

# ADULT BAPTISM

a short guide

St  
Thomas'  
Church

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is the symbolic start of a new life of faith in and relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It signifies a “new birth” as we emerge “clean” from the baptismal water. It’s also a sign that we are part of the church – not just locally, in the here and now – but throughout the world and throughout history. When we’re baptised, we’re “born again”, and counted amongst God’s adopted family on earth and in heaven.

You’re never too old to begin a relationship with Jesus. Our faith is a deeply personal thing, but it is also something that Jesus instructs us to live out publicly. For Jesus, the first step in his adult ministry was being baptised by a man called Saint John in the River Jordan. For Christians today baptism is still the public symbol of our personal relationship with Jesus and his Father in heaven.

## WHAT IF I WAS CHRISTENED?

You may have been christened as a child. This means that you have already been baptised, even if that baptism may not have meant much to you at the time!

If you have been christened, we can still celebrate your faith in Jesus now with a similar public service, at which you can personally acknowledge and inherit the promises made on your behalf by your parents and godparents when you were baptised as a child. You can read these promises on the opposite page, at the end of the section entitled “The Baptism Service.”

There is also the option of a **confirmation** service, at which you acknowledge that you have joined the church and received the gift of God’s Holy Spirit, who empowers and guides your life as a Christian.

## PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

At St Thomas' Church we encourage adults preparing for Baptism to do so through our **Alpha** course, which run at different times throughout the year. Alpha takes place over several sessions. At Alpha adults who want to explore the Christian faith and a deeper meaning of life gather together for a meal, videos, and discussion. If you're unable to attend an upcoming Alpha that does not mean you cannot be baptised. Instead, one-to-one preparation with one of the ministers is another option, with a few meetings over coffee chatting about the Christian faith. Attending Alpha is always preferable though, as it allows for you, and others, to share the journey together as members of the church family. A family that you officially join when you choose to be baptised!.

## THE BAPTISM SERVICE

When you're ready to make the commitment and promises of baptism, a minister will discuss with you the best service for you to be baptised at. Adult baptism takes place as part of our Sunday worship. They'll also help you think about who you'd like to be involved, and whether you want to get totally 'soaked' (fully immersed in a pop-up pool) or use the historic font in church. We don't set specific dates for baptisms, they just take place during the Sunday service which you normally attend at any time of the year. Once you've spoken to a minister about baptism, they'll chat about a date with you.

You'll make the following **promises** when you're baptised: To reject the devil and all rebellion against God, to renounce the deceit and corruption of evil, to repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour, to turn to Christ as Saviour, to submit to Christ as Lord and to come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life.

If you'd like to discuss your baptism further, then please get in contact with the ministry team so that we can meet you for a coffee (or whatever you fancy!)

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# St Thomas' Church

St Thomas' Church Holtspur is part of the Church of England team in Beaconsfield:  
[www.beaconsfieldteam.church](http://www.beaconsfieldteam.church)

