

The background of the image is a close-up, high-resolution shot of blue water with numerous concentric ripples and small, bright white highlights from light reflecting off the surface. The text is centered over this background.

Cele**b**ration

Fa**i**th

Ho**p**e

Wa**t**er

Sp**i**rit

Je**s**us

Com**m**unity

Welcome!

God opens the door and welcomes us in.
With baptism we go to meet him and take
his outstretched hand.

A child's baptism is a time for celebration
and joy. We are delighted you are consider-
ing the baptism and welcome the celebrat-
ing of the baptism at our church.



St Edmunds, Stoultton

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a birth into the Christian community and a sacrament. Baptism is the way in which children and adults become members of the Christian Church. It is a sign of turning to God and of faith in Jesus Christ. It is a ceremony of washing in water accompanied by words. Baptism has been practised by Christians since the time of Jesus.

Is baptism the same as Christening? Yes. 'Christening' comes from the ancient word 'christen', and means 'to make Christian'. It is a popular term but the church usually uses the word baptism which comes from the Greek word meaning to dip or wash.



St Edmunds, Stoulton

Who can be Baptised?

Anyone who wishes to affirm their decision to turn to Christ. All who are baptised are welcomed into the Christian Church.

What is necessary for baptism?

Baptism is something God does for us. God offers us new life through the Holy Spirit. This is what we pray for when we are baptised. The one essential thing for a person being baptised is to have faith in Jesus Christ. In the case of a baby, the response of faith is made in the name of the infant by his or her parents and godparents or sponsors.



St Peters, Pirton

Who can be Godparents?

Godparents are members of the Church who have already been baptised. They may be either the parents themselves or others close to the family who are interested in the child's spiritual nurture.

A godparent should be able to answer yes to these questions:

Are you a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of his church?

Are you willing to sponsor this child, answer for him or her now? And Are you willing to encourage the child in his or her Christian upbringing?

If the proposed godparent is not a follower of Christ, they can still take part as a sponsor. In this case their role is one of encouragement.

How many godparents?

In the Anglican Church, it is usual to have three godparents: two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex. It is acceptable to have fewer godparents; the minimum is one (apart from the parents) but equally it is possible to have more than three.



St Baranbas, Drakes Broughton

When is the Baptism?

Baptism usually takes place at St Barnabas 9.30am or St Edmunds / St Peter's 10am service on Sunday morning. This means that the whole congregation is there to welcome the newly-baptised person into the Christian church and pray for them.

What promises are made?

Promises are made by the candidate, or by the parents and godparents when the candidate is a child:

To believe and trust:

in God as the one who made and loves us,
in Jesus as the one who makes us whole, and
in the Holy Spirit who gives us life.

To reject all that is opposed to God. To obey God and follow God's leading in our lives.

What does Baptism cost?

Baptism is a free gift of God. No fee is charged.

What else can we do?

Baptism is a special event and the church also makes promises to support the spiritual life of the baptised and their families. We are a welcoming community with a long history of supporting children and their families. We seek to offer support you in nurturing your children in the faith they have been baptised into.



LOVE

PEACE

FAITH

What is a Christian Upbringing?

A Christian upbringing involves:

- Teaching the children from the Bible, and later to read the Bible for themselves.
- Praying with them and teaching them to pray.
- Showing what it means to live to Christian standards.
- Going to Church as a family on Sundays.



Why go to Church?

Going to Church as a family is very important:

- To give praise and thanks to God.
- To pray to God together.
- To learn more about God.
- To meet with other Christians.

No time for Church?

Knowing Jesus brings a new sense of priorities and you'll want to put Him first! There is a profound joy in coming to know God yourself. We hope you will find our church to a place of friendship, liveliness and enjoyment.



St Baranbas, Drakes Broughton

Baptism represents Forgiveness

Baptism involves a symbolic washing with water, a spiritual cleansing. We all do wrong things sometimes, even a child knows how to be naughty! The wrong things we do and say hurt others, and they also hurt God too and make us unable to be with him.

So we all need God's forgiveness. We can only find this forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus who took on our wrong doings upon himself. Jesus calls us to repent, to turn away from our wrong doings and receive His forgiveness. Asking Jesus into our lives means a fresh start through baptism. Baptism marks the start of a wonderful journey of discovering Jesus as a real person and learning how He can change our lives if we let Him!



love one another

A prayer

Wonderful God,
thank you for the gifts of life and love.
Give us wisdom to guide our child
in the way of Jesus,
leading us to a deep and full life,
and helping our home
to be a place of peace and joy.
Amen.



Further Questions?

If you have any further questions about baptism please call our vicar:

Revd Emma Goldby.

The Rectory, 4 Manor Farm,
Stoulton, Worcestershire
WR7 4RS

Telephone: 01905 840752

Email: RevdEmmaGoldby@gmail.com

Your Notes

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND