

Baptism & Confirmation Application Form



Next Baptism Service: Sunday 27th November – 10.30am

Next Confirmation Service: Sunday 27th November – 10.30am

Preparation Classes: Sunday 6th, 13th & 20th November – 12.30-1.30pm

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
(Matt 28:19)*

Baptism: An Introduction



Baptism, sometimes also called ‘Christening’, is the primary rite of Christian initiation into the Church, which St Paul describes as ‘the Body of Christ’. Christians, responding to Jesus’ command in the bible, have practised Baptism since the earliest days of the Christian Church.

Baptism bestows and recognises the special and holy gifts of God in a person’s life, assures them of Christ’s love for them, and pours out the Holy Spirit on them that they might live the life of a Christian disciple.

Baptism is a rebirth ‘by water and the Spirit’ in which a person puts to death all those things in their life that are opposed to Christ’s rule, and is then given a share in Christ’s resurrection life, and a place in his kingdom.



Baptism is offered for infants and children whose parents and godparents (*who must all be baptised themselves*) express a commitment to raise them in the Christian faith. Baptism assures the children of the Church's ongoing support for their growth in faith.

Baptism is also offered to adults who 'come to faith' in Christ. It affirms their decision to follow Christ, and commits the Church to their ongoing nurture as a disciple.

NB: In some circumstances, it may be more appropriate to arrange a service of thanksgiving for the birth of a child rather than undergo baptism.

Confirmation: An Introduction

Confirmation is originally part of the Baptism rite, but sometimes separated as an additional Christian rite that seeks to confirm those promises made at Baptism.

This confirmation is two-fold: for adults who were baptised as infants, and so unable to speak for themselves then, the service provides an opportunity for them to take their Baptismal vows upon themselves, and confirm their allegiance to the Christian faith; and for adults who have been either recently or previously baptised, it offers a confirmation both of their allegiance to the faith, but also, through the Bishop's prayer, a confirmation of the whole Church's commitment to them as adult followers of Christ. There is also a special invocation (invitation) of the Holy Spirit to empower us for the life of Christian discipleship.



* * *

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Practicalities

Here at St John's, we hold a Baptism service three times a year (once per academic term). This helps the whole church family recognise Baptism as a special occasion distinct from the regular weekly services.

And once a year, we invite the Bishop to come and confirm candidates on behalf of the wider church. This usually occurs during Lent, our season of preparation for Easter.

Our next service will be on **Sunday 27th November at 10.30am**, and we invite anyone who worships regularly at St John's, and who has not been baptised and / or confirmed to speak to the vicar about being baptised / confirmed.

There is usually a period of preparation in the month leading up to the Baptism / Confirmation service. This will normally involve a home visit from the vicar, and two or three preparation classes after Sunday services, each lasting about one hour.

Please complete the application form overleaf, and return to the Church Office. We will then contact you to arrange a meeting.



Application for Baptism / Confirmation

Please return form to office by Tuesday 1st November 2016 at the latest.

I wish to be: Baptised Confirmed Baptised and Confirmed

For Baptism on: **Sunday 27th November – 10.30am**

For Baptism / Confirmation on: **Sunday 27th November – 10.30am**

Child / Candidate

Date of birth: _____

Christian name(s) and surname: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Parents of Children

Father's Full Name: _____

Have you been: a. Baptised? b. Confirmed?

Mother's Full Name: _____

Have you been: a. Baptised? b. Confirmed?

Address, telephone and email (if different from above): _____

Occupation(s) of parent(s): _____

Name and addresses of godparents / sponsors

(one Christian name in full with title ie. Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms):

1. _____

_____ Baptised Confirmed

2. _____

_____ Baptised Confirmed

3. _____

_____ Baptised Confirmed

How many guests do you expect to attend the service? _____