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**Christ Church Eaton**

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Dear Parents,

We are delighted that you would like to have your child christened at Christ Church! Christening, also known as baptism, is a significant step and we want to ensure you understand its meaning. Baptism calls us into a special relationship with God, marking our membership in the family of God's Church and our commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

The Church offers Baptisms or Christenings to people of any age. You can find out more about Christenings by visiting the Church of England's website:

[www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings](http://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings)

There is information for parents, Godparents and guests. If you are thinking of getting baptised yourself, you may find this website helpful:

[www.churchofengland.org/life-events/adult-baptism](http://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/adult-baptism)

If you have any questions about christenings please just ask!

### **Commitment During the Service**

During the service, parents and godparents make a commitment on behalf of the child, declaring their rejection of sin and evil and turning to Christ as Saviour and Lord. They also profess their faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### **Responsibilities of Parents and Godparents**

It is important that parents and godparents genuinely intend to help the child grow as a practising Christian. When the child is ready, they should be encouraged to be confirmed as a member of the Church of England and to take communion.

### **Godparents**

Typically, a child being baptised has at least three godparents. Parents **can** be godparents to their own child, provided there is at least one other godparent. At least two godparents should be of the same sex as the child, and one should be of the opposite sex. If having three godparents is not possible, a baptism can still take place with one godfather and one godmother.

Godparents must be baptised and, ideally, confirmed, as they need to make the declarations and promises during the baptism service. Therefore, non-Christians cannot be godparents. However, they can still participate as supporters and make any commitments they feel comfortable with. Please discuss this with me if needed.

### **Location of Christening**

England is divided into local parishes around church buildings. Baptisms typically occur in the parish where you live and where the child will grow up, so they can attend the local church. If you do not live in our parish but wish to have the baptism at Christ Church that should be possible and we will seek the consent of your local parish priest or vicar.

### **Date and Time of Christening**

We would love to welcome you at our main Sunday Service, at 10.00am, but if that is not practical it can be at another date or time, usually at noon on a Sunday. Please discuss and agree dates and times with me before sending in the form.

### **Meeting**

I or the priest officiating will arrange a meeting with you, usually in the week before the baptism, to discuss the service and answer any further questions you or the godparents may have.

### **Please just ask**

If you have any questions, please just ask. I am here to help.

With thanks, best wishes, and prayers,



Patrick Richmond

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# Christ Church Eaton

## APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM IN CHURCH

**Note: Please contact the vicar, Patrick Richmond, in the first instance, to arrange a date and time, before completing both sides of this form. Then return the form to the Church Office as soon as possible. Thank you.**

Agreed date of baptism		
Time		
Child's Christian name/s		Male / Female
Child's Surname		
Child's date of birth		
Address 1		
Address 2		
CITY / TOWN		
Postcode		
Father's name		
Father's occupation		
Baptised	YES/NO	
Confirmed	YES/NO	
Father's email		
Father's phone		
Mother's name		
Mother's occupation		
Baptised	YES/NO	
Confirmed	YES/NO	
Mother's email		
Mother's phone		
How to address parents on mailings eg Mr & Mrs		

<b>GODPARENT DETAILS</b>	
1. Full Name	
Baptised	YES/NO
Confirmed	YES/NO
2. Full Name	
Baptised	YES/NO
Confirmed	YES/NO
3. Full Name	
Baptised	YES/NO
Confirmed	YES/NO
4. Full Name	
Baptised	YES/NO
Confirmed	YES/NO

Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church.

As they grow up, they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trust in God, and come to Confirmation.

The child you bring to baptism depends chiefly on you and the godparents for the help and encouragement he or she needs.

Please sign below to indicate that you are willing to give this help and encouragement by your prayers, by your example and by your teaching.

Signed	
Date	

<b>NOTES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dates and times are <b>NOT</b> confirmed until <b>BOTH</b> the vicar has agreed dates <b>AND</b> this application form has been completed and returned to the Church Office.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no charge for a baptism service, though you may like to make a donation.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please let us know how many friends and family members are expected at the service</li> </ul>	