

The Parish of St. Lawrence & St. Paul's West Wycombe



Baptism (or Christening)

This leaflet is guide to baptism (sometimes called Christening). Baptism is an important step in a persons life. We are happy to baptise both children or adults. It is a wonderful moment, not just for the person being baptised, but for the whole Christian family. Baptism is a sacrament which symbolises a real desire to turn to God, or to bring up a child as a Christian.

The only reason to be baptised is that you intend your child to be a part of the Church family, to become a regular worshipper and to grow up in a real and active Christian faith.

Baptism involves making some promises to God and to his people gathered together to worship. These are solemn promises, which must be carefully made to have any meaning. Here are some of promises made in the baptism service.

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.

Our Parish Baptism Policy

Due to high demand, and because it is important that there is a connection with the church community where faith can be formed and nurtured, we welcome the following for baptism.

- 1.** Anybody, child or adult who lives in the parish of West Wycombe.
- 2.** Anybody on the church electoral role of this parish.
- 3.** A child with a parent or grand parent on the electoral roll of this parish.
- 4.** A child of parents married in our parish

We do this as baptism is not an isolated event, but part of the

journey of faith in which worshipping in the church will be an important ingredient now and in the future.

If you live in another parish please contact your local church who will be able to advise you on baptism there. If you are not sure which parish you live in you can check on -

www.achurchnearyou.com

You can enter your postcode to find your parish.

When do baptisms take place?

We baptise twice a month. On the first Sunday of the month at St. Lawrence's church, West Wycombe Hill. This is at our 11am Parish Eucharist where the church family gather to worship, learn and pray, as well as receive the sacrament of the Eucharist.

The second occasion is at 12.30 on the third Sunday of the month at St. Paul's, West Wycombe Village. This is after our monthly Family Service there.

I am afraid that we cannot arrange baptisms at other times.

How do I arrange a baptism?

Please contact the Rector, The Revd Nigel Lacey on (01494) 529988 or email nigellacey153@o2.co.uk.

You will be asked to fill in a form so that details can be entered into the baptism register. One of the clergy team will meet with you to go through the service and explain the promises that you will make.

What about Godparents?

The Church of England requires that all godparents should have themselves been baptised. They do not have to be member of the Church of England.

What happens at a Baptism service?

On the first Sunday of the month the baptism would be as a part

of our normal Sunday worship at our Parish Eucharist. We are a welcoming and friendly congregation with an active Sunday School which children are welcome to attend on the day.

On the third Sunday of the month the baptism would be at St Paul's Church and would be a separate service.

You will be given a special Baptism Candle and there are certificates for the person being baptised and for the godparents. In neither case can we guarantee that you will be the only family attending as demand is high, especially over the summer months.

Is there a charge for baptism?

There is no charge but we do have a collection in all our services in order to cover the cost of running the Church. If you are a taxpayer, gift aid envelopes are available and we would encourage you to use these.

Would you please note

We would ask that you do not photograph or film the service. We are very happy for you to pose for photographs afterwards. We ask this because you are attending a service or worship which must be treated with respect and reverence. We would also ask you to respect the wish for others to worship quietly.

You are welcome to sit where you wish.