

St Mildred's



Serving the community in the love of Christ

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ST MILDRED'S BAPTISM POLICY

VISION

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God, which continues for the rest of our lives. As water is poured over us, we are marked with the Sign of the Cross and given a lighted candle – all representing the new life offered to us by Jesus and our membership of the Church family.

Baptism is available for babies and children. When young people and adults are baptised, they are also Confirmed (see below)

STEPS FOR PREPARATION

1. Hopefully we will have met you at one of our services.
2. We will aim to meet with you in your home prior to the baptism service.
3. You are invited to come along to one of our Baptism Preparation Classes.
4. Attend a rehearsal shortly before the date of the baptism.

NOTE

For those who do not feel ready to make the promises and commitment required for baptism we offer a **Thanksgiving Service**. This is an opportunity to thank God before the Church community for the gift of your child. The Thanksgiving service lasts for about 10minutes during the main 10am Parish Communion service. Please contact the Parish Office or speak to a member of the team if you would like to arrange a Thanksgiving service for your child.

WHEN DOES THE BAPTISM SERVICE TAKE PLACE

1. Dates for our baptism services to take place are published in advance (Please call the Parish Office for details).
2. Baptism normally takes place during our main 10am service and lasts for just over an hour. During this service the child will be presented before the congregation and a lighted candle will be given.
3. We also offer the option of having an afternoon service for families who prefer this, where the focus is entirely on the baptism and lasts for approximately 30minutes. During this service the church family does not have the opportunity to welcome the new Christian, so the baptism family are invited back to a main service to present them to the Church family and to be given their Baptism candle.
4. Occasionally, baptism can be offered during our Café Church service, but these are arranged on an individual basis.

GODPARENTS & SPONSORS

1. We recommend a minimum of three Godparents per child, though more is fine.
2. A child's own parents can be Godparents.
3. For a boy, we recommend two Godparents to be male and one to be female.
4. For a girl, we recommend two Godparents to be female and one to be male.
5. If for any reason a Godparent cannot be present at the ceremony, they can still be a Godparent – they just need to choose somebody to stand in for them on the day.
6. Godparents promise to assist in bringing up the children as Christians. Therefore they must be Baptised (any recognised Christian denomination). They do not have to be confirmed, but that is our preference.
7. Sometimes people also have Sponsors who the family may wish to have an on-going involvement in the life of their children. They do not have to be baptised or they may come from another faith community. They will have a special concern for the on-going wellbeing and development of the child. They offer support and example to the newly baptised.

ARRANGING THE BAPTISM SERVICE

1. Contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with the vicar and the Parish Secretary where you will be able to agree a date discuss any questions and begin to complete a Baptism Application Form.
2. When you hand the completed form to the Parish Office the Baptism is officially booked (Forms are available from the Parish Office).
3. If you live outside the Parish of St Mildred's, as a matter of courtesy please inform your local Vicar that you are arranging this Baptism with St Mildred's. Then just let us know that you have done so by ticking the box on the Baptism Application form.

FOLLOW-UP

1. We want to encourage the baptism family to continue to be a part of the Church family; this first step is a journey of faith.
2. Following the Baptism we will invite you to the annual Welcome Back Service, which usually takes place on the 3rd Sunday in September during our Café Church Service.
3. Greeting cards will be sent to children for the first two years, to celebrate the anniversary of their baptism.
4. In addition to the regular Sunday services listed in our Parish Magazine, Church Notice-Board and [our website](#), there are many other activities available for our younger members on [Sundays](#) , and [during the week](#).

THE ONGOING JOURNEY

Admission to Communion: This is available for children aged 8 years and above, who are baptised and regularly attend church or Sunday School. The children attend preparation classes to help them gain an understanding of Holy Communion. (Please contact the Parish Office for dates of the next classes)

Baptism and Confirmation: This is also available for adults and young people aged 12years and above, who are able to profess their own faith. The Bishop lays hands on the head of the candidate, praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them. These take place throughout the year, but St Mildred's will run one preparation course per year which lasts for several weeks, after which the candidate is ready to be presented for confirmation. (Please contact the Parish office for dates of the next classes).

St Mildred's take this opportunity to thank you for reading this information and we hope to see you soon at one of our [services](#). If you have any questions please come and speak to one of our team.