

Baptism

@ St. Mildred's



Baptism is a very simple service – involving prayers and the pouring of water over the head (or the full immersion of a person in water). Although the service is short, it is a very important 'once in a lifetime' event that shouldn't be repeated.

This booklet is here to help you think about what Baptism is all about, and to decide if it is the right option for you.

Baptism is all about new life.

In Baptism we celebrate new life, giving thanks for it as a gift from God. The pouring of water symbolises nurture and growth, and we pray that we might grow into the people that God wants us to be.



Baptism is all about forgiveness.

We use water to make ourselves clean. In Baptism we acknowledge that we have "all sinned" (Romans 3:23), and need God's forgiveness and help to live rightly.

Baptism connects us with Jesus.

Baptism is a sign that, by faith, our lives are connected to Jesus in a special way that can never be broken. This is symbolised by making the sign of the cross on the forehead to remember his death and resurrection.



Baptism connects us to the Church.

Baptism not only connects us with Jesus as individuals, it makes us part of a new family with everyone else who's been baptised. That's what the Church really is. We might be very different from each other, but we are all united by the bond we have in Jesus, and because we are loved and created by God.

Who can be baptised?

Anyone can be baptised in the Church of England – you cannot be too young or too old, and it's never too late. If you have been baptised before, you cannot be re-baptised, and might want to explore Confirmation.

If you are a parent who has not been baptised, you might want to consider being baptised with your child.



What about Godparents?

When a baby or child is baptised, the parents and Godparents make promises on their behalf, to follow Jesus and be part of the Church. The role of the Godparent is to pray for the child and to nurture them in the faith of Jesus Christ. Because of this role, all Godparents must have been baptised themselves.

Do I need to be a church member?

We believe that Baptism is the starting point of a walk with Jesus, and being a member of a local church is vital to this life. This is why expressing an active commitment to the church is part of the baptism service.

For parents who are not regular members of our church, we advise having a Thanksgiving Service for your child instead of, or as part of preparation for a later baptism. The Thanksgiving Service is a special opportunity for us to give thanks to God for your child and pray for his blessing on him/her and on the whole family. Many people have found this service to be very special.



How much does it cost?

There is no fee for a Baptism.

Baptism is for Life

Baptism is more than a special event. All of the things that baptism is about – thanksgiving, nurture, growth and forgiveness – should mark our whole lives. Baptism marks the beginning of our life following Jesus and of being part of the Church.

Be part of Church

It's really important to remain connected to church. Our 10am Sunday Service is the main place where we get together as a Christian community: for worship, for prayer, to learn.

Our 10am service includes provision for children from the ages of 0 to 14. During our monthly all age service (on the 2nd Sunday of the month) children remain in the service with parents/carers throughout.



Tell your children Bible stories.

It's important for your children to learn the Bible stories at home – you can't rely on school to teach them. There are some fantastic, affordable children's Bibles available. Please speak to the Vicar if you would like to know more

Teach your children to pray.

Prayer, talking to God, is at the very heart of the Christian life, and should feel natural. Try praying with your children as soon as they can talk. Teach them to say, 'Thank you', 'Sorry', and 'Please' prayers. Say a grace before dinner, and when they are old enough, teach them the Lord's Prayer.



Prayers for Life

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you Father for all your goodness.
Help me to remember you always.

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner.

A Prayer of Praise

(From Psalm 117)

*I Praise you LORD because your love
towards me is great, and your faithfulness
endures forever. In Jesus name, Amen.*

Before a Meal

Father, we know that all things come from
you and so we give you thanks for this food.
May we always remember your kindness to
us with thanksgiving. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom,
The power
And the glory
Forever and ever
Amen