

The Anglican Parishes of Whittington, Weeford and Hints

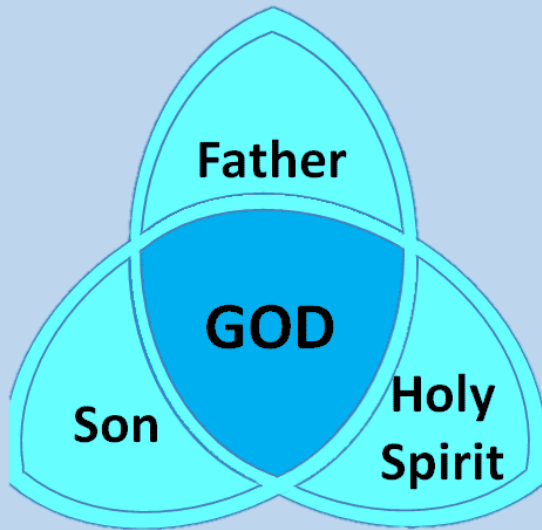
We are inclusive churches where you are always welcome!



Baptism Information

What does it mean to receive a child or
Adult into the Church?





We believe in an inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in an hospitable Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is sacramental, scripturally faithful but open to new insights; which seeks to proclaim and apply the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

**Church Contacts: Parish Priest- The Revd Dr Jason Phillips FColIT
Weddings, Baptisms, Spiritual and Personal concerns, Starting Church,
Spiritual Direction, Pastoral, vocations and to pray for you.**

Contact Father Jason: fatherjason@fastmail.co.uk

Parish Administrator: Lynne Mills 07721 767963

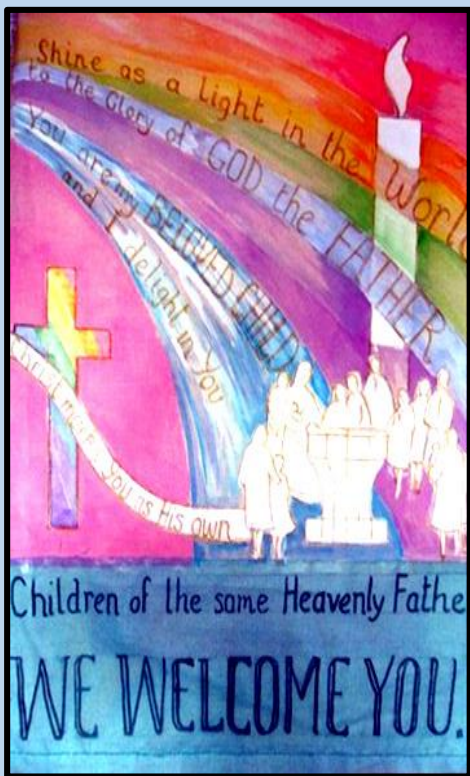


Introduction

Baptism or Christening (which means Christian-making) is a very happy event in the life of a child or adult. The church communities of St Giles, St Mary's and St Bartholomew's welcome your interest in seeking baptism and we look forward to sharing in this very important occasion with you. A baptism service is not just a very special day for family members, relatives and friends to enjoy, but the beginning of a life-long journey with God, and association with God's Church.



Every parent wants the very best for their child in terms of happiness and personal fulfilment. Included in this must be the desire for a child to learn about God and what it means to know and love God. The Christian faith offers everyone the opportunity to root and ground their life in God, discovering our gifts, and finding happiness and a sense of belonging within God's family. Everyone involved with our churches will do all that they can to welcome and support you during and after the baptism service.



What should I do first of all?

Parent(s)/Adults are first encouraged to come along to the worship at one of our churches on a Sunday to ensure that they are comfortable with the type of worship and happy to make our churches their spiritual home.

See website for service times:

<http://www.ourvillagechurch.org.uk/church-calendar/>

When you have attended a church service and are sure this is the church for you, you should contact the priest (fatherjason@fastmail.co.uk) or the Parish Administrator. They will agree a date and time and send you a Baptism application form for your chosen church. They will pass your details to our parish baptism coordinator who will be your primary point of contact.

When do Baptisms take place?

- ❖ Baptisms can take place at a time negotiated with the priest to support your family. **It is a said service.**
- ❖ Regular church attenders will usually be baptized during the morning worship with their church family present. If families wish to have hymns, then the baptism will also be within the Eucharist service on a Sunday morning.

Special requirements to be baptized in our churches

Only those resident in our parishes are ordinarily baptized in our churches.

If you live outside the parish we may baptize if any of the following apply and you have a letter of agreement from your local parish priest:

- Parents or grandparents habitually attend the churches for 6 months.
- Child's parents or grandparents were married at one of the churches
- Child's grandparents live in one of the villages.
- One of the parents was baptised at one of our three churches.
- Child attends Whittington School or any of parish nursery schools.
- There is a demonstrable family link with the village.

The law provides for the priest to require parents to undertake further instruction if s/he deems this necessary.



Parents

Where parents are bringing a child to baptism, at least one parent must be baptized. If one parent is not baptized, they may like to consider baptism for themselves.

God Parents

It is the policy of our churches that there be **four godparents two of each sex (no more, no less)**. The role of the godparent is to pray for their godchild, to help them find their place in the



Church. It is a lawful requirement that godparents are already baptized. If a chosen godparent is not baptized and they are

committed to their role as godparent, it is possible for them to be baptized prior to your child's baptism.



If you have a person of another faith who is committed to the spiritual upbringing of the child, they may be appointed a sponsor in addition to the four godparents.

The Baptismal Promises Parents and Godparents make for the child

Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children with joy.

Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.

Will you pray for them,

draw them by your example into the community of faith

and walk with them in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.

You speak for them today.

Will you care for them,

and help them to take their place

within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.



What does it cost to have a baptism?

There is no Baptism fee but you may like to consider a donation of £28 as a contribution towards the certificates, candles and administrative and service costs. If this can be Gift Aided, the Church is able to provide Gift Aid envelopes to recover tax for charitable purpose. This means the churches continue to be here for other families as they have been for you. There will be a collection on the day additionally.



Baptizing Adults



The Church is aware that there are many adults who were not baptized as children. Often adults in this situation will feel like they have missed their chance for baptism. Our churches would like to reassure you that it is more and more commonplace to baptize adults and these are joyful and wonderful occasions. Baptisms may take place during the main Sunday morning worship or at another suitable time. Baptism preparation for adults is tailored to meet the needs of the individual.



Symbols of Baptism



Water is a symbol of life and death. Thus, it symbolizes new life of Christ and death to evil and sin and God's blessing on your child.



Candle is a reminder that Jesus is the light of our life. Thus, it symbolizes new life in the resurrected Christ and God's presence in your/ child's life.



White Garment symbolizes a new creation clothed in Christ. White is always associated with new life, purity, and of grace. Early Christians wore a white garment when they were baptized to express their belief in the purification of baptism.



Oil of Baptism symbolizes Christ's strengthening power. The oil used is called chrism, which is a mixture of oil and perfume blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday. The priest or deacon anoints the baptized with the sacred oil to signify the royal priesthood of the newly baptized and as a new member of the Church and is an ancient symbol of God's blessing.



A PRAYER FOR GODPARENTS

Loving God,
You call us into relationship with you and
with one another.
You give us friends and family to be with us
on life's journey.
Today we thank you for godparents who
pray for us and listen to us,
Who help us make good choices, and show
us more about Jesus.
Bless them on their journey of faith,
And encourage them in their prayers.
Let their hearts overflow with love for You
And for the children of every age they
promised to support.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

#GodparentsSunday



