

Baptism/Christening

Introduction

A baptism/christening is the start of a journey of faith for the person, which continues for the rest of life.

For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents (and sponsors), it is a special day as we rejoice in what God has done for the person in Christ. The wider community of the family, friends (and ideally the local church) welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provide an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The Service of Baptism

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way:

- there is the sign of new life, as we are washed clean by water.
- there is the sign of the cross as we are reunited in the death and new life of Jesus Christ
- there is a lighted candle a picture of God's eternal light shining in our life.

Service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

For those who would rather not have a service of baptism we also offer a service of thanksgiving for the gift of a child. This service is the celebration of the birth or adoption of a child and is for those who see thanksgiving as a preliminary to Baptism or parents who do not wish their children to be baptized immediately but who recognize that something has happened for which they wish to give thanks to God.

Who may be baptised

Anyone living in the Parish/Benefice is eligible to be baptised in our church.

Those living outside the Parish/Benefice, but who have a close connection with the Parish/Benefice, may be baptised here after we have had the consent of your local parish priest.

To be baptised you require three Godparents (if you are a child) who have been baptised themselves.

Is there a cost

There is no charge for baptism or Thanksgiving.

When baptism services take place

Ideally, it is the whole church that welcomes each newly baptised person so, if possible, it is great if they take place at one of our regular Sunday Family Services.

However, we recognise that there are times when this is not practicable and so, after agreement with the Vicar, it may be possible to look at alternative times. If this happens it is our custom to send an invite to wider congregation as some may wish to attend.

What are the next steps

To discuss this further please contact Rev'd Tim Starling (Mobile: 07980204572 or Email: revtimstarling@gmail.com). Alternatively, you can download our form on the baptism page of our website (www.wyereaches.org) and return it to Rev'd Tim

Rev Tim G J Starling
Vicar
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