

The Parish of Broxbourne with Wormley

Your Child's Baptism



Please read this leaflet carefully

We are delighted you are thinking about baptism for your child in our parish.

Your child is precious to you, precious to God and to his family, the church. At baptism, you promise to raise your child to know God loves them, and to help them to follow Jesus as a member of the church.

The baptism service

Your child's baptism will usually take place in the main Sunday service at St Laurence or St Augustine's, so that the congregation can welcome your child into the family of the church. This is normally the Family Service on the first Sunday of the month.

The service will take place at the front of the church and then gathered around the font.

You and the godparents will be asked to make declarations for yourself and on behalf of the child. You declare your Christian faith in front of the church community and promise to do your best to raise your child to follow Jesus as part of the wider church family.

You are making these promises before God and his people. They are powerful and important whole-life promises that should be taken very seriously and are meant to make a difference to the way we live and worship.

If you are unsure about what any of these promises mean or you are not sure that you can fully subscribe to them, it's best to wait and explore the Christian faith further yourself before bringing your child to baptism. In this case, please talk to a member of the clergy about the option of a thanksgiving service.

A thanksgiving service is a service for those who simply wish to thank God for their child. Prayers are said, and the child is named and blessed. This enables parents to then further consider the important Christian aspects of baptism, and come to this later if this is right for you and your child.

Some Questions Answered

What is the difference between a baptism and a christening?

None, they are just different words for the same thing.

What does it cost?

Nothing, a baptism service is free.

Am I entitled to baptism in the parish of Broxbourne with Wormley?

You are entitled to baptism for your child if you live in the parish or are on the church electoral roll. The parish extends from the New River Arms PH in the south up to Cock Lane in Hoddesdon. To join the electoral roll, you would need to have been attending Sunday worship regularly for the previous six months.

If you neither live in the parish, nor wish to join the electoral roll, please contact your local Church of England church to enquire about baptism in the parish where you live.

What is the role of a godparent?

Godparents are people who themselves have been baptised and agree to be especially concerned with their godchild's spiritual growth. They will need to be committed to pray for their godchild.

How many godparents should my child have?

You need at least one male and one female baptised godparent. Traditionally, people have chosen two godparents of the same sex as their child, and one of the other. Parents can also act as godparents, as long as there is a godparent who is not a parent.

Once my child has been baptised, have I completed my Christian duty?

No, it's only just begun! The promise that parents and godparents make at baptism is that you will help them to grow up as a Christian, believing and trusting in God. You will need to encourage your child to worship regularly at church and to read the bible and pray. The best way for this to happen is for you as parents to set the example.

Where can parents get help with bringing their child up as a Christian?

Living a Christian life has been described as a journey, and there is help along all stages of that journey. By bringing your child to church regularly, you will get to know other Christians who will be there to help and support you in all aspects of your life.

St Augustine's offers both a crèche and Junior Church during both the 9.30 and 11:00am services, where the children take part in age-related activities and are able to learn more about the love Jesus has for all of us. At St Laurence, children can go to Sunday School during the 9.30am service on 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

What do you do next?

The next steps are as follows:-

1. Come to a Sunday service

If you decide that you would like to find out more about having your child baptised at St Laurence or St Augustine's, please come to one of our services (details are on the back of this leaflet). There is an All Age Family Service at both churches once a month. This service lasts about 50 minutes and is an informal and relaxed style of worship at St Augustine's and a little more formal at St Laurence.

There is a blue book in which you can register your interest in having your child baptised. The Welcomers on duty will be able to help you with this.

2. Sign up for the first three weeks of the Alpha Course

The Alpha Course is an introduction to the Christian faith, but is also an ideal 'refresher' for anyone wanting to brush up on the basics.

The whole course usually lasts for 10 weeks. Each session begins with a meal and a chance to get to know others. There is then a short talk, which looks at a different aspect of the Christian faith each week, followed by a time of discussion in the small groups. The emphasis is upon exploration and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment.

As part of your baptism preparation, we ask you to attend the first three weeks of the course. Please contact the Parish Office (01992 444117) to sign up for the next course.

There is no charge for attending the Alpha course, although courses may ask for a contribution towards the food.

Please note that you will need to arrange childcare, as we are not able to accommodate children on the course.

3. Book a service

At this stage, if you decide you wish to proceed to book a service, please contact the Parish Office. Lynda Dray has details of the services which the clergy have set aside for baptisms and will be able to book a baptism (or thanksgiving) service.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet, and we hope it has been useful. If you wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact:

Revd Charles Hudson on 01992 462382

Services in our Parish

**All Age Family Services are on
1st Sundays at 9.30am
at both
St Laurence, Wormley &
St Augustine's, Broxbourne.**

Children's Church (Age 18 months+) is available at all services (excluding All Age Family Services)

St Augustine's: during the 9.30am morning services on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays. Also during the 11:00am morning service every week.

The children leave during the first song/hymn to take part in a range of age-related activities and return towards the end of the service. They are cared for by members of our church community, all of whom carry current DBS clearance.

A crèche is also available for younger children.

St Laurence: Sunday School is available during the 9.30am services on 2nd & 3rd Sundays.

We hope you have found this information useful and look forward to welcoming you in church soon.