

A GUIDE TO THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN [CHRISTENING]



at St John the Evangelist
Knole Road, Preston, Brighton BN1 6RB

This leaflet explains the process of children's baptism (which is sometimes called christening) at St John's.

If you are an adult seeking baptism in the Church of England please contact us to find out more.

Can our child be baptised at St John's?

The Church of England welcomes all children for baptism.

- ❖ if you live in the area which St John's covers (the 'parish') or you consider this is your 'home' church, St John's is probably the best church to come along to for your child's baptism.
- ❖ if you live some way away, it may be worth considering having your child baptised in the church that is easiest for you to go along to as a family, although we will not turn you away!

There is no charge for baptism because
God's grace is a free gift!

How do we go about it?

Step 1: Coming along to St John's

- ❖ A key aspect of baptism is becoming part of the Christian community, so all baptisms take place at the **main 9.45 am service on a Sunday at St John's**.
- ❖ We therefore encourage families to bring their children along to the main Sunday service two or three times **before booking the baptism** in order to get the 'feel' of the place and the community, and so that we can get to know you a little.

If you are coming along because you are considering baptism for your child or children, please ask to be introduced to the Vicar who will be happy to help you.

Children's facilities at St John's

St John's aims to be a **family friendly church** and welcomes children to the services.

There is an area with rugs and toys for youngsters in the main church, where Mum and Dad can be part of things but keep the baby amused, and there's a baby changing facility in the toilets at the back of the church. There are several young families and understanding grandparents in the congregation as well as a sound system, so no need to feel anxious if the little one has an urge to gurgle or cry!



If your child is old enough to enjoy songs, stories and crafts, they are equally welcome at **Young St John's**, our junior church for 4 to 11 year olds which is held in the Upper Room

of the Knoyle Hall (next to the church) during the 9.45 am service. The children join the main service at the time of communion. Children under school age are also welcome accompanied by a carer.

Step 2 : Booking your baptism

Once you have had a chance to come along a few times and get to know St John's a bit, you are most welcome to contact us to book a date for your baptism. The person to get in touch with is:

Alison Bowman
Vicar
01273 555033
info@brightonstjohn.org.uk

- ❖ We try to make each family feel that the service is special and personal to them, so we only book one family baptism on any one date.
- ❖ As the service on that Sunday morning is focussed on the baptism, we try to book just one such service in each month, so please bear with us as we try to fit everyone in.
- ❖ When we book your baptism date, we usually try to make a time to meet up with you to talk through the baptism.
- ❖ If you have not already done so, this may be a good time to look at a couple of **explanatory leaflets** on baptism for parents and godparents, which we provide, so that you are able to think about it before meeting up.

Step 3 : Meeting up to talk about the baptism

This is simply a chance for us to get to know your family a bit better and for you to ask any questions you may have. At the same time, we can take the necessary details and run through the practicalities of what will happen.

Contacts:

The Revd Alison Bowman
01273 555033
Avbow@aol.com

The Parish Administrator
01273 553311
info@brightonstjohn.org.uk

Knoyle Hall Enquiries
01273 550077
knoylehall@yahoo.co.uk

Getting to know us:

Church website
www.brightonstjohn.org.uk

Come and meet the
St John's community at our
9.45 am Sunday service
- a warm welcome awaits!

Bus numbers 5 and 5A go past
the front door