

# CHRISTENINGS



St Mary's Blidworth



St Simon & St Jude, Rainworth



**First steps on an amazing journey**

[www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org)

We are delighted that you are thinking about arranging a Christening. It's a very special thing and so we want your day to be special for you.

Look through this leaflet then get in touch.

**“We are children of the same Heavenly Father, we welcome you!”**

**The Reverend Zoe Burton, Vicar**

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## Who can have a Christening at St Mary's Blidworth or St Simon & St Jude, Rainworth?

**Anyone** who has not already been baptised, adults as well as children, who feels ready to take this important step in the Christian life can be baptised.

To have a christening at St Mary's or St Simon & St Jude, you either need to live in our parish or have a special connection to the church. If you're not sure whether you do, get in touch and we'll help you.

## What happens at a Christening?

At a christening your child will be baptised with water. This is the heart of your child's christening, although there are several special moments in the service:

- The vicar will **pray** for your child and for all those who will support them in their journey of faith.
- You and the godparents will make some important **promises on behalf of** your child in the service. You will promise to pray regularly for your child and to bring them up knowing that God loves them and learning about Jesus.
- Holy water will be used to make the **sign of the cross** on your child's forehead. This is like an invisible badge, there forever, to show that your child belongs to God.
- Water, which is blessed in the church's font, will be poured over your child's head by the vicar. This is the moment of **baptism**.
- Everyone promises to **continue supporting** your child from this moment.
- A candle will be given to you as a reminder of **Jesus the Light of the World**, who goes with you and is with you always.

## The role of godparents

In the service, the godparents make promises to share the amazing journey of the Christian faith, to pray for your child and to show them ways to grow in faith and love. Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, **godparents must be christened themselves**. It is normal to have **three godparents**, although there is a bit of flexibility with this.

## When do Christenings take place?

Christening services usually take place at an informal service at 12.30pm at St Simon & St Jude, Rainworth and 4pm at St Mary's Blidworth on the 2nd Sunday of the month except Nov as it is Remembrance Sunday. If the service takes place during the months of October from the May when we would need to have the heating on in the church, there is a heating fee of £65 to pay.

You can also have the christening service within our main Sunday service at 10am at Blidworth and 10.30am at Rainworth. This lasts about an hour and sometimes includes a celebration of Holy Communion.

## Who should be there?

**Parents and godparents** all need to be physically present, as does the person being baptised. In addition, it's nice to invite **family and friends** to join you on this special day; children are welcome and don't worry about them making a bit of noise or struggling to sit still! We ask you to keep your number of guests to around 40 people please as there may be 2 christening on the same day for the informal service.

If the child's parents are no longer together, it is possible for just one to be present although, unless there are exceptional circumstances, consent is needed from both parents. If you are concerned about this, please don't worry. It is helpful if you can talk to us honestly and openly about the situation (there will be no judgement) and we will do our best to help you make the necessary arrangements.

## What happens next?

If you'd like to go ahead and arrange a christening, **get in touch** with Revd Zoe, and she will happily meet with you to make the arrangements, to talk a bit more about what it all means, and to help you plan your special day.

If you don't feel ready for baptism but would like to do something in church for your child, it is also possible to have a **thanksgiving**. Get in touch to find out more about this.

As a christening marks the beginning of a journey of faith. We would like to support you in helping your child to grow in faith and encourage you to come to church whenever you can. We host informal relaxed family friendly services especially around Christmas and Easter. Do like our facebook pages (@Rev Zoe Burton and/or @The Church of England in Blidworth and Rainworth) or check out our websites (A Church Near You - enter your Blidworth or Rainworth postcode and you will be offered our churches and you select which church)

Please don't worry about not knowing what to do, or about whether your child might make some noise. You will be made very **welcome**.

## Christening party afterwards?

You may have a particular venue in mind for afterwards but just to let you know that St Andrews Mission Hall in Blidworth and our foyer/ Upper Room space at St Simon and St Jude church in Rainworth are available to hire. In Rainworth this keeps your christening service and party at the same venue. Our rates are very reasonable.

Do check out the Church of England's dedicated webpage about christenings with lots of questions usually asked and answers given. Click the link or copy and paste into your browser: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings>