



A Christening at
St. Andrew's Church, Oving.

Application form for a
Christening at St. Andrew's,
Oving.

2012

Baptism: A turning point in life

You have recently had a baby and you are thinking of having him or her christened. Congratulations! The birth of a baby is a good reason to think about the mystery of life. Perhaps your children are a little older and you are only now thinking about what faith is all about. Perhaps you are thinking of being baptised yourself and making a commitment to Christ and the Church. Whatever your reason for thinking about baptism you are welcome at St Andrew's. (Baptism and Christening are the same thing! Christening is an old English word and reminds us that by being christened we become Christians, Baptism is the Greek word used in the New Testament and reminds us that in baptism we are washed to begin a new life.)

Baptism: A turning point in the Community

The decision for baptism is never just a private relationship between God and you, it is a decision about joining the world-wide Christian family. When you are baptized you will be declaring your intention to grow as a member of the Church. You cannot be a baptized Christian and not belong to a Church and we hope that you will feel welcome and able to grow within our church community here at St Andrew's. But Christian community is not simply another club. There are lots of other associations which provide a social life and support. The church offers something else, something which you cannot find elsewhere. We are a diverse and varied local community which believes that life should be centred on God and we come together to learn and feed our souls. We are a community committed to praying for those who are its members and those who are not and the church is open for prayer most days of the week as well as on Sundays! Christianity is a religion that demands that our faith be put into action to create a better world. Not only should we love others as individuals, but we should work together to change society so that it is a better place in which to live. We have a desire to change the world and make it more like the one we believe God intended. You are welcome to join us in this task.

Who can be baptised at St Andrew's?

We are always delighted to carry out baptisms for regular members of our congregation and for people who live within our parish boundaries. If you live outside the parish boundaries, we will either direct you to your local parish church where the baptism can take place, or we will explain the degree of commitment involved in becoming a regular member of our congregation and actively supporting our work and mission in the area. This commitment will involve your time, your talents and your financial support, and we look forward to you joining us! The Churchwardens are usually available for any further enquiries and initial contact. Please telephone the Rectory (01243 785089) for more details.

How much does a baptism cost?

There is no charge for a baptism. However we hope that as you join our community you will feel able to support us financially as well becoming more regular attenders.

When do baptisms happen?

Baptisms can happen at the main Sunday morning service at 11am. This is for two reasons. First to emphasise that becoming a Christian is never just a private arrangement but always involves the wider community and the new Christian family. Secondly it gives your family, friends and other guests an opportunity to experience normal Sunday worship at St Andrew's.

Because having a Baptism significantly changes the shape of the Sunday service for the whole congregation we tend to have Baptisms only once a month and we try to limit the numbers so that no more than three people are ever baptised at one service.

In 2012 we will be having baptisms on the following Sundays:

Sunday January 15th	Sunday May 20th	Sunday August 12th
Sunday February 19th	Sunday June 17th	Sunday September 9th
Sunday April 29th	Sunday July 8 th	Sunday October 14th

Important notes:

1. We advise you to check the date with the parish office as soon as possible to make sure that there are still places available on your chosen date. The baptism is only arranged when we receive the completed application form.
2. If you have special reasons for wanting a particular date or time please speak directly with one of the clergy and we will try to help.
3. We cannot guarantee which member of the clergy team will actually do the baptism. Generally, however, we will try to make sure that the person doing the preparation will be the one doing the baptism.

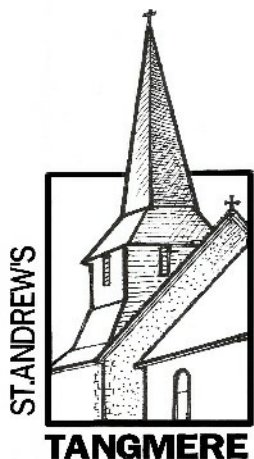
What about Godparents?

All children who are being baptised will need to have at least one godfather and one godmother. Traditionally in England a boy has two godfathers and one godmother and a girl has two godmothers and one godfather. You can, however, have as many godparents as you want! All godparents must themselves have been baptised and it is recommended that godparents should also be confirmed. They can belong to any mainstream Christian church (Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Greek Orthodox etc.) but they have to be happy to support the child being brought us as a member of the Church of England. Please encourage the godparents to look at

<http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism-confirmation/baptism/becoming-a-godparent-in-the-church-of-england.aspx> for more general information about being a godparent in the Church of England.

What about preparation?

A member of the clergy will arrange to visit you during the couple of months before the Baptism. We will talk about the promises that you will make and the meaning of different parts of the service. We will also try to answer any more general questions you may have about Christianity, faith or the church. Please look at <http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism-confirmation/baptism/the-baptism-service.aspx> for more general information about the meaning of baptism in the Church of England, and take time to look at the promises you will be asked to make.



Application for the baptism of a child

Date and time of proposed Baptism	
Full Name <i>of the person to be Baptized</i>	
Age and date of birth	

Father's full name		
Father's occupation		
<i>Has the father been baptized?</i>		<i>Has the father been confirmed?</i>
Mother's full name		
Mother's occupation		
<i>Has the mother been baptized?</i>		<i>Has the mother been confirmed?</i>
Address		
Telephone numbers	<i>Home</i> <i>Work</i> <i>Mobile</i>	
Email Address		
Godparents (full names)	1.	
	<i>Have they been baptized?</i>	<i>Have they been confirmed?</i>
	2.	
	<i>Have they been baptized?</i>	<i>Have they been confirmed?</i>
	3.	
	<i>Have they been baptized?</i>	<i>Have they been confirmed?</i>
Signed	1.	Data Protection: We would like to be able to contact you about what is going on at St. Andrew's, such as special services or family events. If you do not want your name and address to be used in this way will you please mark a cross in this box. <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></div>
	2.	