



HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTENINGS (ALSO KNOWN AS BAPTISMS)
and
THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD (ALSO KNOWN AS BLESSINGS)

Step 1 – make contact with the church. This can be done in one of two ways:

- Phone the church office tel 01423 565129.
- Come to St John's for what we call our 'Surgery time.' This takes place on Thursday evenings between 6.30pm and 7.15pm – just turn up – no appointment needed.

When you make contact, you will be booked in to a Baptism Information Session (see step 2 below). After you have attended, you will be able to book a date for your child's baptism/thanksiving.

NB if you have already been to one of these sessions with respect to an older child, you do not need to attend again – rather you can book a date for the christening service with the office.

Step 2 – Attend a Baptism information session – these are usually on the 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm – they last about an hour and there will usually be several other parents also attending. The session aims to:

- help you look at what baptism/christening means
- help you look at whether you wish to have a Service of Baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving for your child (most people opt for baptism)
- discuss any practical questions you may have

We strongly encourage **both** parents to attend the Baptism Information Session because there will be times in the session when you will be asked to discuss things as couples. Therefore if only one of you can make it, we suggest you invite another adult – perhaps a godparent – to accompany you.

Step 3 - Booking in of baptism/thanksiving date – this can be done by coming to the church office after you have attended the information session. You will need to complete an **application form** (available at the information session or from the office) with all the necessary details..

- **NB 1** for someone to be a godparent, it is a legal requirement that they need to have been baptised themselves – **please check** this is the case.
- **NB 2** This form will also ask for your consent for us to contact you about follow up events.

Step 4 - Home Visit from one of our clergy – this will generally be arranged in the month before the date you have chosen for the christening service. The purpose of this is to allow you to talk through any questions you may still have prior to service, to discuss in a more informal way what baptism is all about, and to get to know the person who will be conducting your child's christening service.

Step 5 - The Christening/Thanksgiving Service – these generally take place at St John's at 12.15pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. It is likely there will be two other families sharing the service with you. It lasts for about 30 minutes. Afterwards you are welcome to use the church as a backdrop for any photos you might want to take.

Step 6 - Attendance at the following Sunday's service – one of the key aspects of baptism is that the newly baptised become members of the church family. Attendance at the service on the following Sunday (10am at St John's) allows the rest of this church family to welcome these new members – so please come along if you possibly can!

Extra information – the Church of England has a fantastic Christening webpage which we really recommend you visit - <https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/>