



### What is Baptism?

In baptism, we thank God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledge his love. In the Anglican Church it is common to baptise young children; this is sometimes known as christening.

Baptism is a 'sacrament' (holy ritual to symbolise grace) in the Christian tradition that is traced back to Jesus himself being baptized in the river Jordan.

*If you have any questions that you would like to ask about baptism or Christian beliefs, please phone the Vicar on 01892 521357, or contact the Parish Office.*

*We are here to help you discover more of God's love for you and to help you know God better.*

### WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH

8.00 am

Holy Communion (BCP)  
Parish Church

10.00 am

Parish Eucharist (CW)  
Parish Church

10.00 am

Family Service  
Church Centre

6.30 pm

Evensong (BCP)  
Parish Church

**BCP:** *Book of Common Prayer*

**CW:** *Common Worship*

### Do you want to find out more?

**Visit** [www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

**Email** [office@stpaulsrusthall.co.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsrusthall.co.uk)

**Call** 01892 521447

St. Paul's  
Church  
*Rusthall*

## BAPTISMS



PARISH OFFICE: 01892 521447  
[office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND SACRAMENTS: **Baptism**

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **Q. What's the difference between a baptism and a christening?**

A. None, they are just different words for the same thing.

#### **Q. Can we have a private service of baptism?**

A. Baptisms usually take place in the church's main service, because they are a public declaration that your child has become part of the church family. It is important that the church congregation is there to support you and welcome your child. However, if personal circumstances make this difficult, talk to the vicar.

#### **Q. What is the right age for baptism?**

A. Baptism can happen at any age. What matters is that those concerned are committed to bring up a child as a Christian. Teenagers and adults may also be baptized. This is celebrated with confirmation by the Bishop. You can only be baptised once, but there are ways of renewing your Christian commitment publicly as an adult - the vicar can advise you.

#### **Q. I'm not a regular churchgoer. Can I still have my child baptized?**

A. Yes. The Church believes that God's love is available to all, regardless of their background. Your parish priest can talk you through the options: you might prefer to have a Thanksgiving service first and then consider baptism when you have had time to talk through what is being asked of you.

You may also wish to find out more about the Christian faith and what joining the Church involves before you make a decision about baptism. Again, the vicar can give you guidance.

#### **Q. What does it cost?**

A. A Baptism service is free, though there is a small charge for a certificate and candle.



#### **Q. What about Godparents?**

A. Godparents have a special role. It's about helping a child to come to know God, encouraging them in their spiritual life and supporting them in their membership of the local church. Godparents are expected to attend the child's baptism, where they will make promises to help to bring him/her up in the Christian faith. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and should, preferably, have been confirmed.

There are usually three godparents - two being of the same gender as the child to be baptised. In any case, there must be at least two godparents - one of each gender. Parents can act as godparents as long as there is one other who is not a parent of the child to be baptised. If a godparent cannot be present at the baptism a proxy may be appointed. The godparent should know who the proxy is and, if possible, appoint him/her.