

# Baptism Policy

## 1. Welcome

Jesus taught his followers to make disciples of all nations and to baptise those who believed the message about Jesus and trusted in Him. From early days followers of Christ have also baptised their children trusting that the promises of God apply to our children and longing that they should grow up to trust in Jesus for themselves.

As a Church we welcome all those who wish to have their children baptised, however, if you are not resident in the parish, we ask that you approach the church in whose parish you live.

## 2. Our Policy

In accordance with the practice of the Church of England we also require parents and godparents to go through preparation before their children are baptised.

- In particular we require that if you are not already regular members of the church that you attend our Family Worship Services before booking a date. These take place every Sunday at 10:30am. We realise that for those who are not familiar with church this can be a bit daunting so we aim to be welcoming, friendly and helpful to everyone who attends our services, especially newcomers.
- We also require parents to attend a preparation meeting led by one or two members from the Church. These may be held with other parents or on your own depending on the circumstances.

Unless a child is dangerously ill Baptism always takes place during one of our family services in Church on a Sunday morning. The service lasts about an hour and in addition to the baptism itself includes songs of worship, readings from the Bible, teaching from the Bible and prayers led from the front. You are very welcome to join us for refreshments after the service to chat to people and get to know us.

- Children being baptised require at least three godparents who will make promises on behalf of the child. At least two of the godparents must be

of the same gender as the child. The father or mother, or both, may be godparents. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and the details of when and where they were baptised should be included on the application form. Godparents are welcome to attend the preparation meetings if they wish.

### 3. Thanksgiving and Dedication

If for any reason you don't feel that baptism is right for your child at this stage we would be more than happy for you join us for a Sunday morning service when we can use a form of prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of a child and prayers of dedication.

### 4. We believe

The parents and godparents are required to make various promises and declarations during the baptism service. The words used in the service, together with some explanation are included.

If you want to know more about the Christian faith then you will find out much by attending our Sunday services. We also occasionally run a course called Christianity Explored which uses one of the four Gospels and a DVD to look at who Jesus truly is and what that means for you today.

## 5. The Baptism Service

### THE PRESENTATION

**Minister:** 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 *these children/candidates* and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

**All: With the help of God we will.**

**Minister:** Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* 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?

**Parents & Godparents: With the help of God we will.**

**Minister:** In baptism *these children* begin 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.

**Parents & Godparents: With the help of God we will.**

## **THE DECISION**

Parents and Godparents make decisions on behalf of those being baptised.

**Minister:** 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 Parents & Godparents I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**Parents & Godparents: I reject them.**

**Minister:** Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**Parents & Godparents: I renounce them.**

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

**Parents & Godparents: I repent of them.**

**Minister:** Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**Parents & Godparents: I turn to Christ.**

**Minister:** Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**Parents & Godparents: I submit to Christ as Lord.**

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

**Parents & Godparents: I come to Christ.**

## **THE SIGNING OF THE CROSS**

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate saying:

**Minister:** N, Christ claims you as his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All: 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.**

## **PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

**Minister:** Praise God who made heaven and earth.

**All: Who keeps his promise forever.**

**Minister:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **THE BAPTISM**

**Minister:** N, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.

### **THE GIVING OF THE LIGHTED CANDLE**

**Minister:** N, God has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

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

### **THE WELCOME**

**Minister:** There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: N, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

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

### **PRAYERS**

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