?

Signing with the Cross

Vicar makes the sign of the cross on name's forehead with holy oil saying:

Name, Jesus invites you to follow him. Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Jesus, to live for what is good and true and to share with us a life full of Jesus' love and compassion. **All: Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

Vicar continues with the prayer over the water:

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb and baptized by John in the water of the Jordan. Jesus washed the feet of his followers and sent them to baptize with water and spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless *name* and all who are touched by this water that they may always know your love and presence in their lives. **All Amen.**



Profession of Faith

Vicar addresses everyone present:

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to profess, together with *name*, our common faith in Jesus.

Do you believe in God, the Source and Fountain of Life?
We believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus the Servant, who gave his life that everyone might live life to the full?
We believe in Jesus.

Do you believe in the Spirit, the Guide, the liberating Energy of life?
We believe in the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism

Vicar pours water on the child's head, saying

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

The Welcome

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

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

The congregation greets the child with applause.