

Vicar: The Rev'd Dr Patrick Richmond

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Parishes Office

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**Christ Church Eaton**

Dear Parents,

We are delighted that you would like to have your child christened!

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](#). There is information for parents, Godparents and guests. If you are thinking of getting christened yourself, you may find [this website](#) helpful. If you have any questions about christenings please [just ask!](#)

Christening, also known as baptism, symbolises a big decision, and we are keen that everyone should understand what is meant. At baptism, God calls us into a special relationship of love and service. Christening makes us members of God's family of the Church and involves a commitment to follow the teaching and way of Jesus Christ.

In the service, parents and Godparents make that commitment on behalf of children too young to decide for themselves, declaring that they will pray for and help them follow Christ, turn away from sin, and reject evil, turning to Christ as saviour and trusting in him as Lord.

They also make the Christian profession of faith and trust in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Parents and Godparents should have a sincere intention that the child to be baptised should be helped and encouraged to be a practising Christian and, when he or she is old enough, to be confirmed as a member of the Church of England, taking communion.

Those who are baptised as infants normally have at least *three* Godparents. Parents *can* be Godparents to their own children, providing there is at least one other Godparent as well. At least two Godparents have to be of the same sex as the infant and one has to be of the opposite sex. If it proves impossible for there to be three Godparents, it is possible for a baptism to take place with one Godfather and one Godmother.

In order to be practical examples of the faith, Godparents need be able to make the declarations and promises in the baptism service, which is why the Church of England requires all Godparents to be baptised themselves and normally to be confirmed as well. That is also why it is not possible for non-Christians to be a Godparent. (If someone cannot be a Godparent they can still take part in the service as a supporter and make such commitments as they feel able, so please discuss this with me if it is an issue.)

It is usual to have your child baptised in the parish where you live and where they will grow up, so that they have the opportunity of going to church there. If you would like to have a baptism at Christ Church but do not live in the parish we will seek the good will of your local parish.

To help parents and godparents at this important time, we aim to go through the service beforehand with parents and as many godparents and supporters as can attend. I, or the priest taking the service, will contact you to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time, usually in the week of the baptism, to discuss the meaning of the service and any more complex questions with you and, if possible, with the Godparents.

Please fill in the form on the pages below.

If there is anything you are not sure about, please just ask. I would love to help.

With thanks, best wishes and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick H Richmond', written in a cursive style.

The Rev'd Dr Patrick H Richmond  
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**GODPARENTS AND SUPPORTERS (please note Godparents *must* be baptised):**

Godparent's Name:

**Baptised:** YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

Godparent's Name:

**Baptised:** YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

Godparent's Name:

**Baptised:** YES/NO **Confirmed:** YES/NO

**NUMBERS:**

Very roughly, **how many people and how many children** do you expect might come to the baptism?:

The introduction in the baptism service reads:

“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:**

**Notes:** *In order to avoid misunderstandings, dates and times are **not** confirmed until **both** Patrick has agreed dates and times with you **and** this application form has been completed, returned to and acknowledged by the Parish Office.*

*There is no fee. It is customary to make a thank offering. (If you are a taxpayer please complete and use the yellow Gift Aid envelopes in the pews which increase the value of your gift).*

*Please take photographs after the service in order to preserve the atmosphere of prayer and worship.*

*Please complete all of this form and return to the parishes office ([office@eatonchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@eatonchurches.org.uk) 41 Church Lane, Norwich, NR4 6NW)*