

CHRIST CHURCH, EATON



Vicar: The Rev'd Dr Patrick Richmond

Administrator: Lynn Glover

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Dear Parents,

We are delighted that you would like to have your child christened! Christening, also known as baptism, symbolises a big decision, and we are keen that everyone should understand what is meant. At baptism, God calls us into a special relationship of love and service. Christening makes us members of the Church and involves a commitment to follow the teaching and way of Jesus Christ.

In the service, parents and Godparents make that commitment on behalf of children too young to decide for themselves, declaring that they reject all rebellion against God, renounce evil, repent of their sins, turn to Christ as saviour, submit to Christ as Lord and come to Christ as the way, the truth and the life.

They also make the Christian profession of faith and trust in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Parents and Godparents should have a sincere intention that the child to be baptised should be helped and encouraged to be a practising Christian and, when he or she is old enough, to be confirmed as a member of the Church of England, taking communion.

Those who are baptised as infants normally have at least *three* Godparents. Parents *can* be Godparents to their own children, providing there is at least one other Godparent as well. At least two Godparents have to be of the same sex as the infant and one has to be of the opposite sex. If it proves impossible for there to be three Godparents it is possible for a baptism to take place with one Godfather and one Godmother.

In order to be practical examples of the faith, Godparents need be able to make the declarations and promises in the baptism service, which is why the Church of England requires all Godparents to be baptised themselves and normally to be confirmed as well. That is also why it is not possible for non-Christians to be a Godparent. (If someone cannot be a Godparent they can still take part in the service as a supporter and make such commitments as they feel able, so please discuss this with me if it is an issue.)

In order to help parents and godparents at this important time, it is our practice for members of the church to go over the implications of christening with them.

It is usual to have your child baptised in the parish where you live and where they will grow up, so that they have the opportunity of going to church there. If you would like to have a baptism at Christ Church but do not live in the parish please get the consent of your local parish priest or

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vicar. An email or phone call to me would be fine. We then know that they agree and that you know how to contact your local parish church.

I, or the priest taking the service, will contact you to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time, usually in the week of the baptism, to discuss the meaning of the service and any more complex questions with you and, if possible, with the Godparents.

Finally, in order to help and support you, one or two lay members would normally visit you a few weeks before the baptism. The hope is that they will provide a link and known face for you on the actual day of the baptism and also deal with any questions and concerns of a general and practical nature. They will contact you beforehand by telephone to arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

If there is anything you are not sure about please contact me. I would love to help.

With thanks, best wishes and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Richmond', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Richmond

The Rev'd Dr Patrick H Richmond
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APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM AT CHRIST CHURCH

Note: Baptisms are normally held at the main Sunday Service, which takes place on a Sunday at 10.00am, but by arrangement might be at another date or time, usually noon on a Sunday. Please discuss and agree dates and times with Patrick *before* sending in the form.

Agreed date of baptism: _____ Time: _____

at Christ Church, Eaton

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS TO FILL IN THE FORM

Child's Date of birth:

Child's Christian name(s): _____

Child's Surname: _____

Father's name:

Father's occupation:

Baptised: YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

Mother's name:

Mother's occupation:

Baptised: YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please get the consent of the Priest of the Parish in which you live if it is **not** Christ Church (an email or call from them to Patrick is fine).

GODPARENTS AND SUPPORTERS (please note Godparents *must* be baptised):

Baptised: YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

Baptised: YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

Baptised: YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

Very roughly, **how many people** do you expect to come to the baptism? _____

The introduction in the baptism service reads:

“Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church. As they grow up, they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trust in God, and come to Confirmation. The child you bring to baptism depends chiefly on you and the Godparents for the help and encouragement he or she needs.”

Please sign below to indicate that you are willing to give this help and encouragement by your prayers, by your example and by your teaching.

Signed:

Notes: *In order to avoid misunderstandings, dates and times are **not** confirmed until **both** Patrick has agreed dates and times with you **and** this application form has been completed, returned to and acknowledged by the Parish Office.*

There is no fee. It is customary to make a thank offering. (If you are a taxpayer please complete and use the yellow Gift Aid envelopes in the pews which increase the value of your gift).

Please take photographs after the service in order to preserve the atmosphere of prayer and worship.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE PARISHES OFFICE (ADDRESS 41 Church Lane Norwich NR4 6NW) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU.