

## Document Control Information

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## **St. Bartholomew's, Ducklington** **Baptism Policy**

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. This is a joyful occasion when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making promises and declaring our faith.

### **Policy**

#### **Mode of Baptism**

Baptism will be administered with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, either by immersion or by pouring in accordance with the liturgy of the Church of England.

#### **Eligibility for Baptism**

In accordance with Canon B21, every person who has not already been baptised is entitled to receive the sacrament of baptism. Baptism will normally take place in the parish church where the person resides, or with the goodwill of the local parish priest if the family lives outside the parish.

Following a request for baptism, information will be gathered by the administrator and passed to the Rector. The Rector will then get in contact with the family.

If the family seeking baptism lives outside the parish, it is the responsibility of the Rector to seek the goodwill of their local parish priest. Those living in the parish have a right to be baptised at the parish church.

The Rector will then meet with the family preferably in person. To explore their decision for baptism.

The most appropriate date and time, will be arranged and recorded in 'The Life Events diary' this could be within the service or as a separate service.

#### **Responsibilities of Godparents**

In accordance with Canon B23.1, godparents are required to make the same

declarations and promises in their own name as the parents make for their child, committing themselves to support the child's life of faith and prayer.

### **Parental Consent**

In accordance with Canon B22.4, at least one parent or legal guardian must consent to the baptism of a child. Where there is disagreement between parents, baptism will not normally proceed until consent has been established.

### **Infant Baptism**

When parents choose godparents for their child, the godparents must be baptised, in accordance with Canon B23.2 of the Canons of the Church of England. No person who has not been baptised may be admitted as a godparent.

There shall be no fewer than three godparents, of whom at least two shall be of the same sex as the child and at least one of the opposite sex. Where this is not possible, there must be at least one godmother and one godfather, one of whom may also be a parent.

### **Nominated Sponsors**

Where a close family member or friend is committed to the child's Christian upbringing but has not yet been baptised, the Rector may offer them the opportunity to explore baptism for themselves. Pending baptism, such an individual may be invited to act as a nominated sponsor. This role does not carry the canonical responsibilities of godparents, but sponsors are encouraged to accompany the child and family in their journey of faith.

Baptism is a marker in one's journey of faith and we would be delighted if the family would like to stay in touch with the church, given GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) approval, so that communication regarding services may be maintained. Baptism cards will be sent for the following four years or up to the fourth birthday.

### **Preparation and Confirmation**

In accordance with Canon B24, those seeking adult baptism should receive preparation and instruction in the Christian faith. Following baptism, adults should be encouraged to present themselves for Confirmation at the appropriate time.

### **Adult Baptism**

Following a request for adult baptism, information will be gathered by the administrator and passed on to the Rector. The Rector will then get in contact with the individual.

The Rector will then meet with the individual to explore their decision for baptism and journey together to explore the Christian faith.

The most appropriate date and time, will be arranged and recorded in 'The Life Events diary' this could be within the service or as a separate service.

The Rector will then inform the bishop of the baptism at least a week before the service.

As the individual's faith grows the hope is that this will then lead to Confirmation.

### **Record Keeping**

In accordance with Canon B25, every baptism must be recorded in the statutory Baptism Register of the parish. In addition, baptisms will be noted in the Life Events diary.

Canon Laws B21-25 will be followed

Signed Parish Priest/Incumbent.....

Churchwarden .....

Churchwarden .....

Date: .....