



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parish of All Saints with St Cedd *at the heart of Shrub End*

Baptism Enquiry Form

Child's Christian name(s)	
Child's Surname	
Child's Date of birth	

Father's Full name	
Father's Occupation	
Father Have you been?	Baptised: yes / no Confirmed yes / no

Mother's Full name	
Mother's Occupation	
Mother Have you been?	Baptised: yes / no Confirmed yes / no

Address	
Telephone number	
Email address	

Godparents Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual.	
	Baptised: yes / no Confirmed yes / no
	Baptised: yes / no Confirmed yes / no
	Baptised: yes / no Confirmed yes / no
	Baptised: yes / no Confirmed yes / no

Baptism

Start an Amazing Adventure



What is baptism?

If you're considering baptism for yourself or for your child then firstly, congratulations! Baptism is the start of an amazing journey of faith and a special day for all your friends and family and we hope we can share this special moment with you. Whenever it happens, whether as a baby, child or adult, baptism is at the heart of an amazing journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ.

You may be wondering what the difference is between a baptism and a christening... essentially they are the same thing... we usually use the word 'christening' to describe the moment in the church service at which a baby or young child is baptised. Whatever your age, if you wish to be baptised, water will be used, promises to follow Jesus will be made and prayers will be said.

Who can be baptised?

Anyone can be baptised regardless of age or stage of life. Baptism is a moment in which we acknowledge a new beginning with God and publicly commit to following Jesus for the rest of our life. We are always happy to discuss baptism for you or your child(ren).

When can I be baptised?

Baptisms usually take place in our Sunday morning services; we will work with you to find a mutually convenient date. Baptism is about beginning, or confirming, a journey of faith and as part of this, you will be supported and welcomed by our wider church family. That support continues well beyond the service itself and we hope you will enjoy being a part of the church for many years to come.

What do I need to do?

First, make contact with us. Hopefully you're already attending our services and feel part of the church family. If not, join us on a Sunday morning and speak to one of the team directly. You can also call our church office for more information.

Once you've made contact with us, a member of our baptism team will visit you to discuss things and answer any questions you might have. As part of this we'll discuss what baptism means and talk through the promises you will be asked to make. We'll ask you to join us on Sunday before your baptism so that we can get to know you and you can get to know the people in church who'll be praying for you and supporting you for the rest of your life.

What about Godparents?

At adult baptisms, sponsors are often chosen by the candidate. These are usually people who have supported you and will continue to help you live out your faith in Jesus Christ. When a child comes for baptism, the parents choose Godparents and choosing who you will ask is one of the biggest decisions you will make.

Because of the very special role godparents have in supporting your child's faith journey, they must be baptised themselves and ideally they should be confirmed too. Godparents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come. They may be relatives or friends of the family. They'll be people who you know you can trust and who'll be there for your child to talk about the bigger questions in life; questions about faith, hope and love. They should feel ready to make some big promises for your child in church; these will include promises to follow Jesus themselves, to pray regularly for their Godchild and to help you raise your children in the Christian faith and support you in attending church regularly.

Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual. If you'd like more than that, talk to us first about the practicalities. There is also no minimum age for godparents, but it is usual for godparents to be over 18.

What is a Thanksgiving Service?

Baptism isn't right for everyone and so we also offer a special, simple service of thanksgiving, which is a lovely time when you can be with friends and family, ask for God's blessing and pray for your baby. It's possible to have this service instead of a christening if you decide that now isn't the right time to have your child baptised. You might also choose this service when your baby is just born, or if you have adopted a child into your family and you simply want to celebrate this with special words and prayers said by a vicar in church. Whatever the reason, we would be delighted to talk to you about this service.

Congratulations! Following Jesus Christ is an amazing adventure and we look forward to discussing with you your baptism with you.