

Public Baptism of an Infant: Explanatory Notes

Important: Please read the notes below *before* you complete the Application Form

Baptisms often take place in the context of another service (e.g. A Family Service) so that the child can be welcomed into the community of the Church.

It is common to have three godparents, traditionally one of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex, but to have one godfather and one godmother is sufficient.

Parents may be godparents to their own children, provided that the child has at least one other godparent. Church law requires that godparents should be baptised and confirmed, but the requirement for confirmation can be relaxed.

Parents' and Godparents' Duties

The church baptises infants on the basis of the parents and godparents making particular commitments to the child and by making their own personal confession of faith. Please read through the following and consider these before completing the application. Godparents should be made aware of this.

The baptism service begins with three questions asking the parents and godparents if they will:

- Pray for the child
- Support them in their Christian life
- Bring them up to be a member of a church and to worship regularly, and in due time to encourage the child towards making their own profession of faith (usually this happens at confirmation).

Parents and godparents will then be asked to make the following confession of faith (they can only do so if they have been baptised.)

- Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
*Parents and Godparents: **I reject them.***
- Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
*Parents and Godparents: **I renounce them.***
- Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?
*Parents and Godparents: **I repent of them.***
- Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
*Parents and Godparents: **I turn to Christ.***
- Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
*Parents and Godparents: **I submit to Christ.***
- Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
*Parents and Godparents: **I come to Christ.***

Other Information

Please return the form to Revd Peter Blee, The Parsonage, Berwick, East Sussex, BN26 6SR no less than **1 month** before the baptism is due to take place.

There is no charge for a Public Baptism, but a donation to the church is most welcome (please Gift Aid the donation if possible – an envelope can be provided).

If you have any questions about any aspects of the baptism service, or need any assistance to complete the form, please first have a look at the Benefice website at www.berwickchurch.org.uk and click on the 'Baptisms' link at the left hand side of the page and refer to the section on 'Infant Baptism'.

Alternatively, please contact:

Revd Peter Blee – Tel. 01323 870512 *or*
Revd Andrew Stamp – Tel. 01323870268 *or*
The Benefice Administrator – Tel. 01323 507655.

Please retain these Explanatory Notes for future reference.

Application for the Public Baptism of an Infant

Please note: All the questions asked on this application form are required for the completion of the Baptismal Register. For both parents and godparents, please tick the appropriate boxes to indicate if you/they have been baptised/confirmed. It is important that you read the 'Public Baptism of an Infant: Explanatory Notes' before completing this form. Thank you.

Baptismal Details

Date of Baptism		Time of Baptism	
At which church do you wish the baptism to take place?			
Child's Christian Name(s)		Child's Surname	
		Child's Date of Birth	
Father's Christian Name(s)		Father's Surname	
		Father's Occupation	
Mother's Christian Name(s)		Mother's Surname	
		Mother's Occupation	
Father: Baptised? <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed? <input type="checkbox"/>		Mother: Baptised? <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed? <input type="checkbox"/>	

Contact Details

Address for Correspondence (including postcode)	
Contact telephone number	
Contact email address	
Roughly how many people do you expect to attend the baptism?	

Godparents' Details (Please see 'Explanatory Notes')

First godparent:

Title		Christian Name		Surname	
Address (including postcode)				Have they been Baptised? <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed? <input type="checkbox"/>	

Second godparent:

Title		Christian Name		Surname	
Address (including postcode)				Have they been Baptised? <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed? <input type="checkbox"/>	

Third godparent:

Title		Christian Name		Surname	
Address (including postcode)				Have they been Baptised? <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed? <input type="checkbox"/>	

Fourth godparent:

Title		Christian Name		Surname	
Address (including postcode)				Have they been Baptised? <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed? <input type="checkbox"/>	

Please now sign the Declaration overleaf...

Declaration

To be signed by both parents applying for the baptism

We have both read the Explanatory Notes and are happy to affirm that we are undertaking the specific duties there laid down. We have drawn the attention of the godparents to these duties.			
Father's Signature		Date	
Mother's Signature		Date	

For Office Use

Hymns, Readings			
Organist		Donation	