

What is the difference between Baptism and Thanksgiving?

	Thanksgiving Service	Baptism
<i>What are we doing in the service?</i>	Thanking God for the child, rejoicing in the gift of a new life, and celebrating the name you have chosen for them.	Professing our own whole-hearted commitment to Jesus and praying that the child will grow up to follow Jesus themselves.
<i>What do you have to believe?</i>	In the case of the thanksgiving service, nothing! Though it makes sense to have some sort of belief in God.	You state publicly your belief in the historic Christian faith as laid out in the Apostles Creed.
<i>What promises are you making?</i>	None	You promise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To turn from living life your own way, - To let Jesus tell you how to live in everything, - To rely on Jesus for your life and eternity, - To pray with and for your child each day, - To bring your child to church regularly.
<i>Do I need Godparents?</i>	You can choose to have sponsors which you are at liberty to call 'godparents' if you would like.	You need a minimum of two godparents, one of each gender. Ideally you have two of the same gender as your child and one of the opposite.
<i>Do I need to be baptised or confirmed?</i>	No, because you are not making any promises before God.	The godparents need to have been baptised. In some circumstances the requirement for confirmation can be waived. Given the promises you are making, ideally one or both parents will have been baptised (and confirmed).
<i>What does the service not do?</i>	It does not get the child wet! Neither does it give the child a ticket to haven or change the child's standing before God.	Water baptism does not make your child a Christian. It is not an insurance ticket for heaven and does not change the child's standing before God.
<i>What do we require at Holy Trinity?</i>	Attend a morning service at Holy Trinity in the month before the thanksgiving service so we can all meet you. After the thanksgiving service we encourage you to attend a course that grapples with Christian belief.	In a baptism service we make big promises. We want you to say things that you mean. To help you with that, before we commit to a date for a service, we ask that the parents, and where possible, godparents... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend a service at Holy Trinity on 3 occasions before we commit to a date, 2. Attend a Christian belief course, if possible, such as Alpha.
<i>When do we do the service?</i>	As part of our normal 10.00am Sunday Service.	
<i>What next?</i>	If you haven't already done so, come to a Sunday Service and meet the vicar.	