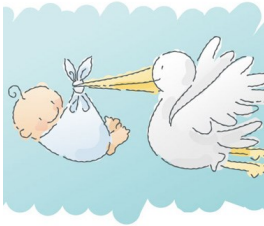


Updated July 2023



# Marked as Christ's Own Forever



Holy Baptism  
Information Leaflet



## CONGRATULATIONS!

*The arrival of some children is carefully planned; others come as a surprise. But it is always a wonderful privilege, and a great responsibility, to care for a young child. So it's very natural to want to give thanks to God for one of the greatest gifts God has ever given you, and to ask for God's blessing on your child and your family. We would be really delighted to arrange a special service for you and your child, and your family and friends.*

*Whether your child has been born to you, or whether you have recently adopted, we are here to help you make the right Christian choices for your child.*

### **First things first...**

The single most important thing to say is how **delighted** we are that you'd like God to be part of your celebrations! As a community of faith, we are here to help you and guide you through the next steps.

Giving thanks to God for the gift of new life in the arrival of your child is an important part of what we offer in our ministry to the very young and their families. We want to do our best to help you understand the choices that are ahead of you.

We believe that baptism is a GIFT from God to the Church. It is first and foremost about an **on-going commitment to building your relationship with God and God's Church. You will be asked to make promises - and to make them publicly and with sincerity.**

We want to get to know you as a family and we assume that your request for Baptism is part of your commitment to be part of the local church. That commitment is worked out through your **participation** in the life of the church, your offering of time, talents and resources, and your commitment to be part of the family of faith here.

We want to get to know you! We hope the feeling is mutual.

### **What next?**

**The process usually starts by completing and submitting an enquiry form, or a phone call to the Church Office, or a visit to see the Rector - The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer.**

Having read this leaflet and discussed it as a family, you should then arrange to meet with Jonathan (if a date and time has not already been arranged).

At that meeting Jonathan will want to get to know you a little better and talk about how we proceed together. We want to make your celebrations the best we can, so it does take a little time to get things planned out correctly.

The first thing to note is that this is a *journey*. Since we are dealing with a treasure of yours, we need to remember that this process is not just like purchasing a product from a shop! The journey will involve getting to know you and your family a little better.

At the baptism service itself we can accommodate up to 50 or so guests (although perhaps not every guest and / or family member will be comfortable with the 'churchy' bit). Baptisms happen by mutual agreement (but not usually during Lent or Advent). Baptisms usually happen during our main Sunday morning worship, when the church family is gathered together.

After the baptism, we look forward to getting to know you more, as a family, in the weeks, months and years to come!

## **Some of the practicalities...**

### **Baptism is a commitment**

In the case of a small child, baptism is a commitment on the child's behalf, through the parents and godparents. At least one parent should be baptised already.

Baptisms usually take place in the church building. Under extreme pastoral circumstances, the baptism may happen elsewhere.

### **Godparents** (sometimes known as sponsors)

Godparents **must already be baptised**. Those who do not meet this criteria are encouraged to act as 'sponsors'. ***It is regularly the case that parents choose non-family members to be Godparents / sponsors.***

Some parents choose life-long friends to be Godparents, without ever realising that the primary role of Godparents is as a **Christian example**, and to **pray** regularly for your child. Friends of other faiths can, of course, act as sponsors. People with no faith or church commitment, even though baptised themselves, do not really fulfil the expectations of the role of the godparent as the church understands it, which is **actively** Christian.

There should be **at least three** godparents. Parents can also act as Godparents.

### **How long will the service take?**

The whole service will last about an hour or so, with the Baptism set at the heart of the service.

### **Is there a charge for the service?**

The Baptism service is an acknowledgement of the great gift of God in the life of a new human being. God's gifts to us are many, and our response to God

should come in the light of that truth of our faith. There is, therefore, **no fee for Baptism.**

Your gift back to the Church should include your willingness to support the mission of the church through your prayers, example and teaching, through regular attendance at worship and through **regular giving** to help maintain the ministry offered by the Church in this place.

We would very much appreciate it, if you are able to offer a financial offering at the service for your child.

*Thank you for your support and commitment  
We very much hope you feel part of the community of faith at Emmanuel*

**The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer  
RECTOR**

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