



*Your Baptism at
St James the Great
Parish Church, Longdon.*



A brief guide to explain
some important points
about your child's
Christening at this
church

Welcome

This booklet is intended to explain Baptism at St James the Great Church, we hope you find it helpful.

Some people get confused about the difference between a "Christening" and a "Baptism" service, so let's set the record straight and maybe answer some more of your questions.

Firstly, Baptism and Christening are the same; to be exact, the Christening (literally "making Christ's") takes place within the Baptism Service as a sign that we are all followers of Jesus Christ.

Secondly, what is Baptism?

Well, let's start with what it's *not*.

Baptism is *not* a naming ceremony. You choose your child's name at the time he or she was born and register that name with the local registrar of births, deaths and marriages.

Baptism is *not* a means of choosing people to be Godparents, "just in case something happens to me". The role of the Godparent is even more important than that; they have no legal connection with your child, only spiritual. Choose your Godparents carefully.

Baptism is *not* just an excuse for a party to "wet the baby's head". Have a party by all means—but know *why* you are doing it.



Baptism is a Christian "rite of initiation". It marks the beginning of a life-long journey of faith, commitment and loving relationship with God.

Through our Baptism we receive God's blessing and are welcomed into the world-wide family of God's Church.

Baptism is a sacrament, an outward and visible sign of God's love for us.

What Happens?

Your service will be explained in some detail at the Baptism Preparation Evening, where you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you wish. Our Baptisms normally take place on a Sunday morning when the worshipping community are there to welcome you, however they can be held at other times on a Sunday—please speak to the Vicar about this. Tel 01543-410751 Or email vicar@stjames-longdon.org.uk.

You Choose?

The Godparents you choose for your child are promising to help you to nurture him or her as a child of God. That is why it is important to choose wisely. You all should fully understand the promises you are making on behalf of your child and should ask yourselves "can I fulfil for myself the promises I am making on behalf of this child?" Godparents must be baptised themselves in a Trinitarian tradition, in other words, with water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—do speak to the Vicar if you are confused about this.

What's next?

Your child needs to know *from the earliest possible time*, about God's love as shown in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. It also means that your child needs to begin to learn that there is such a thing as a Christian way of living.

In addition, not only should you be regularly praying for your child, but you should be helping him or her to learn to pray too.

You love your child dearly and want them to grow up to be a healthy, caring, well balanced adult. Helping children on their Christian journey, helping to care for their spiritual as well as their physical needs is an important way to do just that.

The Church is here to help!

The Church recognises its responsibility to support you as your child grows. Some people find it difficult to talk about matters of faith. *We can help*

Some parents find it hard to know where to start in teaching their children about Jesus. *We can help*

Some parents would like to bring their children to church, but feel embarrassed if they start making a noise or running around. *We can help*

We are used to having babies, toddlers and older children in worship especially at our 11.00 Communion Service and we welcome them with open arms. Soon a new all-age service will begin which will be advertised locally so keep a look out for that too.

Above all, thank you for reading this leaflet, in doing so you have already made your first response to God, and please, talk to the vicar with any queries or concerns.