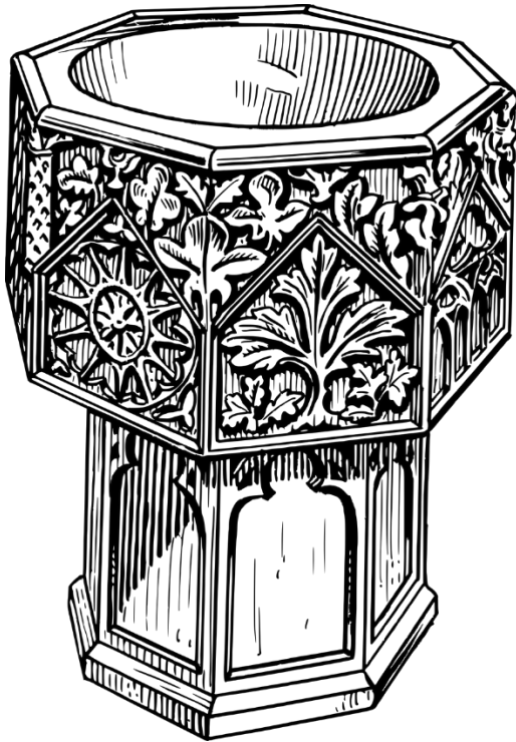


# Baptisms

Thank you for considering a baptism at Christ Church W4.

Baptism is a wonderful part of an individual's or family's journey of faith in God, celebrated with parents, godparents, family, friends and the Church. If you would like to have a baptism for yourself or your child, we very much look forward to welcoming you and your child into the Christian family. We love to baptise both people who have come to living faith in the Lord Jesus and those who wish to bring their children up in that faith. If you feel uncertain about whether that could be for you, don't worry, we're all on a journey of faith where no-one has ever fully arrived and we'd be more than willing to explore where you might be on that journey with you.

## First steps



If you are not already doing so, then a great way to begin on that journey of faith is to start coming along to our [Sunday services](#) for a few months. See how the service feels for you and whether this is the community you would like your family to become part of. We look forward to welcoming you warmly, so please make yourself known to one of the clergy. Alternatively, you could join a newcomer's discussion group such as the [Alpha](#) course.

Baptisms are usually conducted within one of our services – 9.30am and 6.00pm at Christ Church Turnham Green and 10.30am at St Alban's Acton Green. Most baptisms take place at St Alban's as this is often a family service and our baptism pool is located [here](#) too! Contact [office@christchurchw4.com](mailto:office@christchurchw4.com) to arrange a date and

to meet with the vicar beforehand to talk about what baptism means for you and your family. There is no cost for a baptism.

We will then get back in touch with you to arrange a date and some simple baptism preparation. You can click [here to explore our baptism order of service](#).

## Baptism of a child

Because the promises you have to make at baptism are profound and all encompassing, we take care to prepare people well to make those promises for themselves or on behalf of a child.

Parents don't have to have been baptised themselves. However, because of the very special role godparents have in supporting a child's faith journey, godparents must be baptised. There is no minimum age for godparents but they must be mature enough to understand the responsibilities they are taking on. You can talk to the clergy about choosing godparents and involving them in the christening preparation.

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. There should be at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to the child being baptised. If you cannot

find three other people, parents can also be godparents. There is no maximum number for godparents.

Godparents do have to be physically present at the service, since they will make some big promises for and on behalf of the child on the day. If a special person who you wanted to be a godparent is unable to make it to a christening, there is no reason why they can't be asked to take on a godparent-like role unofficially, and that kind of relationship can be encouraged throughout the child's life, but they wouldn't be entered into the Baptism Register.

Parents will be invited to a baptism preparation session a few weeks before the baptism to ensure they fully understand the promises they will be taking on behalf of their child.

### **What 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.

### **Next Steps**

Please complete the application form below and return by email to the office:

If you have further questions please contact [office@christchurchw4.com](mailto:office@christchurchw4.com) or visit the Church of England website which has some very helpful information about baptisms:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings>

## **Baptism as an adult**

Whenever it happens, whether as a baby, child or adult, baptism is at the heart of an amazing journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ. You are never too old to take this step, and being baptised as an adult is a wonderful experience. Baptism symbolises the end of your old life and the start of your new life with Jesus! You can have a full immersion baptism or simply water poured on your head. In the Church of England, you can have an 'adult' baptism as long as you are able to understand and make the promises for yourself. Adults do not need to have godparents. Before the baptism we will invite you to a preparation session.

If you are interested in being baptised as an adult please complete the application form below or contact [office@christchurchw4.com](mailto:office@christchurchw4.com). For more information about adult baptisms please visit

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/adult-baptism>

### **Beyond baptism**

We very much hope that this will be the start of your journey of faith and that you will continue to come to Church and be part of our Christian family. There are many ways in which you can get involved from Sunday school, midweek baby and toddler groups to courses, talks and small groups. See our website for more details <https://www.christchurchw4.com/whatson>



Christ Church W4

# APPLICATION for a Service of Baptism or Thanksgiving and Blessing for a child

Which service have you chosen?

Baptism  Thanksgiving and Blessing  Which service and venue:

9.30 Turnham Green  10.30 St Alban's

Preferred date(s) for service:

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Child's full name		
Child's date of birth		
Father's full name		
Father's occupation		
Has Father been:	Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
Mother's full name		
Mother's occupation		
Has Mother been:	Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
Address		
Telephone number		
Email address		

Names of Godparents:

(please give for each one Christian name in full, Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms etc)

Full Name	Have they been baptised?	Have they been confirmed?

Please return the completed form to:

Christ Church W4, Turnham Green, Town Hall Avenue, Chiswick W4 5DT

Phone: 020 8995 7381 Email: [office@christchurchw4.com](mailto:office@christchurchw4.com)