

BAPTISM AT CHRIST CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr Patrick H Richmond
Vicar, Christ Church, Eaton, Norwich
161 Newmarket Road
Norwich NR4 6SY
Tel. (01603) 250844
E Mail: phr@eatonparish.comweb

Parish Office
41 Church Lane
Eaton
Norwich NR4 6NW
Tel: 01603 473646
E Mail: office@eatonparish.com
Website: www.eatonparish.com
Open Monday to Thursday: 10am – 12noon

Dear Parents,

We are delighted that you have decided to have your child baptised. This is a big decision, and we are keen that everyone should be clear about what is involved. At baptism, God calls us into a special relationship of love and service. Baptism makes us members of the Church and, in it, we commit to follow the teaching and ways of Christ.

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 or she is old enough, to be confirmed as a member of the Church of England taking communion.

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.

In order to help parents and godparents at this important time, it is our practice for members of the church to go over the implications of infant baptism with them.

It is normal to have your child baptised in the parish where you live and where he or 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 local parish sign the application * where indicated before you return it to us. We then know that he or she knows what is happening and approves of it.

Finally, I would mention that as an important part of the baptism preparation one or two lay members would normally visit you a few weeks before the baptism. 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 by telephone to arrange a mutually convenient date and time. In addition, the priest taking the service will also contact you to arrange a meeting, usually in the week of the baptism, to discuss the service and any more complex questions.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Patrick Richmond, Vicar

APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM AT CHRIST CHURCH

NOTE: Baptisms are held at the main Sunday Service, which takes place on a Sunday at 10.00am, but by arrangement might be at another date or time.

Agreed date of baptism: _____

Time: _____

at Christ Church

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS TO FILL IN THE FORM

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:

Phone:

Email:

* Countersignature
of the Priest of the
Parish in which you
live if it is **not** Christ Church

GODPARENTS:

1. _____
Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

2. _____
Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

3. _____
Baptised: YES/NO Confirmed: YES/NO

The preface in 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 Parish Office.*

*There is no fee. It is customary to make a thank offering.
(COMPLETING A GIFT AID ENVELOPE INCREASES THE VALUE).*

Please take Photographs after the service.

As the numbers of baptism parties vary, it would be helpful if you could indicate your anticipated numbers in the box opposite: []

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU.