

## Information about Baptism or Christenings at Holy Cross

We love to baptise babies, children and adults here at Holy Cross, it is a privilege to welcome everyone into the great family of God and the church. Baptism and Christening are different words for the same service so don't worry which you use. If you want to arrange a service please read the information below and complete the accompanying form, then someone will then get in touch to confirm the date and time of the baptism and arrange to visit to talk through the service and promises to be made.

### When are baptism services?

Most baptism services are held on a Sunday at 12.30pm. Baptism services are a special service that usually lasts for no more than 40 minutes, there might be more than one family bringing children for baptism at each service. Each family will have the opportunity to choose a hymn or reading to tailor the service to their family. We are happy to arrange baptism services as part of our regular Sunday worship at 10.30am too.

### Godparents

Church law requires three godparents, two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex, but to have one godfather and one godmother is sufficient.

Parents maybe godparents to their own children, provided that the child has at least one other godparent. Church law requires that godparents should be baptised and ideally confirmed, although confirmation is not required at Holy Cross. If there are people that you would like to be godparents who have not been baptised, they can either get baptised, at the same time or before the children, or they can become sponsors.

Sponsors are treated just the same as godparents and make the same promises, but they cannot be recorded in the Baptism records as godparents, this means you still need two baptised godparents for the records.

### Who can get baptised at Holy Cross Church?

Church law requires that a child should normally be baptised at their parish church or the church normally attended by the parents. This requirement can be relaxed in certain circumstances. If you don't live in the parish of North Bersted but there is a good reason why you would like to have your child baptised at Holy Cross, please do ask, you may be asked to gain the permission of your own parish priest before we proceed with baptism at Holy Cross.

### Questions to think about before bringing your child to baptism:

- Are you prepared to the best of your ability to give the child a Christian upbringing within the family of the church?
- Will you help the child by being regular in public worship and private prayer?
- Will you encourage the child in due time to come to confirmation and Communion?

### Alternatives to Baptism

If you are not sure about the promises made at Baptism you might like to consider a 'Service of Thanksgiving for the birth of a child'. This is a lovely service that allows us to welcome a child and recognise and acknowledge the adults you would like to stand alongside the children as they grow up. It leaves the children with the choice to get baptised when they are older.

### More information

Please send your completed form to the email address given below and someone will get back to you. If you want more information check out the links below:

Email [vicar@holycrossnorthbersted.org.uk](mailto:vicar@holycrossnorthbersted.org.uk)

<https://churchofenglandchristenings.org>      Facebook @messychurchholycross