



**All Saints with Christ Church  
Snodland**

**BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM**

<b>Full Name of Child:</b>	
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Full Names of Parents:</b>	
<b>Occupations:</b>	<b>Father:</b> <b>Mother:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone No:</b>	
<b>Godparents (Max. 4):</b> (must be baptised)	
<b>Date of Baptism:</b> <i>(Baptisms are on <u>1<sup>st</sup></u> Sunday of the month)</i>	
<b>Time:</b> <i>(10am at Christ Church or 5pm at All Saints)</i>	
<b>Church:</b>	
<b>Number of guests Expected:</b>	

Signature of parent(s): .....

*Please note ALL GODPARENTS need to have been baptised.*

*This is a minimum requirement under Canon Law. (Ideally they should also be confirmed.)*



## **Arranging a Baptism**

We are always delighted to receive a baptism enquiry. Here in Snodland, baptisms (also called Christenings) usually take place on *the first Sunday of the month* during a main act of worship. As baptism involves the welcoming of a new member into the Church, it is important to have the church family there to welcome that person. The two main services on the first Sunday of the month are:-

10.00am Family Service at Christ Church,  
Malling Road  
and 5.00pm Family Service at All Saints,  
Mill Street (near the station)

Whichever service you opt for, it will be a great joy and a privilege for us to celebrate the baptism with you and to welcome your child into the family of the Church.

Please feel free to invite as many family members and friends as you like to the service.

The Rector will agree the date and time for the baptism (unless he does this during his visit) and then arrange to visit you at home to explain the baptism service and answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact him about any matter should you wish to do so.

## **What is Baptism?**

Your child is precious to you, and precious to God. At baptism you promise to bring your children up to know that God loves them, and to help them to follow Jesus as a member of the Church.

Baptism is what we call a 'sacrament', a visible sign of God's love for us. In baptism, we thank God for the gift of new life, and we mark a new beginning in the family of the Church.

There are various elements to the service. There will be hymns, readings and a short talk. There are some declarations and prayers at the front of the church involving you and the godparents.

The most important part of the service, the baptism, involves pouring water on your child's head as a sign that they are being washed free from sin and beginning a new life with God. This takes place at the font (at the front in Christ Church, at the back in All Saints).

At the end of the service I will give a lighted candle to a parent or an older brother or sister to carry. The candle symbolizes the love of Christ and can be lit on the anniversary of your child's baptism as a reminder of the day.

Your family will be warmly welcomed at services and other activities, details of which are on the weekly notice sheet and church website [www.allsaintswithchristchurch.org](http://www.allsaintswithchristchurch.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How much does it cost?** There is no fee for baptism, though a collection is taken during the final hymn for the ongoing work of the church and Gift Aid envelopes are available for anyone who is a taxpayer and would like the church to be able to claim back additional money from the government.

**Will ours be the only baptism on the day?** There may be other children being baptised at the same service. We normally limit it to children from a maximum of two families.

**What if the children aren't used to being quiet?** It doesn't matter if accompanying children make a little noise during the service, but there are toys available in the room at the back of the church for young children who need a break during the service.

**How should I choose the Godparents?** Godparents make the same promises you do about helping to raise your child in the Christian faith, so as you can see it's an important and responsible role. It is usual to have *two* or *three* godparents. There is an absolute maximum of four. Godparents must have been baptised themselves, and at least one should also have been confirmed. If the person you wish to ask has not been baptised they can be a sponsor.

**Will we be given a certificate?** There is a baptism certificate for your child and a card for each godparent or sponsor listing their responsibilities, which we will give you at the end of the service.

**Can we take photographs?** Photographs can be an important record of the occasion. There will be an opportunity after the baptism to take photographs in the church beside the font.

**What about videos?** Unfortunately it is not possible for baptism services to be videoed. In common with most schools, we require all children present, and their parents, to give consent before there can be photography, and this is impractical at a public church service.

**Mobile phones** – we ask that all mobile phones are switched off or put onto silent so as not to interrupt the service.

**Is there anything else we should do?** We would encourage you to come to church as regularly as you can (we would suggest at least three times prior to the baptism), and hope that your child (from the age of 3) will want to join us at 'Explorers' (our equivalent to Sunday School) and, when he or she is older, on 'Pathfinders' (10-14 yrs.).