

Christ Church and Holy Trinity, Gosport

BAPTISM NOTES

Vicar: The Revd Andy Davis, BSc BD
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Andy, the Vicar will happily meet with you to discuss the baptism (some people still call them “Christenings”!), and try to answer any questions you may have. But please read the following first!

Due to high demand, and in order to foster a relationship with your local church, **if you do not live in the parish of Holy Trinity, or the parish of Christ Church we will NOT be able to offer you a baptism (unless there is some close connection with Andy, or with one of our two churches.)** We will let you know which parish you live in.

The **ONLY** reason to be baptised is that you intend you/ your child to be part of the church family, a frequent churchgoer, and to grow up in a real and active Christian faith. If this is not your intention, then a **Blessing Service** (see enclosed notes) would be much more suitable.

Please be clear, that:

- 1) You do **NOT** need to be baptised to go to a Church of England School.
- 2) You do **NOT** need to be baptised to get married in church or buried in a churchyard.
- 3) Someone is **NOT** in any danger if they haven’t been baptised (God loves the baptised and the non-baptised EQUALLY.)
- 4) You do **NOT** have to “get the baby done”. 75% of children born in Britain these days are **NEVER** baptised!

To Repeat: the **ONLY** reason to be baptised is that you intend you or your child to be part of the church family, a frequent churchgoer, and to grow up in a real and active Christian faith. If this is not your intention, then a **Blessing Service** (see enclosed notes) would be much more suitable.

The promises made at baptism are VERY strong. Can you and your chosen God-parents make them in good conscience and mean what you promise? Here are some of the promises:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives (n) with joy. Today we are trusting God for his/her growth in faith. Will you pray for him/her, draw him/her by your example into the community of faith and walk with him/her in the way of Christ?

*Answer **With the help of God, we will.***

In baptism (n) begins their journey in faith. You speak for him/her today. Will you care for him/her and help him/her to take his/her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

*Answer **With the help of God, we will.***

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

*Answer **I reject them***

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

*Answer **I renounce them***

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

*Answer **I repent of them***

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

*Answer **I turn to Christ***

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

*Answer **I submit to Christ***

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

*Answer **I come to Christ***

We can organise a “stand alone” service for just you and your family and friends, which is normally on a Saturday, at a mutually agreed time (as there are at least four services every Sunday, plus other Sunday events!) These “stand alone” services last about 15 – 20 minutes and can include music, CD's, poems and tributes of your own choosing!

You can also have a Baptism during a main Sunday morning service. This is very appropriate, because baptism is about becoming a full member of God's family (the church) so the church family should be there when someone is baptised. This is suitable if you have up to about 50 guests. For bigger numbers of guests, the "stand alone" service is more suitable.

At Holy Trinity the main service is at 11.00am. At Christ Church the main service is at 9.30am – but we do have a simple, fun 'Family Service' on the third Sunday of the month at 10.00am, which is a very suitable service for a baptism.

We produce a special, personalized service order, a laminated "Baptism Certificate" and a little laminated card given to each God-parent.

A baptism in a main service is FREE, but we hope that you and those who attend will make a donation into the church collection at the service.

Blessing of Children

We do "**Blessing Services**" for children (also called "**Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child**"). These are more suitable for those who might be uneasy about the strong demands surrounding baptism (or Christening).

Blessings can be done by the priest in your home (with just you, or as many people present as you want!) Or, as a simple, 10-15 minute "stand alone", separate service for just you and your family/friends (usually at a mutually agreed time on a Saturday); or as part of a main service: 11.00am at Holy Trinity; or either 9.30am Communion or 10.00am Family Service [3rd Sundays of the month] at Christ Church.

The Services are free, but a donation into the collection plate on the day of the service is appreciated.

Instead of Godparents, you can have "Supporting Friends".

We produce a special, personalized service order, a laminated "Blessing Certificate" and a little laminated card given to each "Supporting Friend".