

ST ANDREW'S EATON BAPTISM OF CHILDREN - INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM



**St Andrew's
EATON, NORWICH**

**Eaton Parishes Office
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Vicar: The Rev Phil Rodd
Parish Administrator: Claire Canning**

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CONGRATULATIONS!

We are glad that you have decided to have your child baptised. This is a big decision, and we are anxious that all concerned should be clear about what is involved. Baptism is the first step by which God takes us into a special relationship of love and service. We are made members of the Church, and agree to follow the teaching and ways of Christ.

THE SERVICE - WHAT IT MEANS

In the Baptism service, parents and Godparents have to reply to six separate questions, saying that they reject all rebellion against God, renounce evil, repent of sins, turn to Christ as saviour, submit to Christ as Lord and come to Christ as the way, the truth and the life.

They also make the Christian profession of faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Both parents and Godparents should have a sincere intention that the child to be baptised should be helped and encouraged to be a practising Christian, and when he/she is old enough, be confirmed as a full member of the Church of England.

GODPARENTS

Those who are baptised as infants normally have at least three Godparents. At least two of them have to be of the same sex as the infant and one has to be of the opposite sex. If it proves impossible for there to be three Godparents it is possible for a baptism to take place with one Godfather and one Godmother. Parents can be Godparents to their own children, providing there is at least one other Godparent as well.

In order that they can fulfil their role as guides and examples of the faith, Godparents need be able to make the declarations and promises in the baptism service, which is why the Church of England requires all Godparents to be baptised themselves and normally to be confirmed as well. That is also why it is not possible for a member of a non-Christian faith to be a Godparent.

WHERE TO GET BAPTISED

I would also mention that the best plan is normally to have your child baptised in the parish where you live and where he/she will grow up. There may, however, be special reasons for having the baptism elsewhere, in which case, it is essential that the priest of your parish sign the attached application where indicated (*) before you return it to us. We then know that he knows what is happening and approves of it.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

One important part of the baptism preparation you will normally be visited a few weeks before the baptism by one or two members from St Andrew's. The intention is that they will provide a link and support for you on the actual day of the baptism and also deal with any questions and concerns of a general nature. They will contact you beforehand at the telephone to arrange a mutually convenient date and time. In addition the minister taking the service (usually the vicar, Phil Rodd) will also contact you to arrange a meeting, to discuss the service and any more complex questions.

PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S EATON

APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM IN CHURCH

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH PAGES OF THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE PARISHES OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Agreed date of baptism:

Time:

Note: Please contact the vicar, Phil Rodd, in the first instance to arrange a date and time.

Child's date of birth:

Christian names(s):

Surname:

Father's name:

Father's occupation:

Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

Mother's name:

Mother's occupation:

Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

Address:

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Phone:

Email:

* Countersignature of the Priest of the Parish in which you live if it is not St Andrew's:

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GODPARENTS:

1.

Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

2.

Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

3.

Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

The introduction to the baptism service reads:

Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church.

As they grow up, they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trust in God, and come to Confirmation.

The child you bring to baptism depends chiefly on you and the Godparents for the help and encouragement he or she needs.

Please sign below to indicate that you are willing to give this help and encouragement by your prayers, by your example and by your teaching.

Signed:

Notes:

- *Dates and times are NOT confirmed until BOTH the vicar has agreed dates AND this application form has been completed and returned to the Parishes Office.*
- *There is no charge for a baptism service, though you may like to make a donation.*
- *Please let us know how many friends and family members are expected at the service:*