

Prayer

In the Baptism service you make promises to pray for your child. Prayer is a conversation with God. If you're not sure what to say, a good place to start might be the Lord's prayer. Pray it slowly, and as you pray the words think about what each phrase means.

You may also want to use your own words.

I am thankful for..... I worry about.... I hope for....

These can also be applied to yourself or even to the world. What do you hope for deep in your heart? In a quiet moment, offer these things to God.

You may also want to pray with your child. It's never too soon to start. These simple ideas may be helpful;

'God bless....' add the names of family and friends.

'Thank you for....' something good that has happened during the day.

Pray for family or friends who are in need, who may be unwell.

As you journey with your child, allow yourself the time to share in their wonder at the world. There's nothing like their joy at the sight of a frosty spider's web or a muddy puddle that just needs to be splashed in! Join in the fun and thank God for the moment.

For further information

If you have any further questions; wish to book a baptism; or if you are wondering about your own journey into the Christian faith, please feel free to contact our Vicar, the Rev'd. Charles Thomas by email or telephone as below.

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Acknowledgements:

Some ideas from Ally Barrett, *Making the most of your Child's baptism*, SPCK, London 2011
Some text adapted from All about baptism, a leaflet by Mark Earey CLT 01/22

St. Andrew's, Whitmore Reans

“All are Welcome in this Place.”



A Simple Guide for Parents

Baptism: the start of a journey

Baptism, also known as Christening, is the first step on a lifelong journey of faith. It means that your child becomes a member of God's family, the Church. The church, here in our community, is part of the worldwide church.

The symbols used in the service, the sign of the cross, water and a lighted candle focus on new life, belonging to God and what it means to live in the world as a Christian, a follower of Jesus.

Why do we baptise?

Jesus himself was baptised as an adult. It was the start of his public ministry. In his baptism he demonstrated what we must do to start on our journey with him.

Why is water used?

In baptism, water is used as a symbolic wash. It represents God's love washing away all that is selfish within us. It reminds us that we all need God's grace and forgiveness, even children, because left to ourselves we leave God out of our lives and often put ourselves before others, rather than loving our neighbours.

What is a Christian?

Being a Christian isn't about being someone who is in to religion, but about being on a life long journey with God. The God who created us, who loves us completely, who was fully present in the person of Jesus. Baptism is the first step on the Christian journey.



Parents and Godparents

Parents and Godparents have a very important role to play in a child's journey of faith. The promises that you will make in the service are only the start of this process. It will be up to you to provide opportunities for your child to grow in faith. Your child will need your support and encouragement in this.

Traditionally there are 3 Godparents, 2 of the same sex as the child, and 1 of the opposite sex. To be a Godparent a person must have been baptised themselves.

Baptism at St.Andrew's

Baptisms will normally take place during the Sunday morning service. Prior to your child being baptised you, and they if they are old enough to understand, will be asked to attend a preparation session.

At this session, which should last no more than an hour, there will be opportunity to learn about what Baptism entails; to ask questions about the Christian faith and the service itself, and to have explained what happens at the service.

After baptism – what next?

During the service you will make important promises about how you will help your child to grow in their faith and how you will accompany them on their faith journey. What does that mean? How does that work in practical terms?

Through baptism, your child is welcomed into the Church family. For your child to grow in faith, and to enable you to keep the promises you have made for them, you will be encouraged to attend church regularly so that you will be able to learn more about being part of the church and be able to explore the Christian faith, and how Christians live out this faith.