

What is Baptism?

In bringing your child to baptism, you as parents are doing three things:

- Thanking God for the gift of a new life.
- Deciding to start your child on the journey of faith.
- Gaining the support and guidance of the church.

For your child, baptism marks the start of a journey of faith, which involves turning away from the darkness of self-centredness towards new life in Christ. Through baptism, your child becomes a member of the Church, the local and worldwide Christian family.

What happens at a Baptism?

When you bring your child for baptism, you will be asked to declare publicly on behalf of your child that you believe in God and that you will bring your child up to follow Jesus.

Baptism is a 'sacrament', a visible sign of God's love. In baptism, God draws people into relationship with him and into the family of the Church where we encounter and share God's love.

This is shown in three symbols:

- The priest will make the **sign of the cross** on your child's forehead. This is like an invisible badge to show that Christians are united with Christ and redeemed by his cross.
- The priest will pour **water** on your child's head. Water is a sign of washing and cleansing. In baptism it is a sign of being washed free from the effects of a sinful world and beginning a new life with God.
- Your child will receive a **lighted candle**. Jesus is called the light of the world so this candle is a reminder of the light which has come into your child's life.

The practicalities...

1. Policy of Admission

We will baptise the children of anyone who lives within the parish boundaries, whether or not you regularly attend church. Nonetheless, given the significance of baptism, we would encourage you to come along to our services to get to know the 'family' into which your child is being baptised.

If you do not know whether you live in the parish, we can advise you.

2. Godparents

It is usual to have three godparents, two of the same gender as the child and one of the opposite, but one of each 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 of confirmation can be relaxed in certain circumstances.

3. Timing of Services

Children of regular worshippers are usually baptised during our **10.30 am Parish Eucharist** and baptisms at this service take place once a month depending on the church's calendar. Children of other families living within the parish are offered a Sunday afternoon baptism at **2.30**. Such services may take place more often than once a month at the discretion of the clergy.

An organist may be booked for an afternoon baptism at a fee of £80.

Please complete, detach and return this section of the form. This information is required to help arrange the service and to complete the Baptism Register that is kept at the church.

Child's surname:

.....

Child's forename[s]:

.....

Boy Girl Date of Birth

.....

When would you like the baptism to take place?

Month..... 10.30 2.30

If at 2.30, would you like to book an organist?

Yes No

Father's full name:

.....

Have you been baptised? Confirmed

Occupation.....

Mother's full name:

.....

Have you been baptised? Confirmed?

Occupation.....

Please complete the other side

Please complete, detach and return this section of the form

Your address:

.....
.....
.....

Telephone number.....

Email:

.....

Please give the names {title, one forename and surname} and address of godparents below:

1).....

.....

Has he/she been baptised? Confirmed

2).....

.....

Has he/she been baptised? Confirmed

3).....

.....

Has he/she been baptised? Confirmed

All godparents must have been baptised

Please send your completed form to:

Parish Administrator
Hampstead Parish Church
Church Row
London NW3 6UU

Tel: 020 7794 5808

vicar@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk
(Vicar's PA)

Please contact us if you have any queries

We invite you to join us at any of our services:

Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am PARISH EUCHARIST
With crèche and Sunday School
4.30pm (GMT) Choral Evensong (BCP)
6.30pm (BST)

Wednesdays

10.15am Midweek Holy Communion

Thursdays

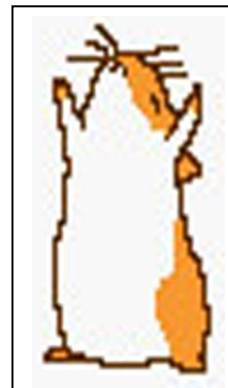
10.00am Holy Hamsters (school term only)

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said daily at 9.00am and 5.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Hamsters

For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and those who look after them.

A short service of songs, stories and prayers followed by coffee and playtime every Thursday morning at 10.00 am during the school term.



Application for

Holy Baptism



HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH