

The Three Churches

St Peter and St Paul's, Black Notley

The Church in Great Notley

All Saints, Rayne



Baptisms: Frequently Asked Questions:

What does a Baptism cost?

There is no charge, baptism is a response to the free love of God.

Who can be a godparent?

Godparents are usually relatives or friends, but parents can be godparents too. Traditionally, there are two godparents of the same gender as the child and one of the opposite gender.

Godparents need to be baptised themselves and mature enough to act as a godparent. It is important that you choose people who will take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and who will pray for you and your child.

How many godparents can my child have?

Children baptised in the Church of England traditionally have at least three godparents.

I would like someone to be a godparent but they are not baptised, what can I do?

If you would like somebody to be a godparent who is not baptised themselves, they can act as a sponsor. This means that they are recognised as having a supportive role.

If the potential godparent would like to explore the possibility of being baptised, please ask them to speak to Reverend Rachel, Reverend Roman or Reverend Nikki.

I'm an adult, can I be baptised?

Yes! Baptism is a decision about turning away from our old life, and choosing instead to follow Jesus. You can make this decision at any age. If you would like to be baptised as an adult, you will meet with one of our ministers for preparation sessions, and we encourage you to look at being confirmed too.

I'm an adult wanting to be baptised, can I have a godparent?

Adults being baptised have sponsors rather than godparents. Each candidate can have at least two sponsors. Their role in the service is to present the candidate for baptism. Godparents and sponsors have an important role to play in supporting the baptised on their journey into a loving relationship with God and neighbour, which God created them for.

When will the service be?

Christening services can be in any main Sunday service, or on a Sunday afternoon.

How long will the service last?

Around half an hour on Sunday afternoons, or around an hour on Sunday mornings.

Will I have to say anything on my own?

No, parents, godparents and sponsors all answer together.

Will we be able to take photos or a video?

We ask that you have just one 'designated photographer' to take photos throughout the service. For everyone else there will be lots of time to take photos before and after, but not during, the service.

Supposing our children are noisy in church?

Don't worry – we won't!

How can I arrange a baptism / christening service?

Your first step is to let us know that you're interested in baptism. In the first instance please email our Benefice Administrator: admin@thethreechurches.co.uk

Then, in order to book in a baptism service, we ask that you come along to one of our services.

You are welcome at any service, but we would encourage you to consider coming to one of our All Age Service. In response to your initial enquiry the Benefice Administrator will let you know when the next few All Age Services are for the Church you are wanting the Baptism to take place in. Our All Age services are about an hour in our worship area, with our whole church congregation designed with All ages in mind. At Great Notley there is also 'Wiggle Church' which would be suitable as it is a 30 minute service in our church hall, especially for families with children aged 0-7.

After this we will provide you with an application form and when this is completed and returned, we will book in a date.

How will I be prepared for a Baptism service?

You will meet with a minister and have a chat about the service and its logistics. We will look at the liturgy, and you can take a copy if you wish to show to godparents. We can also arrange a baptism rehearsal in the Church to walk through the service if helpful.

What happens after a service?

Once we have baptised your child, we will welcome you back to a further All Age Service where you will be able to collect your baptism and godparent certificates. At this service, you will be welcomed to the church family, since your child through their baptism has joined the worldwide Christian community on the journey of following Christ.

What do I do after being baptised?

As you have joined the Church family, we encourage you to attend regularly and enjoy being part of this family.