



“What is the difference between Christening and Baptism?”

There is none, they are different names for the same thing. However, Baptism is the way that the early Christians showed that they were followers of Jesus and so this is the name that the church uses.

“So what is Baptism?”

Baptism is the outward sign of Christian faith, in other words having a real, living relationship with Jesus Christ. That faith is best lived out within the church - the community of people sharing that same faith. Baptism and the church go together hand in glove, they are part of the same package.

“What do we commit ourselves to in the Baptism Service?”

That’s the really serious bit!

You will make promises on behalf of both yourselves and your child about being part of the Church as a worshipping community.

You will make a commitment to pray with and for your child regularly.

You will acknowledge that you need to show your child the importance of being a Christian by your personal examples and by bringing them to church to be part of the wider Christian family.

Having your child baptised is a huge step of commitment. You are signing them up for God! No point in doing it unless you intend to follow it up.



“Who’s involved in the Baptism Service?”

Both parents should be there, but you will also have up to four Godparents. These should be people who will take seriously their commitment to help you with the spiritual side of the child’s upbringing. They must be baptised and should understand the importance of a real and practical Christian way of life.

Usually your close family and friends attend the service and all are welcome. For children there is a small play area and parents are free to use this should their children become restless.

“What will happen in the Service?”

The baptism will normally take place in the main Sunday service. It is a celebration welcoming those baptised into the wider family of God.

There will be hymns, Bible readings, Prayers and an address; you will declare your own faith in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

You and the godparents will make promises to bring your child up in the Christian faith and you will also make promises for yourself,

- that you turn to Jesus Christ
- that you submit to Jesus as Lord
- that you come to Jesus.

The baptism involves the priest pouring water over your child’s head which is a sign of being cleansed from sin and starting life with God.

At the end of the service you will be given a candle which symbolises the light of Jesus in your child’s life along with a Bible story book.



“That’s a tall order! It’s serious stuff, isn’t it?”

Yes, it is. And so it should be; faith **is** serious. God **is** serious. Bringing up a child the right way **is** serious. And Baptism **is** a serious business, and should only be considered if you intend to take it seriously for the rest of your child’s early years.

“So what if I can’t make those promises?”

If you still want to give thanks to God for your child you could have a service of Thanksgiving. In that we simply acknowledge that our children are a gift from God, but don’t make all the promises to do with praying with them and coming to church with them. Though you may find you want to look at that later. You don’t make all those declarations about your own faith either.

“So when can we do it?”

Baptism is in the main service of the day at 9.30 am at Pentrich and 11.00 am at Swanwick. We alternate between churches each month and do not have more than two baptism families at a service so that it is special for those involved.

The available dates are often booked up 4 or 5 months in advance so please get in touch sooner rather than later.

How much does Baptism cost?

There is no charge for Baptism though a collection to help with the running of the church is taken at the service and we can provide an envelope so your gift can be tax efficient.

“So what’s the next step?”

If you’ve decided to do nothing, then there’s nothing we need to do! You can be assured, though, that we will always be here if you ever want to explore things at a later date.

If you would like to book a baptism or Thanksgiving then you should ring our Vicar, Carole, who will come to visit you in your own home to discuss things further and book a date!

Whether you have decided to go ahead or are still considering either a Baptism or Thanksgiving Service, then we’d love to see you at any of our Sunday services at either church, you can find the service times on the back of the leaflet.

There are three services at St Andrew’s which will be especially suitable for parents and their children:

All age worship on the 1st Sunday at 11.00 am

Crossroads on the 2nd Sunday at 4.00 pm

Early Birds on the 3rd Sunday at 9.45 am.

This is the best place to get a feel for the church people, what we believe and how we tick! It’s the best place for you to explore those areas of Christian faith that you may have to talk about in a Baptism service and which you be promising to help your child to understand too!

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Service Times at St Andrew’s

Sunday mornings

1st Sunday
11.00 am All age worship / Baptism
Other Sundays
11.00 am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of every month

4.00 pm **Crossroads** All age Worship

3rd Sunday of every month

9.45am **Early Birds** (up to Ages 7/8)

2nd & 4th Sunday Evenings

6.30 pm Evening worship

Wednesday mornings (Old School House)

10.00 am Holy Communion

Service Times at St Matthew’s

Sunday mornings

9.30 am Holy Communion

1st & 3rd Sunday Evenings

6.00 pm Evening worship



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