



The Parish of Hempsted  
with  
St Mary de Lode and  
St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester



## Christenings in our parish churches

We are always delighted to talk to families and individuals interested in having a christening, also referred to a baptism, in one of our churches.

We ask that the individual, or family, has a connection to the parish. The most common connection is that they currently live in the parish. It could also be that there is a family tradition of baptisms taking place in a particular church, or that the parents of a child being brought for baptism were married in the church.

Do get in touch with us; we'd love to hear from you and work with you to arrange this service.

### How can I tell if I live in the parish?

Enter your postcode at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com), and look to see which church is listed as 'the parish church' in the search results. The churches in our parish are:

- St Swithun's, Hempsted
- St Mary de Lode, Archdeacon Street, Gloucester
- St Mary de Crypt, Southgate Street, Gloucester

### Is baptism just for children?

Absolutely not. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to be baptised. In the case of older children and adults, we would want to discuss not only baptism, but also confirmation, as this is the time when a young person or adult affirms, for themselves, their commitment to a life following Jesus Christ. For younger children, these promises are made by the parents and godparents on the child's behalf.

### What will it cost?

We make no charge for a baptism, only for an organist should you wish to sing hymns if you are having a bespoke service. However, we receive no Church of

England or other external funding and gratefully appreciate any donation that baptism families and their guests may like to give to the church in order that we can remain open for family occasions.

### **What about Godparents?**

Because of the special role godparents have in supporting a child's faith journey, the Church of England requires that all godparents must have been baptised and be in attendance at the service. A child should usually have at least three godparents, 3 or 4 is customary. If the people who you'd like to be godparents are not baptised, they can still be involved, for example, as a sponsor.

### **Where else can I get information on planning a christening?**

We recommend reading this website produced by the Church of England:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings>

### **What happens next?**

If you'd like to talk to us about arranging a baptism in one of our churches, please contact the church office ([admin@swithunandmary.org.uk](mailto:admin@swithunandmary.org.uk)).

We will need to know where you'd like the service to take place, the date/timeframe you have in mind, and whether you want the baptism to take place within the context of our 10am Parish Eucharist, afterwards (often Sundays at 12.30pm) or on another occasion. We will also ask you to fill in an application form and speak to a member of our clergy team before the service takes place.

### **Contact Information**

*Parish Administrator*

Claire Saunders [admin@swithunandmary.org.uk](mailto:admin@swithunandmary.org.uk)

Parish Office: 2 St Mary's Street, Gloucester. GL1 2LX