

Holy Baptism is a sacrament of belonging. It marks a significant moment, both in the life of the candidate, and in the life of the Church community, family and friends. It is a celebration of a new beginning in becoming a member of Christ's body - the Church. Baptism immerses us in the new life given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

When we come for baptism we are saying "yes" to God's love and desire for us to belong to the community of God's people. We are baptised into membership of the universal Christian Church, not merely as members of a particular denomination or parish.

Christian parents bring their children for baptism because they want them to be part of the community of faith. Parents and godparents (or sponsors) make promises on behalf of the child or adult they bring for baptism. They also take on the responsibility of raising the baptised as active members of the Church.

In the Christian life, we are not alone. God provides us with companions on the way and we share our faith and our struggles with the community of the Church. In Baptism, the Church says "yes" to you. Welcome!

Preparation

Before taking any significant step in life, it is appropriate to prepare for it. The same is true in beginning the Christian life with baptism. When we bring children to be baptised, the parents and need to prepare for their new responsibilities.

In baptismal preparation we seek to explore our faith and to understand the promises being made at baptism. This should be arranged by making an appointment with the Vicar.

Parents & Godparents

In bringing a child to be baptised in the Church we seek to give that child something of value which we already have: active membership in the Church and the joy of the Christian life. Children are baptised in response to the faith of their parents who, together with the godparents, make the Baptismal Promises on behalf of the child.

godparents have an important part to play in the Christian life and nurture of their godchild. They should be chosen with great care. godparents or sponsors do not need to be Anglican, but they must be baptised, and they should be practising Christians who are worshipping members of a Church.

In the Baptism Service we make several promises to God and his Church. You will be asked:

Do you affirm the faith of the Christian Church?

Response: We believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you turn to Christ?

Response: I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

Response: I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is

false and unjust?

Response: I reject them all.

Do you renounce all evil?

Response: I renounce all that is evil.

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

Response: I will, with God's help.

In other words, we promise to be active members of the worshipping community, seeking to strengthen our faith and seeking to bring God's love into the world through our daily lives. The parents and those chosen to be godparents must be able to make these commitments, which is why it is a requirement that godparents be baptised.

Baptism of Adults

Although most of the above implies that baptism is for children, we baptise adults as well. Preparation in this case is more intense because we are preparing the individual for the Christian life, where for baptism of children we begin with faithful parents who will spend a number of years nurturing their children in the Christian faith.

Adults answer the baptismal questions for themselves, but they may be supported at the service by sponsors (rather than godparents). For more information about baptism of adults, please contact the Vicar.

Fees

As a sacrament of commitment to God and membership in the Church, there is no fee for baptism at Holy Trinity. The parents may care to make a donation to the Church as we do encourage all members to make responsible Christian Stewardship, which includes support for the Church, a regular part of their baptismal commitment and life.

Dates for Baptism

Baptism is a sacrament invoking the whole Christian community. It takes place at the Church font, located near the garden door to front right of the Church, signifying the baptised person's entry into the Church of God. Holy Baptism is usually celebrated on a Sunday, and can be during the 9.30 Holy Eucharist, or just after that service.

Please ring the Parish Office, or speak to the Vicar, to discuss available dates and times. Baptisms are not usually celebrated between Palm Sunday and Good Friday, but a special service is held on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Day) where we celebrate both Baptism and Confirmation in the early evening.

What to do next

You need to fill out an application form, and then contact the Parish Office to make an appointment with the Vicar to discuss the meaning of Holy Baptism and the commitment that it involves. If you then wish to proceed with the baptism, arrangements will be made for preparation of the Order of Service for that day.

Holy Trinity Surrey Hills

**Thanksgiving for the past
Celebrating the present
Embracing the future**

Parish contacts

Vicar

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Parish Office

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Baptism at Holy Trinity



The Baptism of Christ window in the West wall of our Church

A new beginning in God's Church

HOLY TRINITY

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www.holytrinity.sh