



All Saints Church Langton Green

nourishing spirit and soul

www.langtongreenchurch.com

Holding a Christening/ Baptism Service at All Saints



Congratulations, we are delighted that you would like to bring your child to be christened/baptised or that you would like to be baptised yourself. This is some information to help you plan your service with us at All Saints Church. While it tends to be children who are brought for baptism it can be for anyone at any stage of life. For simplicity we will refer to children but the process is very similar.

Finding the right church

One of the first things you will need to do is be in touch with us at church. Come and have a chat to Sally-Anne Gatherer or Emma Stevens our Church Wardens, they will be glad to hear from you.

Whether you're exploring the possibility of a christening or whether you've already decided, we will be delighted to help you through the process.

You can always have your child christened in your local church, or where you have a strong family connection, and it's good to make a connection locally so your child's church family is close by. When you call the church, you may be able to book a date straightaway or someone may call back. You'll meet the priest with your child to talk through the service and to help answer any questions you may have. This is normally a little nearer the time you have chosen to hold your Christening.

Exploring more about what a christening means

Your child is precious to you and precious to God. You want the very best for them, and so does God. You want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others.

A christening is just the beginning of this and so much more.

Over the years to come, it's a journey you'll share together with your child by:

- **Being there for your child** to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- **Praying for your child** through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- **Showing them practically** how to make those good choices in life.
- **Helping them to learn more about their Christian faith**, through their church and in other ways.

So it's a commitment to start as you mean to go on.

Choosing godparents

Godparents are really important. Choosing them is one of the biggest decisions you will make. Whether you are still thinking or have already asked some special friends, discover more about what it means to be or have godparents. Whether you have questions about gifts or want to explore the promises, there are answers to your questions here.

Choosing the right people as godparents for your child is a big decision. Here are some key things which might help you decide:

- Because of the very special role godparents have in supporting your child's faith journey, they must be baptized themselves. Ideally they should be confirmed too, but check with the priest.
- If the people who you'd like to be godparents aren't baptized, they can still be involved in the christening service and in your child's life as they grow up. Ask your priest about this who'll be pleased to advise.
- Godparents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come. They may be relatives or friends of the family.
- They'll be people who you know you can trust and who'll be there for your child to talk about the bigger questions in life; questions about faith, hope and love.
- They should feel ready to make some big promises about faith for your child in church.
- Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual. If you'd like more than that, talk to your vicar about the practicalities and they'll be pleased to advise.
- Parents may be godparents for their own children, providing they have at least one other godparent.
- If you're thinking about asking someone who is under 18 to be a godparent, talk to your priest first. There's no minimum age for godparents, but they must be mature enough to understand the responsibilities they're taking on; your vicar can help you decide if this is the right choice for your child and the young godparent.

You can talk to your priest about choosing godparents and involving them in the christening preparation too.

Preparing for the big day

Getting ready for your child's christening is exciting. But there's also a lot to think about and do. Whether you have done this before or not, read on for some helpful ideas and tips.

It can seem that there is a lot to organize for a christening. But remember the important thing is that you and your family are there on the day to see your child baptized at their christening.

- Have a look at what will happen in the service and the words that you will be saying. The step by step guide to the service may help.
- It's a great idea to go along to church or to a church toddler group before the day so you can meet some of the people. Some of them might be thinking about having a christening too, or have already had their child christened.
- Take the opportunity to go along when your church invites you to find out more about having your child baptized at the christening.
- Enjoy the party – a key part of the day is being with family and friends.
- Think about what you and your child are going to wear. Many parents like their child to have a traditional christening gown, but it's not compulsory and there may be a special outfit that they'd be more comfortable in – that's fine. Like any celebration event, many families like to dress up for the occasion too. There are no hard and fast rules – choose what you'll be happy and comfortable wearing on the day.
- Get in touch with your godparents and tell them what will be happening. They might like to know about this website.
- Don't forget photos – your child will be able to look back on them when they're older and talk to you about what their christening means.
- Why not take a few moments to think about your child and your family. Ask God to be close to all of you as you start this amazing journey of faith. You might like to pop into church to light a candle and say a prayer.

Contacts at All Saints that can help you

Church Wardens

Sally-Anne Gatherern sallyannegatherern@gmail.com 01892 822261

Emma Stevens contact@langtonggreenchurch.com 07900245331

When your priest contacts you she/he will give you contact details