

The Seven Saints Team Ministry New Bury with Great Lever

St Catherine - St George - St James
St Michael with St Bartholomew, St Simon with St Jude

INTRODUCTION TO BAPTISM



Please read this leaflet carefully
before you make any family arrangements.

Thank you for asking about having your child baptised. We are pleased that you have thought about this as it is right that you should acknowledge that your child is God's gift to you. So why have you decided to have your child baptised?

Well, there are as many answers to this as there are children but the main reason ought to be that you yourself have a belief in God and that you want to bring up your child within the family of the Church.

During the Baptism Service you will be asked to make some declarations about what you believe and some promises about your intentions for the future. It is important that you think about these promises and whether or not you intend to try to live up to them before you bring your child to be baptised.

The parents and godparents will be asked the following questions:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All reply: I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All reply: I renounce them.

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

All reply: I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All reply: I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All reply: I submit to Christ.

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

All reply: I come to Christ.

These are very clear statements about your Christian commitment which you have to be sure about.

All those bringing children for Baptism will be offered a "Service of Thanksgiving or Welcome" as a first step in the process and Baptism takes place at least three months after that service.

Baptism celebrates the fact that God loves your child and has a place for him or her in his Church. At the same time because the child is too young to answer for themselves, parents and god-parents speak on their behalf.

These are not easy promises to make, nor should they be just empty words. You wouldn't dream of neglecting your child's physical needs food, clothing, etc. - so neither should you neglect his or her spiritual needs. As your child grows he or she needs to be brought regularly to Church to be fed spiritually.

If you don't feel that you could answer honestly and with the intention of following them through, then you should think seriously about making the "Service of Thanksgiving or Welcome" the occasion for your family celebration instead of baptism. This involves no commitment on your part, gives thanks to God for your child, asks for his blessing on you as a family, and you will be given a certificate and a copy of one of the gospels for your child.

When does baptism take place?

Baptisms always take place in our main Sunday morning and Thursday evening service when the members of the Church family are there to welcome your child into their new family. They take place on the following days each month:

St Simon & St Jude	First Sunday in month at 10.00am
St Michael's	Second Sunday at 9.30am
St Catherine's	Third Sunday at 10.00am
St George's	Fourth Sunday at 10.00am
also St Catherines	Thursday Evenings at 7.00pm

We would expect you to have your child baptised at the church which best suits your family, as it is where we hope you will bring your child regularly to share worship with all of God's people. We normally only have one family baptism at a time so that the occasion is special to you. This may mean that your preferred date is unavailable.

What about God-parents?

You should normally have three – we suggest two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex - who will have to make exactly the same declarations and promises as the parents. It is important that you think carefully about who you ask to take on this very important role. Godparents need to have some faith themselves as they have the special task of helping children to come to know God, encouraging them to go to the local church, and to take an interest in their spiritual life. **PLEASE NOTE: God-parents MUST be baptised themselves and must be over 16 years of age.**

Adults (including prospective Godparents) may be baptized after attending a short DVD and discussion course usually held a couple of times a year.

Over the period between your Service of Welcome or Thanksgiving Service and the Baptism Service itself the meaning of Baptism will be explained to you by one of our church team and you will be taken through the service in detail so that you will know what to expect and what is expected of you. You will be expected to attend services during that time to give us all the opportunity to get to know one another better.

What do I do next?

1. **Fill in the form** and **return it** to the address on the back of the form. Then **phone** the Baptism Coordinator on (01204) 438674 to arrange for your Service of Thanksgiving or Welcome. Once that service has taken place we will make a provisional booking for the Baptism (3+ months after)
2. Do not make any arrangements for a party until you have made a firm booking as we are often booked up for several months ahead.

PLEASE NOTE that photographs are NOT allowed during the service but the Clergy will be happy to be photographed with your child after the service. You may arrange for someone to video the service providing they obtain a video licence and they stand where directed on the day and do not distract others from following the service .