

Useful Links

Here are some useful links when thinking about getting baptised, and getting baptised at St Matthew's.

Questions about baptism

churchofenglandchristenings.org/frequently-asked-questions

Information about baptism

www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism.aspx

About a baptism service

churchofenglandchristenings.org/stepby-step

Infant baptisms

churchofenglandchristenings.org/for-parents

Contact

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Sunday Services

8.00am: Book of Common Prayer

9.00am: Parish Communion

10.45am: Morning Praise

4.00pm: Asian Congregation

6.30pm: Church Hill Praise

Social Media

Facebook: St Matthew's Walsall

Twitter: @StMattsWalsall

Instagram: @stmattswalsall

www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

St matthews
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Baptism



What is a baptism service?

A baptism service involves the person getting baptised (with water), declaring their own faith and making promises in front of God, their families and the church to follow Jesus Christ.

An infant baptism, also known as a christening, is where parents declare their faith and promise to bring up and encourage their child to follow Christ, and the child is baptised with water.

Why should I be baptised?

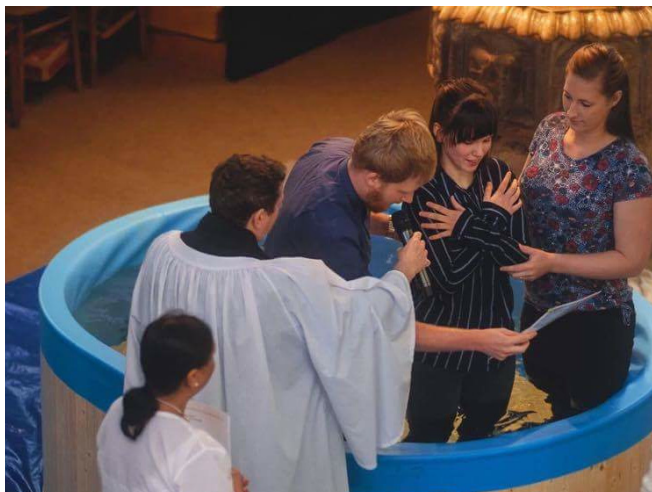
God offers us everlasting life with him, but without God death is the end (Romans 6:23). Being a Christian means you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins/shame (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) and that only through his sacrifice on the cross you will be forgiven of your sins. Therefore, when you die and have made this commitment, you will live with him in heaven. If you have decided to follow Jesus, then getting baptised is the next step in confirming and publicly declaring your faith.

What happens in a baptism service?

The parents and godparents/sponsors of the child or the candidate declare their faith and make promises for the child or themselves, with the support of the church. The candidate will then be signed with the cross on the forehead and blessed with pouring water from the font over their head.

What does the sign of the cross mean?

Being signed with the cross on the forehead marks the child as belonging to God. At the same time the minister will say "Christ claims you as his own. Receive the sign of the cross".



Why are people baptised in water?

In the bible people were baptised with water as it signified removing dirt from their bodies and repentance (regret) of their sins (Matthew 3:11, 1 Peter 3:21). Jesus, himself was baptised with water by John the Baptist in the Sea of Galilee. In infant baptism, children have water poured over their head in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Non-infants can also be baptised in this way if they were not baptised as a child.

What is baptism by full immersion?

This can sometimes be called a believer's baptism. Some people are baptised by being submerged in a body of water and rising up out of the water. Going underwater symbolises dying to our old life, and rising from the water symbolises that their sins are washed away and they rise into a new life with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). You can also be fully immersed in water to reaffirm your baptism vows.

What is confirmation?

Confirmation is for people who have already been baptised but want to affirm (publicly declare) their faith and commit to living a life of discipleship. During a confirmation service, the confirming bishop prays for the candidates to be filled with the Holy Spirit and lays hands on them to affirm the decision being made.

Why should I be confirmed?

If you were baptised as a child and want to affirm the promises that your parents made for you, confirmation is one way to do this. You may have already been baptised but have since fallen away from the faith, and confirmation is another way to reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ.