



Cheveley Group
Parishes of
Cheveley, Ashley,
Woodditton
and Kirtling.

Baptism



Priest in Charge:

The Revd Dr Naomi Wormell

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Your child's baptism

We're delighted you're thinking of baptism for your child. Your child is precious to you and precious to God. At Baptism you promise to raise your child to know God loves them, and to help them to follow Jesus as a member of the Church.

We hope this leaflet gives you the initial information you need. If you would like to arrange a baptism please contact Tracy Grimster (Authorised Lay Minister, Children, Families and Baptism) for more information or an application form:

Telephone 01638 721150 or email:

tracy.grimster09@btinternet.com

You can be baptised at any age, but most of this leaflet refers particularly to small children – see page 6 for adult baptism.

General information

Baptism is the official name of the service. **Christening** is the traditional English word for the same service, and means 'to make Christ's'.

There is also a service of **Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child**. In this service you thank God for the gift of your child and the child is blessed.

You do not make the same promises as in the baptism service, however, you can still have a baptism for your child at a later date. This service may well suit those who are not regular churchgoers and who feel they cannot yet commit to the promises required of them in baptism.

Who can be baptised here?

If you live in one of our Group parishes (Ashley, Cheveley, Kirtling, Woodditton) you are entitled to be baptised, or to have your child baptised, there. You do not have to be a regular churchgoer, although you will want to attend some services in your church before the baptism.

If you live outside the parish but are active members of one of our churches through regular attendance, we would still seek the agreement of your local vicar as a courtesy. If you do not meet either of these criteria, you need to contact your local parish priest to arrange a baptism.

What must we do to get ready for the baptism?

When you contact Tracy Grimster, she will meet you and help you think through what baptism means and how you can get ready for this big day in your child's life.

Godparents

There is no fixed number although three is usual. You need at least one godmother and at least one godfather.



As the godparents make promises concerning the Christian upbringing of a child, it is essential they are baptised. Choose people you trust, who will take their responsibility seriously to take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and who will pray for them.

Photographs can be taken in church after the service with family and friends.

The Service only takes place within the Sunday morning Communion service so that the church family can welcome your child into the church. The whole service lasts well under an hour. Private Baptisms are not normally conducted within the Group.

Parents and godparents publicly promise to do their best to raise their child to follow Jesus. The local church welcomes the child and promises to encourage and pray for them and their parents. The service includes hymns and songs for all ages - families are asked to choose their favourite - a Bible reading and a short talk as well as an invitation to receive Communion or a blessing.

For the baptism itself, the priest asks parents and godparents to declare their Christian faith and to make promises on behalf of the child. Then the child is brought to the font and is baptised in water – symbolizing them being washed clean and beginning a new life with God in Christ. The priest will also make the sign of the cross on the child's forehead – the sign to show Christians are united with Jesus Christ - and the child is anointed with oil. The baptism is completed with the giving of a special baptism candle, "The Light of Christ".

Adult Baptism

There is no age limit to baptism – Jesus himself was baptised in his late 20's or early 30's. Whilst the service is almost identical, adults don't need godparents and will make promises for themselves. However, we do encourage people to have a sponsor or friend – that is a Christian believer – at the service.

To help you think through what Christian faith stands for, our Priest will meet with you to discuss what baptism means for you and how the church can help – and also to explain the baptism service.

Confirmation

Most people getting baptised as adults are thinking carefully about faith issues so we also encourage them to consider being confirmed in their faith. Services of Confirmation, led by the Bishop, are held each year, around Easter and we offer a course of informal discussions to prepare people to reaffirm their faith or be confirmed.