BAPTISM
St. ANDREW'S TOTTERIDGE

Baptism, or Christening, is the start of a lifelong journey of faith for your child and a special day for all your friends and family. Baptism signifies becoming part of the church family which is why it takes place within our Sunday morning service.

St. ANDREW'S
TOTTERIDGE

We are a Church of England church in the diocese of St. Albans.
We welcome enquiries about baptism for children and adults.

You can also have a service of thanksgiving for the gift of your child. If you choose a thanksgiving when your child is born you can still have a baptism at a later date.

To arrange a Baptism or Thanksgiving please contact the Parish Office. For a full list of our regular services please see our website.

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH
Totteridge, N20 8PR
Email: admin@totteridgechurch.org.uk
Tel: 020 8446 1417

BAPTISM

Baptism is a chance for friends and family to get together, to celebrate and to thank God for the new life of your child. It is a sacrament, an outward sign of God's love.

We also give thanks that as well as being a member of a human family your child is a part of God's family too, the family of the Church. So whilst it is a special occasion for your family it is a special day for us too.

If you are an adult or teenager you may choose to be baptised and confirmed as part of a confirmation service.
A parent can also ask to be baptised at the same service as their child.

There is no fee for a baptism but we hope that you may wish to make a donation to help ensure that our church is able to continue to be there for generations to come.

Baptism Promises

Children are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the church. Since children cannot make the Christian statement of faith in Jesus for themselves, their parents and godparents make it on their behalf and promise before God to bring them up as Christians within the family of the church, passing on their own faith in Jesus to their children by how they pray, live and worship in the local church community.

Godparents

The role of godparents is to pray for and support their godchild as they grow in the Christian faith. Because so much of this role involves passing on faith to the godchild, godparents needs to be practicing Christian themselves. According to the rules of the Church of England they must be baptised and ideally confirmed. If you have questions about this do get in touch. Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child.

THE BAPTISM SERVICE

Baptism normally takes place within our Sunday morning worship. It includes many important words and symbols.

The Decision	Parents and godparents promise to turn away from their sins and follow in the way of Christ.
Signing with the Cross	The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the person to be baptised as a sign of unity with Jesus.
Anointing with Oil	Anointing with oil has always been linked with special moments of prayer, and can symbolise healing, cleansing and celebration. Oil of baptism is used to make the sign of the cross, and the oil of chrism after baptism.
Water	Water is blessed, and poured over the head in the name of the Holy Trinity, God Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is a sign of being washed free from sin, and beginning a new life with God.
The Welcome	The church congregation welcomes their newest member with joy. The welcome is not just for the day of the baptism. But a promise that we will be there to support your life of faith.
A Candle	Jesus said “I am the light of the world”. At the end of the service a candle is given to remind us of the light of Christ in the life of those who have been baptised.