



BAPTISM of CHILDREN

St Andrew's Churches
Histon and Impington

Godparents

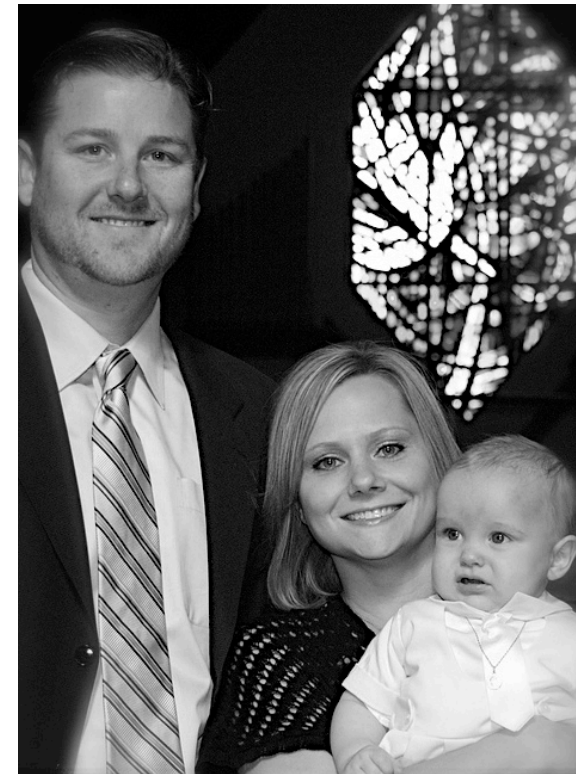
The role of godparents is to pray for and support their godchild as they grow in the Christian faith. Because so much of this role involves passing on faith to the godchild, godparents need to be practising Christians themselves. According to the rules of the Church of England they must be baptized and confirmed. If you have questions about this requirement please contact the Church Office as soon as you can.

There is no upper limit to the number of godparents a child may have but most children have between two and four. The minimum number is two, a godfather and a godmother.

During the service the godparents make the same promises on behalf of themselves and their godchild as the child's parents. It is always helpful if they can attend the preparation sessions.

How to Arrange a Baptism

Please call the Church Office on 01223 320420 (or email office@standrewshiston.org or office@standrewsimpington.org) for more details. We need at least three months' notice to arrange a baptism and fit in the preparation so please contact us as soon as you can. Jo, Shelley or Rachel in the Church Office will be able to help you.





Baptism

Baptism in the Bible is the way the early Christians showed that they were dedicating their lives to following Jesus Christ. Exactly the same is true today; those who want to put their faith and trust in Jesus are baptized and set out on the journey of Christian faith.

Since one can become a Christian at any time in life, we baptize people of all ages from the youngest to the oldest, from 8 days to 80 years old!

Children of Christian parents are baptized on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the church. Since children cannot make the Christian statement of faith in Jesus for themselves, their parents and godparents make it on their behalf and promise before God to bring them up as Christians within the family of the church, passing on their own faith in Jesus to their children by how they pray, live and worship in the local church community.



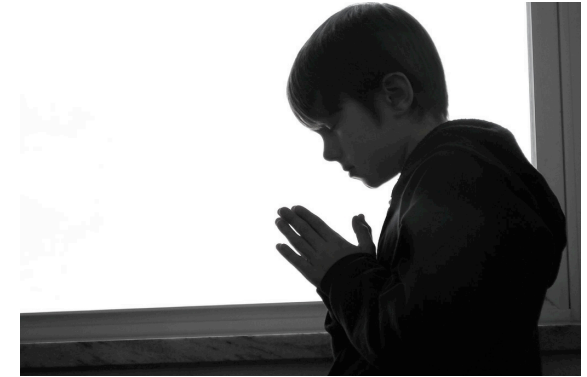
Thanksgiving

When a child is born, one of the first things we want to do as parents is to give thanks to God for the wonder and joy of the life that has been entrusted to us. We hold Thanksgivings (which include prayers of thanks and blessing and the gift of a Children's Bible) during our main Sunday services.

The Baptism Service

Baptism at St Andrew's Churches in Histon and Impington take place in one of the main services on a Sunday morning. In Histon baptisms usually take place at our 10.45am service. In Impington the morning service is at 9.30am.

On the day of the baptism one of our baptism team will be there in church to make sure we have reserved seats for you and your family and help you with anything that you may need. We know how stressful getting everyone together for a baptism can be and want to try and make the day as memorable and celebratory as possible.



Preparation for Baptism

Baptism is such an important and life-changing event (for a child as much as for an adult) that we need to spend time thinking it through well before the day of the baptism itself. We usually do this by visiting you at home and taking time to talk through the meaning of the promises and offering help and guidance about how you can bring up your child in the Christian faith. We've found that parents really value this time and opportunity.

Our support for you as parents doesn't end there though, indeed it is only the beginning. As churches we offer an extensive and wide-ranging programme of activities and opportunities for children to grow in their faith (for Histon Church, please see the leaflet 'St Andrew's Kids' for more details or speak to our Children's Worker, Tim Blake on 07905 321901; for Impington Church please speak to one of the clergy).