

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

for a celebration of  
**Holy Communion & Baptism**  
on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024



## A few thoughts about Baptism and Holy Communion

Baptism is a sign of belonging to the Church. The Church is an imperfect, loveable, sometimes infuriating, remarkably resilient community gathered together because of fascination with all that Jesus Christ showed and said about God. The Church is there for you, so that you need not search for truth and meaning alone. Young and old and in between, faithful and doubtful, enthusiastic and sceptical, we know we need each other.

Our ceremony's ancient questions, preparing us for confident entry to the church, are very boldly worded. Remember that they were shaped in an age when the church was vulnerable and declaring Christian faith may have put you in danger. They are not calling for arrogance in our faith, then, but rather for confidence. To be sure you belong to God is not to imply that God cares any the less for someone who has not been baptised. The world can, however, throw a great deal at us. To this day we can find faith a struggle, our generosity under threat and our commitment ridiculed. The church, therefore, still asks these strongly worded questions in order to encourage, inspire, challenge and sustain us through thick and thin.

Notice that, among all the bold questions, there is not one asking how good you are. They all ask which way you look for help. They are about turning our back on the things that inhibit life, corrupt our relationships and narrow our vision. To look towards Christ is not to claim goodness, but to insist that he, not the negative influences around and within us, commands our attention. He is our guide, authority and measure for life.

The baptism celebration contains many words, mostly declaring our belief in God. Between the lines, though, there is a word from God. At Jesus' Baptism, St Mark tells us, when he rose from the water, he heard his Father whisper from heaven: "You are my son, in whom I am well pleased." While our faith in God may flicker from time to time, in your Baptism hear God's affirmation for you. Even when you hardly believe in yourself, God believes in you. He can always work in us to make something good even out of the hardest situation, or most regrettable mistake.

More important that all the words are the pictures of water and light. Ordinary water is made special by a prayer that turns it into a picture-poem, full of meaning. By the end of the prayer we remember water's power to refresh and cleanse, like God's Spirit. We remember how frightening deep water can be, reminding us of death. The water of Baptism names our death but then, as we rise from the water, like Jesus stepping from the tomb on Easter Day, we declare our Easter hope that death is not the end of our story.

Following the Baptism, we share a symbolic meal of bread and wine. St John's Gospel records with tenderness how Jesus prepared his disciples for the time when they would no longer see Him. Jesus spoke with touching affection for those, like us, who would never see him in the flesh. We need particular encouragement as we live by faith rather than sight. He gave us a simple picture of bread and wine, but one which has profound meaning: bread for his body, wine for his blood. Sharing in this way, we vividly remember Jesus and are joined with him. We affirm the Christian habit of thanksgiving. We also act out, consciously, the kind of community into which we are baptised: a community where all come with very different gifts, different tastes and different patterns of faith. Yet all are equally welcome at God's table. All receive the same portion of the same bread and wine. All are equally precious in God's sight.

So strengthened, a candle is given to the candidate to remind us of the light they will shed in the world as they hold fast to the hope and humble confidence our ceremony has enacted. Seeing their light moving towards the door, any of us may be inspired also to shine as a light in the world.

## We prepare in heart and mind

Music before the service: Morning has broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dew-fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's re-creation of the new day!

*(words: Eleanor Farjeon; music: Traditional Gaelic melody, arr Colin Hand)*

*When the canticle ends we stand to sing:*

## God is love: let heaven adore him

1. God is love: let heav'n adore him;  
God is love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heav'ns above,  
he who breathes through all creation,  
he is love, eternal Love.

2. God is love: and he enfoldeth  
all the world in one embrace;  
with unfailing grasp he holdeth  
ev'ry child of ev'ry race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that self-same aching  
deep within the heart of God.

3. God is love: and though with blindness  
sin affects the human soul,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
guides and heals and makes us whole.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

*(words: Timothy Rees alt; music: Croatian folk melody, adapt Franz Joseph Haydn)*

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

**All: and also with you.**

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

*We pray:* **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of  
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Deacon: 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 children of God, we have a new dignity  
and God calls us to fullness of life. We celebrate this gift by  
standing to sing the GLORIA

*We repeat each line after the Cantor:*

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to the Father.  
To God be glory for ever.  
Halleluia! Amen! (x3)

Glory to God! Glory to God! Son of the Father...

Gory to God! Glory to God! Glory Holy Spirit...

*We remain standing to pray* THE COLLECT:

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and  
kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BIBLE READING: [2 Corinthians 8: 7 – end](#)

SERMON in church is from Tariro

At home we dwell on Grace of Giving

Paul as he writes to the Corinthians lists all the things that they excel in – ‘ since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you’, he adds to them that, see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

This makes me think of one of Jesus’ statements in Luke 6: 45 ‘The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good’. I wonder if we take a moment to reflect, what kind of things, actions, words do we say, give or do. Pay attention to where and when you do these things? Is it when you have been asked? Or when it has been forced on you? Or something you just do or comes natural to you?

In what ways can we change or improve or build on that?

Our giving is a direct if not obvious show of our faith and what we have in our hearts. It shows our love for God. It is not about large quantities. Sometimes even the little means a lot. We do not have to wait until we are rich to give, until our circumstances are what we want or until we reach a certain age.

There is this story in Luke chapter 21:

### **The Widow's Offering**

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.'

Paul stresses that giving is not a command because then it is under duress and loses its meaning and sincerity. It has to be from the abundance of heart. He writes, 'I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.'

Do we have the grace of giving in our churches, communities, in our lives?

Do we give an open welcome?

Do we give the gift of inclusion?

Do we give financially to the growth of our church?

Do we give of our resources, time and effort to others or the life of the church?

Do we give the gift of hospitality?

Do we give the gift of compassion and understanding?

Do we give the gift of kind words and encouragement?

We can pray and ask the God of grace to grow in us gifts worth sharing and to grow the grace of giving in us for there is joy in giving.

## **We present the Candidate**

**Priest:** Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism we celebrate the welcoming love of God and affirm our fellowship as a community of faith. People of God, will you welcome Harriet and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

**Answer:** **With the help of God, we will.**

Parents and Godparents, today we are trusting God for Harriet's continued growth in faith. Will you pray for her, encourage her by your

example to play her part in the community of faith and walk with her in the way of Christ?

**Answer: With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism we affirm Harriet's journey in faith. You speak for her today. Will you care for her and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

**Answer: With the help of God, we will.**

## We turn towards Christ

Priest: 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:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**Answer: I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

*The Priest makes the sign of the cross on Harriet's forehead, saying: Harriet, Christ claims you for his own.*

Receive the sign of the cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All: 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.**

*We make our way to the font, singing:*

My God is so big

1. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that he cannot do.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that he cannot do.

The rivers are his, the mountains are his,  
the stars are his handiwork too.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that he cannot do.

2. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that he cannot do.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that he cannot do.

He's called you to live for him ev'ry day  
in all that you say and you do.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that he cannot do.

*(words & music: Traditional)*

## We pray over the Water

Priest: Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**All: who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptise into his fellowship those who come to him in faith. Now sanctify



this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image may they walk by the light of faith and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory now and for ever. **Amen.**

## We declare our faith

Leader: We profess together with *Harriet's* parent and Godparents the faith of the Church:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All: I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the Faith of the Church

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## We Baptise

*The Candidate is baptised:*

Priest: Harriet, I baptise you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Priest: 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.**

We return to our places

PRAYERS *for the Harriet and for the world, with the response:*  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

At home we bring to mind the questions we reflected on and we sit with them in the presence of God. We pray for the themes that popped up in our minds, the feelings that were evoked, the areas we need to work on and the things we need to let go. We give thanks for the grace of giving that we have and ask God to continue to grow us.

Here is a prayer we can use from Scotty Smith's blog

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15 – GRACE-DRIVEN GENEROSITY

*A prayer from the Gospel Coalition for grace-driven generosity:*

Heavenly Father, we come before you today encouraged and challenged by this picture of radical grace. This one story alone underscores why we can never emphasize your grace too much. Grace is never to be counterbalanced with law, only multiplied with more grace. Indeed, through Jesus you continue to give us grace upon grace (John 1:16)—such is your great generosity and love.

What an amazing story—the severely afflicted and extremely poor Christians of Macedonia became a model of kingdom joy and radical generosity, to the much wealthier believers in Corinth. Paul didn't do the begging to generate funds. The Corinthians did the begging to share what they had!

Guilt, fear and legalism can't generate such big-hearted giving; only great love created by copious grace. Indeed, cheerful giving finds its source in no other place than in your joyful heart. (2 Cor. 9:7). The law cannot produce that kind of people—not even grace plus law, but only grace upon grace.

For the glory of Jesus and the advancing of your kingdom, we ask you to give us the same grace you gave the churches of Macedonia. The needs all around us are exponential, but your resources are endless. Indeed, help us to excel in the grace of giving—financially and in every other way.

For you are “able to make all grace abound to [us], so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, [we] can abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8). Enrich us in every way that we might be generous in every way (2 Cor. 9:11)—with our time, talents, and treasures, and with great forbearance and extravagant forgiveness.

Lord Jesus, you are the ultimate cheerful giver. That’s what the gospel is all about. Though you were rich, you gladly became poor for us, that by your poverty we might become joyfully rich through you (2 Cor. 8:9). For the joy set before you, you laid down your lives for us on the cross (Heb. 12:2). Make your gladness ours. Make your generosity ours. So very Amen we pray, in your great and gracious name.’

Among those in our community who are unwell, we remember Adrian Koslowski, Tricia Howard, Bill Myring, Howard Drury, Charlotte Dunlop, Martina Osborne and John Wallace-Howell.

*We end with:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Priest: 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 friend-ship 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. Harriet, there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: 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.**

*We greet the Harriet with applause.*

THE PEACE

Deacon: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(1 Corinthians 12)

*We greet one another*

HYMN *during which the table is prepared.*

Beauty for brokenness

1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

2. Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.  
*God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray,  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctu'ry, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need.  
*God of the poor...*

5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,  
until your justice burns brightly again;  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.  
*God of the poor...*

*(words & music: Graham Kendrick)*

We tell the story of  
God's faithfulness

Priest: With this bread that we bring  
**All: we shall remember Jesus.**  
Priest: With this wine that we bring

**All: we shall remember Jesus.**

Priest: Bread for his body, wine for his blood,  
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**All: We shall remember Jesus.**

Priest: The Lord is here

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

*A bell is rung*

**Father we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

*A bell is rung*

**Father we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts,  
make us one in Christ, our Risen Lord.**

With your whole church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy,  
My heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words:  
You are Holy, Lord. (x2)** (A setting of the Sanctus from Argentina)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body.  
For we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace. (x2)

*After servers and singers have received, all are invited to come forward to receive bread and wine. If you prefer not to, but would like to receive a blessing, keep your hands by your sides. Or, if you prefer, feel free to remain in your place.*

## *Songs during Communion*

Jesus bids us shine

1. Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,  
like a little candle burning in the night.  
In this world is darkness: so we must shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

2. Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;  
well he sees and knows it, if our light grows dim.  
He looks down from heaven to see us shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

3. Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;  
many kinds of darkness in the world abound:  
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

*(words: Susan Warner; music: E O Excell)*

O Lord, my heart is not proud

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great, nor marvels beyond me.  
Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace;  
at rest, as a child in its mother's arms, so is my soul.

*(words: Psalm 131; music: Margaret Rizza)*

*After all have received, the Priest invites us to pray.*

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly  
banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

HYMN O for a thousand tongues to sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

2. Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

3. He breaks the pow'r of cancelled sin,

he sets the pris'ner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

4. He speaks; and, list'ning to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

5. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;  
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of thy name.

*(words: Charles Wesley; Music: Melody adapted from Thomas Haweis; descant: L Stilwell)*

## We are sent out with God's blessing

Priest: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**All: Amen.**

*A lighted candle is given to Harriet.*

Deacon: 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.

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

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





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### ***6.30pm service this evening: Music Service***

The Royal School of Church Music's *The Big Hymn Sing* booklet was produced for 2024's iteration of its annual Music Sunday, and comprises a specially-composed hymn *Sing to the Lord, a new song of creation* and then the top 10 hymns.

Join us as our fabulous choir sings and we hear various reflections and reading on the joy and power of music.