

Some helpful questions & answers

Do parents have to be christened?

You can have your child baptized at a christening regardless of whether or not you, the parents, are baptized.

It is only the godparents who need to have been baptized.

Can anyone have a christening service?

We welcome all babies, children and families for christenings – whatever shape that family takes; as long as you live in Beaconsfield you can have a christening here in your local church.

At what age should a child be christened?

There's no specified minimum or maximum age for having a child christened.

When a child is christened, the parents and godparents will make promises on their behalf. Older children are often mature enough to make the promises for themselves.

How much does a christening service cost?

A christening service in church is free, and you won't be asked to make any payments for the church service. Some families like to make a donation if they're able to.

Will there be other children christened at the same time?

There might be others being christened in the same service as your child.

Can I take pictures or a video during the christening service?

For safeguarding reasons we request that there is no photography or videography at our services. This is because several family groups may be present at each christening. However you are welcome after the service to pose at the font, or at the front of church, and to take photos of your family group then. The clergy will be glad to pose for photos with you, or to re-enact the baptism, if you ask.

If you'd like to book on to one of our Explore Christening sessions and start the journey to your child's baptism, then please get in contact with our church office...

Email: tomsvicar@beaconsfieldteam.church

Office telephone: 07832 282 387

Website: www.beaconsfieldteam.church

We look forward to hearing from you and beginning this amazing journey with you and your family!

Christenings

at St Thomas'



St
Thomas'
Church

Hello

We're delighted that you want to join us at our church for your child's christening. A christening is a real service of celebration and joy and we're very glad to share in that celebration with you.

We know that your child is precious to you and you want the best for them. You want them to make the right choices in life, for themselves and for others. We believe that your child is also very precious to God and he wants the best for them too.

During the christening service your child will be baptized. This is just the first step of an amazing life-long journey with God, parents, godparents, friends, family and the church.

Over the years to come, this is a journey you can share together with your child by:

- + Being there for your child to talk about the bigger questions of life - questions about hope, faith and love.
- + Praying for your child through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- + Showing them practically how to make those good choices in life.
- + Helping them to learn more about their Christian faith, through their church and in your home life.

It's a journey and a commitment to start as you mean to go on.

If you'd like more information on Christenings and what they're about, then please visit: www.churchofenglandchristenings.org

Preparing & getting to know you better

To help you prepare for this journey, parents and children are invited to a Explore Christening session, to learn more about what Baptism is and to meet some of the church family. There is usually fun activities for children, too.

Baptism is not just a sign of God's love for your child, it also symbolizes being welcomed into God's church. For that reason, we believe that it is important that we as members of the church community will journey with you towards the christening day.

Godparents

Godparents are really important and choosing who you're going to ask to be a Godparents is a big decision. Becoming a Godparent is a life-long commitment and on the day of your child's christening they are going to make some big promises on your child's behalf. We ask you to bear in mind that Godparents are not just there to look after your child should something happen to you. The role of a Godparent is to pray for your child, to model and encourage them to develop Christian values and to help them learn more about the Christian faith as they grow up.

You might have given some thought to who you're going to ask to be a Godparent already, but you will need to choose:

- + Godparents who have been baptized (christened) themselves.
- + At least three Godparents (you can have more.)
- + At least one male and one female Godparent.
- + Godparents who are mature enough to take on the responsibility.

Parents can also be Godparents. If there are any problems choosing the Godparents we will be happy to talk it through with you.

A prayer of blessing for your child

Prayer is as simple as lifting our words or our thoughts to God, in the knowledge that God knows us, hears us and loves us. God loves your child(ren) too.

As a church community, we will be praying for you and your family as you prepare for the christening. We will pray for your wellbeing, your hopes, your worries and your protection. Most of all, we pray that you truly sense God's blessing and love, every day of your life.

You may also want to pray, so we have included this blessing, which you might want to read in silence, or out loud for your child...

**Loving God, May your light shine always for my little one.
May he/she go safely through life, knowing your love and goodness.
May he/she be like a light for others, bringing them hope and joy.
May he/she know you are always there to guide, to lead and to protect.
Amen.**