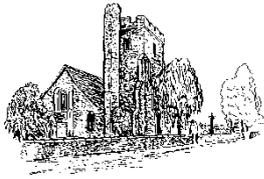


Baptism Register No.



All Saints with Christ Church Snodland

BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM

Full Name of Child:	
Date of Birth:	
Birth Certificate :	Number: Registrar's Office:
Full Names of Parents:	Father: Mother:
Occupations:	Father: Mother:
Address:	
Telephone No:	
Parental Responsibility :	
Godparents (normally 3 or 4): (must be baptised)	
Date of Baptism:	<i>(Baptisms are on <u>1st</u> Sunday of the month)</i>
Time:	<i>(10am at Christ Church or 5pm at All Saints)</i>
Church: <i>(All Saints/Christ Church)</i>	
Number of guests Expected:	

We would be happy to receive information about church activities & events **YES / NO**

(delete as appropriate)

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 have been confirmed.)*

Arranging a Baptism

If you are interested in having your child baptised (or in being baptised yourself), please contact the Rector before you do anything else, to arrange a time when either he/she or one of their colleagues can meet with you. The purpose of the meeting will be to explain the baptism service, discuss the practical details and arrangements, and answer any questions that you may have.

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)

If you are particularly keen on having a baptism at All Saints church but 5.00pm is too late a time for your child, please talk about this with the Rector. Baptisms can under certain circumstances take place at other times (eg 12 noon or 2.30pm), but where this occurs, parents are asked to bring their child to a main morning service, so that the main congregation can give thanks for his or her birth, pray for them and welcome them into the community of faith.

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 Church.

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

What is Baptism?

Your child is precious to you, and precious to God. At a baptism service those sponsoring the child (usually the parents and godparents) profess their faith and Christian commitment, and promise to bring up their child to follow Jesus within the family 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 are some declarations and prayers at the front of the church involving you and the godparents. At a main 10am or 5pm service there will also be hymns, a Bible reading and a short talk.

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 the minister 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 to join us at services and other activities, details of which are on the weekly notice sheet, church website and FaceBook:

www.allsaintswithchristchurch.org and www.facebook.com/allsaintswithchristchurch/

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, but we normally limit it to children from a maximum of two families. If there is an exceptionally large number of families requesting baptisms on a particular Sunday or a family with a particularly large number of guests, we may discuss with you the need for an additional afternoon baptism.

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. We prefer photographs not to be taken during the service as this can be a major distraction to other worshippers.

What about videos? Unfortunately it is not possible for baptism services to be videoed as children may be present and there are safeguarding issues and a need for parental consent.

Mobile phones? We ask that all mobile phones are switched off or put onto silent so as not to interrupt the service or interfere with the sound system.

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 you will wish your child (from the age of 3) to join us at 'Explorers' (our equivalent to Sunday School) and, when he or she is older, at 'Pathfinders' (10-14 yrs.). Very young children are welcome to come to 'Explorers' if accompanied by an adult.