

INFANT BAPTISM

Information for parents and Godparents regarding Infant Baptism (Christening)

WELCOME

These notes have been produced to help you, the parents or prospective godparents of a child who is to be baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Ashby de la Zouch. We hope that they will help you understand what will happen during the Baptism Service and to answer any questions you might have.

We also wish to assure you of our prayers, support and welcome of your child or godchild into the Church family

PRACTICAL MATTERS

Infant Baptism Services at Holy Trinity take place on the third Sunday of the month as part of our main 10.30am service. The Church, parents and godparents are partners in the child's journey of faith and during the service they will all promise, with the help of God, to keep the child in their prayers and to help and support the child on their Christian journey.

Sometimes more than one child is to be baptised, but there will not normally be more than two families so that all your invited guests can be accommodated, (we will reserve pews so that you can be surrounded by your family and friends).

We welcome children to our services and expect a certain level of noise; they are welcome to stay in church for the whole service but should the 0-4 year olds (and their carers!) need a break at any point in the service we operate a crèche room which they are welcome to use. The crèche is situated at the front of the church, through the door on the left hand side of the platform.

There is a toilet in church which is located on the left hand side as you enter through the glass doors.

People using pushchairs, wheelchairs or who find steps difficult will be glad to know we have a ramped entrance to the right of the main door when you are facing the church building.

Generally the service will finish by 12 noon.

A mixture of both traditional hymns and modern worship songs are usually sung during the service. Should you have a hymn or worship song which is special to you and which you would like to be included in the service please let us know, alternatively appropriate songs or hymns will be chosen by the Sung Worship Group.

The words of the hymns are displayed on a screen rather than using hymnbooks. Should any of your guests be partially sighted, or if there is any other reason why using the screen is inappropriate for them, large print copies of the hymns to be sung are available from the people who will be handing out the service books – please ask, they will be happy to supply these.

Service books are provided to all and these set out the order of service, the prayers to be said, and the responses to be made by parents and godparents.

THE SERVICE

Baptism is a sacrament, (an outward visible action which has a deeper spiritual meaning), so there is a great deal of symbolism in the service.

There is the sign of the cross, which reminds us of Christ's death for us and is a badge of faith in the child's Christian journey.

Water is used during the service as a sign of new life in Christ as we are born again by water and the Spirit.

A lighted candle is given as a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil.



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THE FORM OF THE SERVICE

After a welcome and introduction by the minister there will be an opening hymn followed by a short prayer, some praise songs, bible readings, a sermon and prayers.

The children who are to be baptised are then brought forward by the parents and godparents and are presented to the congregation, who are asked to welcome and uphold them in their new life in Christ.

From the front of the church the minister then asks the parents and godparents if they will:

Pray for them, draw them by their example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ? Care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

The parents and godparents are invited to respond:

With the help of God, we will.

The minister then addresses the candidates through their parents and godparents and asks (and the parents and godparents respond);

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate. This is followed by a hymn as the baptismal party moves to the font.

The minister leads prayers and an affirming of our faith at the font. Pouring water over the candidates in turn, the minister says to each:

Child's name, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The minister, with the parents and the baptised child, move to the centre of the church to be welcomed into the fellowship by the congregation.

There is then the opportunity for everyone to "Share the Peace". This involves a shaking of hands with others around you and the words "Peace be with you". All are free to share in this way or not, as they feel comfortable.

A hymn is then sung when the parents have the opportunity to take their baptised child around the church for a closer introduction to the congregation.

The service ends with a blessing and the giving of a lighted candle to the parents as a reminder of the Light of Christ.

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served at the back of church at the end of the service, and we would be pleased if you and your guests are able to join the rest of the congregation for these.

POSTSCRIPTS

No charge is made for the Baptism Service.

A collection is not taken during the service.

Free will offerings may be made, if wished, towards the upkeep of the church by placing them in the collection boxes at the back of the church, either before or after the service. Envelopes are available at the collection boxes if required to enable the church to reclaim tax on gifts made under the Gift Aid Scheme.

FINALLY.....

Please be assured of our care and concern for both you and your child or godchild.

If you have any queries or, if we can help you in any way, please call Emma Harris in the Church Office on (01530) 412339. Office hours are usually Monday – Thursday 9.30 – 11.30am (please leave a message at other times), or contact us by e-mail at office@trinityashby.net

In addition to these contact points, Tim Phillips, (our Team Vicar) would be pleased to talk after our 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.