

Welcome

If you are reading this, then you are probably thinking about having your child baptised (sometimes we say Christened). At St Michael and All Angels we want to do all that we can to make your child's Christening a happy day as well as a very holy occasion.

If you would like to know more about having your child Christened then read on...

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How much does it cost to have my child Christened?

A. A Christening (baptism) is a sign of God's love and the door to eternal life in Christ. God's love is a free gift to anyone who will accept it and as such there is no charge for Christenings in this church.

Q. How old must my child be?

A. Age doesn't matter. Babies, toddlers, young children and teens come to be baptised. In extreme circumstances if a child's life is at risk a baptism can take place immediately after birth.

Q. My parents never got round to having me Christened. Can I still have my child done?

A. Yes! Your child is welcome here. Parents are also welcome to be baptised and are encouraged to discuss the matter with us.

Q. I'm a single parent. Can my child still be baptised at St Michael's?

A. Yes. God loves your child as much as anybody else's. All are welcome.

Q. Do I need godparents?

A. Yes. Traditionally a child has three godparents with two being the same sex as the child. If you would like a different number of godparents then let us know.

Q. Who should I choose to be my child's godparents?

A. That's really up to you but, we advise you to think carefully and pray about it before you start asking people. The godparents need to realise that they will make a lifelong commitment to teach your child the

Christian faith and set a good example in the way they worship and live their lives.

Q. Do godparents need any qualifications?

A. Godparents should understand that they are undertaking a very privileged position and it's a great honour to be asked. Try to find somebody that you trust and know well. Choose people who are mature and responsible and are likely to keep the promises that they will be asked to make. Choose people who will love your child and who are prepared to spend quality time with them. Please note that *Godparents should have been baptised themselves.*

Q. What do godparents do?

A. First and foremost a godparent is responsible for bringing your child to faith and does so by being a good example in worship and holy living. In order to do this a godparent needs to be able to publicly acknowledge his/her own Christian faith into which they themselves have been baptised.

Q. Do I need to buy my child any special clothes to wear?

A. It's not essential. Traditionally small babies have worn white Christening gowns that are sometimes handed down from one generation to another. If you don't have a gown then other white clothes may be worn instead. Some people choose not to keep this tradition for their child.

Q. Do I need to come to church before the Christening?

A. Yes you do. To begin with we ask you to make a "first visit" after which we will confirm a date and time for your child's service. Later, on a Sunday before the Christening, you and your child along with the godparents you have chosen will need to attend the 10am Parish Eucharist. At this service (which lasts just over an hour) your child is introduced to the church congregation so that they can pray for your child and celebrate the forthcoming baptism. During the service the priest will pray for your child who will receive a special, individual blessing in preparation for baptism.

Q. Do I have to say anything in front of everyone?

A. Not really other than to tell the priest your child's name in a loud voice.

Q. Can we have a practice?

A. Yes. On the Sunday your child is presented to the church congregation and given a blessing a short rehearsal takes place after the service. All godparents are required to attend.

Q. What time do you do Christenings?

A. Christenings usually take place during the Parish Eucharist at 10am or at 12 noon on Sundays, you choose which time suits you best. Do make sure that the date and time of the Christening has been agreed and confirmed with the vicar after your first visit before you send out your invitations or book a venue for a party!

Q. Will my child be the only one being Christened?

A. Usually there's only one child being baptised in a service but on rare occasions there might be more.

Q. What if my baby cries?

A. Don't worry. We're a family friendly church and we understand that sometimes children make a noise no matter how hard we try to keep them quiet. Older children are welcome to join the Sunday School and we have toilet facilities and quiet spaces if you need to attend to your child's needs. Don't worry – just enjoy yourself!

Q. Can we take photographs?

A. Yes! It's a celebration so why not film it too?

Q. Will my child receive a certificate?

A. Yes. Every child Christened at St Michael's receives a certificate and a baptism candle.

Q. Will there be a collection at the service?

A. No, but there will be an opportunity for people to make a donation afterwards towards the upkeep of the building. I hope you and your friends will support us.

Q. What happens after the service?

A. We hope to see more of you. We will keep in touch and invite you and your child to special events. Don't forget you are always welcome whenever there's a service going on.

Q. My neighbour's baby had a naming ceremony. Isn't a Christening the same thing?

A. It isn't the same thing. A naming ceremony will not include a blessing or prayers for your child. When somebody is baptised they begin a journey with God and become a member of Christ's Church. At the Christening we recognise that life is a journey and ask God to travel that journey with your child.

Q. Can we use the church hall for a "do" afterwards?

A. If the hall hasn't already been booked that day you are welcome to hire it out.

Q. Is it really that easy?

A. Sure is!

Prayers for you to introduce to your child

Praying with your child is important. Sadly, many people don't know how to pray because nobody has ever taught them or they've forgotten how to do it. Below are some prayers that you can say with your child at bedtime.

Saying a prayer for your child isn't a waste of time or "silly", it's a moment in which you ask God to do something good for your child and we all want good things for our children don't we?



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 this day 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

God in Heaven,
keep us safe,
bless our lives
and bless our home. Amen.



You sent Jesus to teach us how to live.
He died and rose again to show us how much you love us.
Help us to follow him in all we do,
and to know that he walks with us.
Amen.



God in heaven,
you know we love you
and we want to be your friends for ever.
In baptism we become your children
and you make a place for us in heaven.
Help us to be ready to do your will,
help us to grow in love for each other
and help us to live as you would like.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Useful Check-List
(This page is for you to print, write on and keep!)

- Date of "First Visit" _____
- Date of Blessing & Rehearsal _____
- Date of Baptism _____
- Godparents' Names

- Useful Notes/ Questions for the Vicar

We do hope that you have found this leaflet useful.

If you have any further questions please do contact the Vicar on
02392378194
or at
fatheriannewton@yahoo.co.uk

Completed application forms can be returned to

The Vicarage
2 Hempsted Rd
Paulsgrove
PO6 4AS

Forms may also be returned to the church or handed in at any church service.