



Garstang St Thomas' Baptism Policy

Can I get my child Christened at St Thomas'?

Everyone is welcome to have their child baptised in their local Church of England parish church. It's the first step of an amazing journey with God, parents, godparents, friends, family and the church. In baptism a parent promises before God to raise their child in the Christian faith. It is therefore hoped that the family will feel welcome to attend church. However, you don't have to have been baptised yourself, and you don't have to be a regular churchgoer.

We also recognise that baptism is not always appropriate for everyone. We are committed to offering alternative provision as necessary, for example a Service of Thanksgiving, which will routinely take place during the main act of worship on Sunday.

For those living outside of the parish of St Thomas', the PCC delegates a discretionary right to the Vicar to baptise anyone who can demonstrate good reasons for seeking baptism at St Thomas'. Contact should be made with the Incumbent of the parish in which you live to make him/her aware and to seek his/her goodwill.

How do I get my child baptised?

Following an initial enquiry, the family are first encouraged to come along to a Sunday service to ensure they are comfortable with the worship that takes place. When they are sure that St Thomas' is the church for them, Jean will take some initial information and Michael will arrange with the family either a visit to prepare for baptism or a Baptism Preparation course. At the Baptism Preparation course, we will discuss the meaning of godparents, baptism and the service structure, and the continuation of the journey of faith. Church law requires that godparents should be baptised and confirmed, but the requirement of confirmation can be relaxed in certain cases. If the desired godparents have not been baptised, it is possible to arrange their baptism either on a previous Sunday or on the same day as the godchild's baptism.

When will the service take place?

The baptism will be part of a Sunday service, either at 10:30am or 4:30pm as per your wishes. Usually, the maximum number of baptism services each month is two, and it is possible that the baptism service will be shared with other families.

Sunday Club is available for children each week. No prior knowledge is expected: all are welcome to attend. The timing is such that children can go to Sunday Club without missing the baptism. On the 2nd Sunday of the month at the 4:30, the service is an All-Age service in which children take part.

Does it cost to have my child baptised?

There is no cost to have your child baptised. If, however, you would like to make a donation to the church, please speak to Michael, our treasurer Margaret, or our churchwarden Trevor who can give you information about how to do this and about Gift Aid.