

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

St Nicolas, Hawkesley and Immanuel

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“Baptism is about beginning, believing and belonging.”

Baptism brings God’s new beginning, new trust in God’s love and new life within God’s people, the church. It is for all who seek.

Baptism Enquiry times:

6.30 - 8pm every Thursday in St Nicolas Church

Thank you for asking about baptism. We are delighted that you want to accept God’s free gift of baptism into Christ. Please read this leaflet carefully.

Baptism is God’s gift for each one of us; for you, your child, their godparents and for us. We take each baptism very seriously and know that you will too. In baptism, God declares that we are his children, that he knows us and loves us and will be with us with grace and strength in all we face. We all make promises in return. The church welcomes a new sister or brother in Christ and promises to support them. You promise in Christ to pray for and help the newly baptised, child or adult, to grow as a Christian in the church.

What you need to know

I. **Baptism for children**

The process is very simple if:

- at least one of the parents lives in the parish and is already baptised,
- all the chosen godparents are baptised

Just come to St Nicolas on any Thursday evening between 6.30 and 8.00 pm. We will take details, tell you all you need to know about preparation and discuss a time for the baptism. You will then need to talk with one of the clergy. After this we will make and confirm final arrangements.

Baptism is usually at 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. We sometimes offer baptism within main Sunday services at 10.30 am or 6 pm.

If the child or parents do not live in the parish of Kings Norton or if you or any godparent are not baptised, one of the clergy must talk with you about the best way forward before we can make a firm booking.

2. Baptism for adults

Baptism is for grown-ups too. There are many reasons for adults not being baptised. What matters is how you want to grow in God's love. You may be facing a new direction in life. You may be about to take on the serious task of being a godparent. For both, you need God's gift of baptism into Christ. Adult baptisms normally take place in our 10.30 am or 6 pm Sunday services.

3. Choosing Godparents

- We know that parents choose their child's godparents very carefully **but they must be baptised and be over 16**. (We are not allowed to enter the names of unbaptised godparents in the baptism register).
- We need at least one of the godparents to have been confirmed (or baptised as an adult) and to have made the baptism promises for themselves.
- We ask that you choose no more than four godparents. The usual pattern is to have three, two of the same gender as the child and one the opposite. If you would like more, one of the clergy will need to discuss this with you.

Please note: Godparents do not have to be Church of England but they must always be members of a church which baptises in water in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (e.g. Methodist, Catholic, Baptist)

4. Preparation

As this is such an important occasion for your child and for you, we need you to be well prepared, not only for your celebration with family and friends but for the service itself. So we ask you to share in

- **Church services** on at least three Sundays before the baptism.
- **Two preparation sessions** held once each month at 8pm in St Nicolas

Session 1. Introduction to the church

What is the church for? What happens in church? Why does it matter to everyone?

Session 2. The Meaning of Baptism

What really happens in baptism? What promises does God give?

How much does it cost?

Baptism is free, because it is the free gift of God's love, life and forgiveness for all who are baptised. We believe that God gives this through the death and rising again of Jesus. We show this in the signs of the cross, the water and the baptism candle that we use in the service. We do, however, ask you to think and pray about a donation to the church, and to invite your family and friends to give generously in the plate at the end of the service as a way of giving thanks and helping and helping keep St Nicolas open for all to use.