

St Mary's Lapworth – Application for a Child's Baptism

Please read the **Notes** (below or overleaf), before completing the form.

Child's details:

Full name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

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Parent's contact details: Telephone:

E-mail: Mobile:

Child's Father:

Full Name:

Occupation:

Address (if different from above):

Have you been baptised? Y / N

Have you been confirmed? Y / N

Child's Mother:

Full Name:

Occupation:

Address (if different from above):

Have you been baptised? Y / N

Have you been confirmed? Y / N

Godparent 1

Full Name:

Address:

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Have you been baptised? Y / N

Have you been confirmed? Y / N

Godparent 2

Full Name:

Address:

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Have you been baptised? Y / N

Have you been confirmed? Y / N

Godparent 3

Full Name:

Address:

.....

Have you been baptised? Y / N

Have you been confirmed? Y / N

Please supply details of any further Godparents.

What happens at a Baptism?

At a baptism we publicly commit ourselves to walking the journey towards heaven with Jesus and as part of the church. We renounce evil and rebellion against God and submit ourselves to Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. The priest pours water over the candidate, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Our sins are washed away and Christ's new creation is sown within us, like a seed that can grow. We receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help the seed grow. We become part of the church, and come to share in the promises that Christ makes to his church.

Baptism for Children at St Mary's Lapworth

Notes

- 1) Child baptism is appropriate for babies and children until they leave primary school. Children at secondary school, or adults, should talk to the Rector about adult baptism and confirmation.
- 2) Children should normally be baptised at their own parish church. If a child from outside the ecclesiastical parish of Lapworth (the church parish rather than the civil parish) is to be baptised at St Mary's, then the consent of the child's own Vicar is usually required.
- 3) A date and time for the baptism must be agreed in advance between the parents and the Rector. Baptisms are normally conducted at the 11am Family Service on the first Sunday of the month, or at 12.30pm on a second or fourth Sunday of the month.
- 4) Children are baptised on the understanding that their family will bring them up within the wider family of Christ's church. It is important that parents, by their teaching and by their example, encourage children to attend public worship and to pray at home. Without on-going worship and prayer, the gifts that God gives to a child in baptism remain undeveloped and do not realise their full potential.
- 5) Godparents undertake to support parents in the task of bringing up the child within the life of faith. They make a commitment to show care for the child, to pray for the child and to be good role models of Christian living and regular worship.
- 6) The church intends that when children become old enough to make their own decisions they will want to take personal ownership of the choices made for them when they were baptised. This is done by coming to confirmation. Parents and godparents should encourage them in this. The Rector is always pleased to hear from people interested in confirmation.
- 7) Godparents must be baptised. They should really be confirmed, taking ownership of their own baptism before they seek baptism for their godchild.
- 8) For baptism the child must have at least one godfather and one godmother. The normal expectation is three godparents, two of the same sex as the child, and one of the opposite sex. It is possible to have more than three. Parents can be godparents to their own child, provided that the child has at least one other godparent.
- 9) Under Church of England law, it is not necessary for parents themselves to be baptised, unless also acting as a godparents.

Please return this form to: The Rectory, Church Lane, Lapworth, Solihull B94 5NX.