**Baptism Enquiry**

**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:**

**----------------------------------------------------------**

**FOR CHURCH USE ONLY**

**Date of visit**

**Type of service**

**Time and date**

**For those living outside Cholsey, Winterbrook or Moulsford:**

**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 a  
“**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.

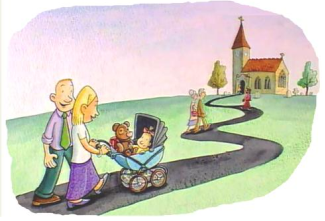
For your child,   
baptism marks  
the start of a  
journey of faith,  
following Christ  
and becoming a  
member of  
the local and  
worldwide  
Christian family.

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, you can ask the Vicar for   
guidance about this.

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.



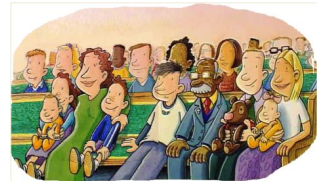
For the baptism  
itself, parents and  
godparents will be  
asked to gather at  
the front of the  
church and then  
around the font.

(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 Vicar will be able to advise about this.

What do I do now?Please contact our church office either by  
emailing admin@stmaryscholsey.org  
or phoning **01491 651812** (and leave a message   
if no one answers)  
or by completing the slip at the front of this leaflet and returning it to

Church Office, Church Road, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9PP   
 *(next to the Laurence Hall)*  
*Material adapted from: Your Child's Baptism in the Church*  
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