

Holy Trinity Parish Church

Murton & South Hetton



Revd Mark Harrison
The Vicarage, Murton
Email: revmark.edurham@gmail.com
Date: 8th November 2022

Dear Parents

Welcome to you and to all your family members. I am so pleased you have requested to have your child baptised in our village church. For over 100 years the Parish Church has provided services of celebration especially for those at the start of life.

As a parent I found baptism services a real milestone for our family and each was a day to remember, record and recall. It was also a real help to meet with to get to know other families and to develop a real sense of being welcomed into the local church. In those services my wife and I took to heart the promises we made to help and enable our children to join with us on our journey with God.

Some of you will have been baptised as children and in those services the message of the light of Christ would have meant something to your parents and godparents. I believe that some may have taken to heart the importance of the promises made, and given some acknowledgement to the blessings received.

However, we now live in a different time; therefore, it is my intention to gift to all Baptism families and God Parents the overwhelming sense of calling to follow after Jesus Christ and to understand better what the baptism journey is all about.

As a church we have decided to change the way in which we prepare families for their child's Baptism. These changes come into effect for baptisms that will take place starting October 2022. As your baptism is at the start of these changes, we have several requests to make.

We would like to invite you to join with us for our newly established Family Services and in the same weeks/months leading up to the baptism, you are also invited to the three preparation evenings held at Holy Trinity Church Murton. (Dates listed below)

Please note that for a Baptism to take place on the day booked we will require that you attend three family services and three preparation evenings.

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The Family Services.

We recently held our first family service and found it to be a great experience of church worship for all ages. The gathering starts at 10.0am with hot and cold drinks and cakes served to everyone. The service is short and lasts between 30-40mins. We also set out the church for children to feel at home and enjoy taking part either on a crafts table or by taking part in a short drama. Then, at the end of the service, we also serve hot and cold drinks and spend time getting to know you and your child.

There is an alternative to Baptism

For some time, the Church of England has led the way in offering to parents a Welcome service especially if they cannot attend to full Baptismal faith. The Welcome service will be held in one of our monthly Family services.

Again, we are requesting that parents come to one preparation night just to familiarise with the words of the service.

Please take a look at the Baptism Booklet

The Baptism booklet gives to you and the godparents something of what we mean by the Baptism Journey. We have also included for you the words of the service and a clearer picture of promises you are about to make. The role of godparent is also described as a reminder of the promises they make to be a Christian example in the life of the child.

What to do next

Please think about which direction is right for you, and then pray, asking God to lead you to make the right decision for you and your child.

Please can you state on the attached form whether you are seeking Baptism or a Welcome Service. This will then allow us to give to you the dates and times of services and the preparation night(s). For some parents a Welcome service might be an appropriate start, with a request for Baptism coming sometime later in the child's life.

Please do call me if you have any questions about Infant Baptism or the Welcome service. As Vicar, I will treat each service with exactly the same sense of importance and therefore heartily recommend both to all our families.

Finally, I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

In the Love of Christ

Revd Mark Harrison

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DATES FOR THE PREPERATION EVENINGS 2022

The preparation evenings for 2023 are set out below. Starting 6.0pm at Holy Trinity Murton.

First Session	Second Session	Third Session	Baptism Month
21 st February	28 th February	7 th March	March and April 2023

DATES FOR FAMILY SERVICES & WELCOME SERVICES. MURTON

The Family services are held at Holy Trinity Murton on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It starts at 9.30am where coffee and cakes are other refreshments are served. The short service is child focussed and lasts 40 minutes when we serve more coffee.

Family Service 1	Family Service 2	Family Service 3	Baptism Month
20 th November	18 th December	15 th January	February 2023
18 th December	15 th January	19 th February	March 2023
15 th January	19 th February	19 th March	April 2023

DATES FOR FAMILY SERVICES & WELCOME SERVICES. South Hetton

At Holy Trinity South Hetton we run a Café Church every 4th Sunday of the Month. This starts at 9.30am. The church is set out as a Coffee shop. We serve hot sandwiches and drinks and then have a short 40 minute service. It is great for young children.

Family Service 1	Family Service 2	Family Service 3	Baptism Month
23 th October	27 th November	25 th December	January 2023
27 th November	25 th December	22 nd January	February 2023
25 th December	22 nd January	26 th February	March 2023
22 nd January	26 th February	26 th March	April 2023

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