

## Baptism Enquiry Request

Your name

Spouse/partner's name

Your child's full name:

Your child's date of birth:

Your address:

Your email address:

Phone number:

Best time to phone you:

Signed:

Date:

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**FOR CHURCH USE ONLY**

Date of visit

Type of service

Time and date

*For those living outside parish:*

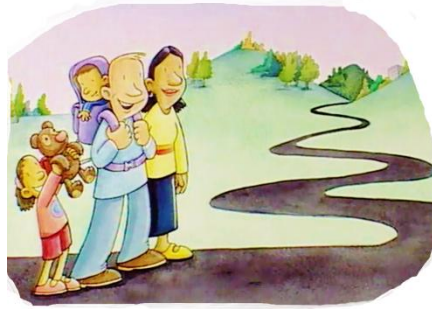
Details of local vicar

Consent obtained

St Mary's Cholsey, as part of the Church of England, baptises people both as adults and as children.

If you wish your child to be baptised (*also called "Christening"*) you as parents will be:

- thanking God for the gift of life,
- deciding to start your child on the journey of faith,
- promising to do all you can to help your child on that journey,
- asking for the Church's support.



For your child, baptism marks the start of a journey of faith, following Christ and becoming a member of the local and worldwide Christian family.

In baptism, we are thanking God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledging his love for us. We are also responding to God's love, by acknowledging that we need to turn away from a self-centred life and to make a new start with God.

### **Making decisions and promises**

When you bring your child for baptism, you will be asked to declare publicly on behalf of your child that you believe and trust in God and that you will bring your child up to follow Jesus.

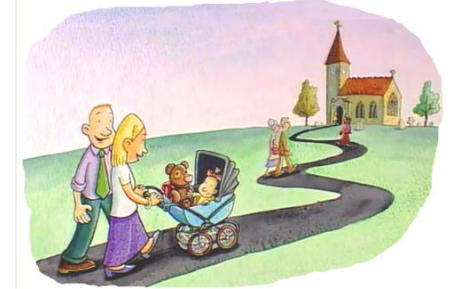
You will be asked to answer, on your child's behalf, that you have decided to turn away from everything which is evil or sinful and to turn instead to following Christ.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Can we have a private service of baptism?**

Baptisms now take place in the church's main service. This is so that your child can be seen to be joining the family of the Church and that the local congregation can in turn welcome the child into the family and also promise to support and pray for you and your child.

We therefore set aside a number of Sundays in the year, when we can welcome the child into God's family by baptism.



If you are particularly keen to have a private service for family and friends, e.g, on a Sunday afternoon, it may be more appropriate for you to have a service of **Thanksgiving and Blessing** (*see next section*).

### **I'm not a regular churchgoer: can I still have my child baptised?**

The Church believes that God's love is available to all, regardless of their background. However, in the Baptism service you will be making promises in public and before God to encourage your child to be an active part of the church, by your teaching and *by your example*. If you decide you are not able to make such a commitment, we can talk you about other options: For example, you may prefer to have a **Thanksgiving and Blessing service**, where you can thank God for the wonderful gift of your baby and we ask for God's blessing on both your child and you as parents.

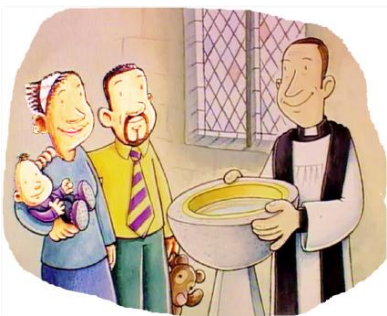
*(continued overleaf)*

This is a lovely service in its own right, but still leaves open the option of baptism should you decide at a later date, that this is what you would like.

You may also wish to find out more about the Christian faith and what joining the Church involves before you make a decision about baptism. Again, your local clergy can give you guidance.

### **Who should I choose to be a godparent?**

Godparents make the same promises as parents on behalf of the child being baptized. Godparents must also be willing to promise to pray and support the child and to help the parents to bring up the child in the Christian faith. It is an important and responsible role.



containing the water for baptism.)

For the baptism itself, parents and godparents will be asked to gather at the front of the church and then around the font. (The font is a large basin

containing the water for baptism.)  
Godparents can be family members or friends. However, it is important that you choose people who will take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and who will pray for you and your child. They must also have been baptized themselves.

### **What does the Baptism service cost?**

The Baptism service is free.

### **What happens after the baptism?**

Baptism marks a new start for your child, as a member of the worldwide Christian community. In turn, the Church welcomes you and your child and promises to help and support you in bringing the child up in the Christian faith.

Children are particularly welcome at our main morning services, where we have special groups and activities for them.



### **What is the right age for baptism?**

Baptism can happen at any age. What matters is that those concerned are happy to make the promises that are a vital part of Baptism. Teenagers and adults may also be baptised. This is usually celebrated at a **Confirmation** service by the Bishop.

You can only be baptised once, but there are different ways of renewing your commitment publicly as an adult – your local clergy will be able to advise about this.

### **What do I do now?**

Please contact the Vicar, Andrew Petit, either by emailing [andrewpetit@virginmedia.com](mailto:andrewpetit@virginmedia.com)

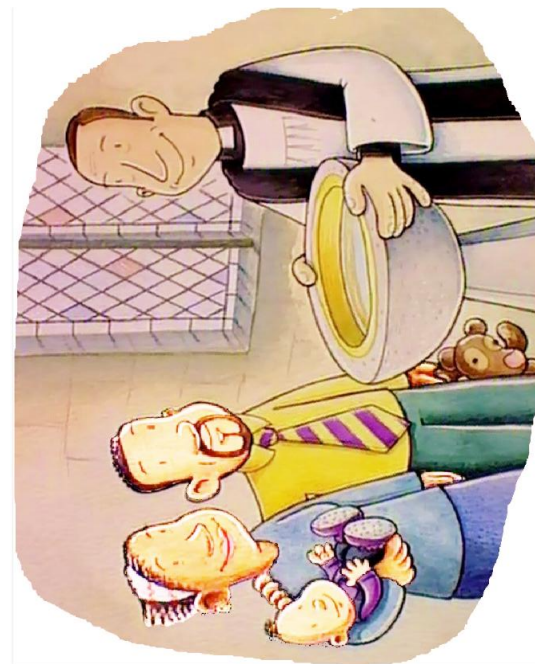
or phoning him on 01491 651216

or by completing the slip at the front of this leaflet and returning it to

**St Mary's Church Office**, Church Road, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9PP (next to the Laurence Hall)

*Material adapted from: Your Child's Baptism in the Church of England – Church House Publishing*

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*Thinking of having  
your child baptized?*