

Information on Baptisms (commonly called Christenings)

Baptism is the service of Christian initiation. It is something that Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to go and do: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-28).

It is the outward sign of an inward grace, something sacred, of God's calling people to him. At baptism God puts his mark upon you to say that He will never let you go. Though we should not be complacent. Although God will not let you go, this is the start of a conscious loving relationship with him. Like any loving relationship, it takes two to tango, thus if God's love is not reciprocated by the baptised person, the relationship will not work. Baptism is a call to follow in the way of Jesus Christ; it does not itself guarantee a trip to heaven! To gain eternal life one needs to have faith, to love and believe in God through Jesus Christ. Therefore the relationship with God needs to be kept alive if the hope of salvation is to be looked forward to with confidence.

For this reason, no-one should enter into baptism lightly. As an adult you are responsible for making your own promises. The chances are that as an adult you are being baptised because you have carefully considered why you wish to be so.

Many parents like to baptise their children when they are still small. This demands an obligation on parents and godparents to encourage their children to continue in public worship and private prayer, preferably following the example of their parents.

There is no 'correct age' for baptism. If you are interested in being baptised yourself, or if you wish to have your child baptised, then I will need to see you to take details and explain the procedure.

We normally like to do baptisms in the context of a Sunday service. However, it is recognised that this might not be possible and another date and time can be arranged, but we do not do 'private' baptisms and there may be another couple bringing their child to baptism at the same time.

If the baptism is at a time outside of a normal service, parents are requested to return on a Sunday service in the weeks following for the child to be welcomed into the church family.

If you require any further details, please contact the rector.