



St Andrews Church and St Agnes Centre

Parish of Clewer Baptism Policy

The Parish of Clewer is delighted that you are considering baptism, whether it is for yourself or your child. We welcome the baptism (baptism is also known as 'christening') of infants and children, as well as for adults, and are committed to providing a place of welcome and hospitality in which those coming forward for baptism, together with parents and godparents, can explore and grow in the Christian faith, and remain faithful to their baptismal promises.

1. What should I do first of all?

Speak to the Parish Office who will liaise with the Rector to agree a date and time for the baptism.

In the Parish of Clewer, we require the parents of children being put forward for baptism to attend at least two Eucharist services prior to the child being baptised. These take place weekly at 10.30 in St. Andrews's Church.

We encourage parents bringing children to baptism to attend the Prayers & Bears toddler group which is held in St Andrew's Church on Fridays.

2. Are there any legal requirements?

There are certain legal requirements that must be met, but these shouldn't be an obstacle to baptism.

a. Parent(s)/Adults must either be resident in the parish of Clewer or a member of St Andrew's or St Agnes' Church. You can find out which is your parish church, by going to the A Church Near You website and entering your postcode. The website is: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/parishmap.php>. It is also possible to have your child baptized at St Andrew's if you have a qualifying connection to the Parish. The Rector can advise you of this. If you are concerned that you may not qualify, then please don't give up, speak to the parish office and they will do their best to help you.

b. Where parents are bringing a child to baptism, at least one parent must be baptized.

3. Do I need to go through any special teaching?

For children being baptised, the parents will be visited by the Rector to talk through the meaning of baptism, explain the order of service and the commitments made in baptism.

For adults seeking baptism, they must follow a course of study as instructed by the Rector.

4. Who can be Godparents?

Godparents **must** be baptised into a recognised Christian denomination.

Anyone who practices a faith and will support the child in their growth in the Christian faith may be a faith supporter.

Any other people can be a supporter.

5. Baptising adults

Adults presenting themselves for baptism must have a sponsor from within the worshipping community. They must also follow a course of study as instructed by the Rector.

6. When do baptisms take place?

We encourage baptisms to take place in the main family service at 10.30am on the first Sunday of the month. Baptisms can also take place at 12.30 or 1.30pm on the second or fourth Sundays of the month.

7. Can we take photos or film during the service?

As baptism is a sacrament, unfortunately photography and filming are **not** permitted during the service. You are welcome to take photographs or videos after the service. This policy may be varied on an individual basis by the Rector in the event of a specific pastoral need.

Review date.....

Signed.....