

Holy Trinity Coventry



Baptism Information Booklet

www.holytrinitycoventry.org.uk

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What is Baptism?

Baptism, sometimes known as a Christening, marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives - the first step in response to God's love. Whether we come to baptism as children or adults, the baptism service provides us with a way in which we become full members of God's church.

Why Baptise a Child?

Because the parent(s) want their child to follow in the footsteps of Jesus to receive a new life, and to find forgiveness in the Lord Jesus. For this to happen baptised children need to receive a Christian upbringing. A child needs both to be taught about Jesus and to see what Christian faith means in actions - especially in his/her parents' and godparents' lives.

If you are an adult who wishes to be baptised, please get in touch with the Baptism Coordinator to have a discussion (details on the back page).

Who can be baptised?

Everyone is welcome to baptism. However to be baptised (either for a child or as an adult) at Holy Trinity Coventry, one of these two requirements needs to apply:

- You live within the parish and/or,
- You are a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity.

If you are unsure about whether you meet these requirements please get in touch with the baptism coordinator who will be able to advise you.

What happens before the service?

After you have made an inquiry, our baptism coordinator will get in touch with you to arrange a time to meet you: to have an initial discussion about a baptism or Thanksgiving service, to meet the family and to answer any questions you might have. If you have opted for a Thanksgiving service, the visit will also be used to arrange a date for the service.

As part of the preparation for baptism, we ask that families be willing to attend church services in the run-up to the baptism date. We will ask that you attend baptism preparation classes before the service, details of which will be confirmed by the baptism coordinator. This will include talking about the importance of baptism, exploring the promises made, and looking at the words or liturgy of the service. Godparents would be very welcome to attend if they are able to do so. More details will be given once a date has been chosen.

What happens in the service?

Our life of faith is a journey with God and one that we share with others. In baptism, we turn away from all that prevents us from having good relationships with God, other people and the world God has made. Parents and godparents make serious promises to follow the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and to bring up their child following Jesus' example. In the case of baptism for adults, the promises made are to affirm the faith that they have found in Jesus.

In the service itself, many vivid pictures are painted of what happens on the Christian journey:

- The sign of the cross, which reminds us of Jesus' death for us.
- The water of baptism. In these waters, we believe we die to sin (those things which hurt God and those around us) and are raised to new life. Water is used as it symbolises washing with water - but this is a spiritual cleansing. Water is also a sign of new life.
- The child receives a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness around us.
- The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Baptism is a new birth to a new life; life with the Holy Spirit of Jesus living in us.

What about afterwards?

When you bring your child forward for baptism, you are committing to bringing them up to follow the life and teachings of Jesus. As part of the baptism service, we as a church promise to support you in this endeavour and to pray for you as a family as your child grows up.

A great way to receive that support is by joining in with church. We love to welcome young families into the life of the church. Both of our Sunday morning services have creche provision as well as Sunday Club for children and young people aged 4-14. We also have a parent and toddler group, The Flock, which meets every 1st and 3rd saturday of the month.

For adults, there is a range of growth groups which help to encourage each of us in our relationship with Jesus. We also run events throughout the year for families to get involved in, to help grow friendships and have fun together.

If you would like to find out more about faith and what we believe, we run courses that explore Christianity several times a year. You can find out more information about these by speaking to the office.

You can find out about what is going on in the life of the church on our website:
holytrinitycoventry.org.uk

About Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity is a vibrant city centre church with a heart for sharing Jesus and His love, serving the poor more effectively and engaging with our community through our services and historic building. A key scripture for us is Matthew 5:13-16, which talks about being salt and light to those around us. From this our vision is:

Jesus First

We want everyone to know their Saviour, Jesus, more and more.

Being Transformed Together

We welcome God transforming us through our relationships with each other.

Church for Everyone

Our hearts and prayers are for ALL who come to grow and nourish their relationship with Jesus and each other.

Church Services

Sunday

9:30 am	Morning Worship with music group
11:15 am	Holy Communion with Choir
5:00 pm	Evensong or Evening Prayer
7:00 pm	Sundays at seven, contemporary and reflective

Occasionally the 9:30 and 11:15 join together at 10:30 am.

To find out more about the services and other activities that happen midweek, information is available on our website - holytrinitycoventry.org.uk

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram search: Holy Trinity Church Coventry

Baptism Service Dates

Baptism services usually take place on the fourth Sunday of each month. The baptism coordinator will confirm dates available upon inquiry. Baptism services can take place at either the 9:30 am or 11:15 am services, depending on preference.

Baptism Enquiries

If you would like to enquire further about baptism or thanksgivings at Holy Trinity, please get in touch with Megan Bishop, our baptism coordinator, by emailing: meganbishop@holytrinitycoventry.org.uk

Alternatively you can contact the church office on 024 7622 0418 or speak to a welcomer during one of our services.

For further information about infant baptism in the Church of England visit: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings>