

Christ Church and Holy Trinity, Gosport

Baptisms, Blessings and Namings - Notes

Vicar: The Revd Andy Davis, BSc BD
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Andy, the Vicar will happily meet with you to discuss your service and try to answer any questions you may have. But please read the following first!

Due to high demand, and in order to foster a relationship with your local church, **if you do not live in the parish of Holy Trinity, or the parish of Christ Church we will NOT be able to offer you a one of these services (unless there is some close connection with Andy, or with one of our two churches.)** We will let you know which parish you live in.

The only reason to be baptised is that you intend you/ your child to be part of the church family, a frequent churchgoer, and to grow up in a real and active Christian faith. If this is not your intention, then a Blessing Service or Naming Ceremony (which is non-religious) would be much more suitable. Andy can supply you with sample copies of those....

Please be clear, that:

- 1) You do **NOT** need to be baptised to go to a Church of England School.
- 2) You do **NOT** need to be baptised to get married in church or buried in a churchyard.
- 3) Someone is **NOT** in any danger if they haven't been baptised (God loves the baptised and the non-baptised EQUALLY.)
- 4) You do **NOT** have to “get the baby done”. 75% of children born in Britain these days are **NEVER** baptised!

We can organise a “stand alone” service of Baptism, Blessing or Naming for just you and your family and friends, which is normally on a Saturday, at a mutually agreed time (as there are at least four services every Sunday, plus other Sunday events!) These “stand alone” services last about 15 – 20 minutes and can include music, CD’s, poems and tributes of your own choosing!

You can also have a Baptism (or Blessing) during a main Sunday morning service. This is very appropriate, because baptism is about becoming a full member of God’s family (the church) so the church family should be there when someone is baptised. This is suitable if you have up to about 50 guests. For bigger numbers of guests, the “stand alone” service is more suitable.

At Holy Trinity the main service is at 11.00am. At Christ Church the main service is at 9.30am – but we do have a simpler, ‘All-Age Communion’ on the third Sunday of the month at 10.00am, which is a very suitable service for a baptism (or blessing).

We produce a special, personalized service order, a laminated “Certificate” (and, for baptisms, a candle, and a little laminated card - given to each God-parent).

The Service we offer you is FREE, but we hope that you and those who attend will make a donation into the collection plate on the day.

Blessing of Children

We do “**Blessing Services**” for children (also called “**Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child**”). These are more suitable for those who might be uneasy about the strong demands surrounding baptism.

Blessings can be done by the priest in your home (with just you, or as many people present as you want!) Or, as a simple, 10-15 minute “stand alone”, separate service for just you and your family/friends (usually at a mutually agreed time on a Saturday. These can include music, CD’s, poems and tributes of your own choosing!); or as part of a main service: 11.00am at Holy Trinity; or either 9.30am Communion or 10.00am All-Age Communion [3rd Sundays of the month] at Christ Church.

The Services are free, but a donation into the collection plate on the day of the service is appreciated.

Instead of Godparents, you can have “Supporting Friends”.

We produce a special, personalized service order, a laminated “Blessing Certificate” and a little laminated card given to each “Supporting Friend”.

Naming Ceremony

We also do simple “**Naming Ceremonies**” that are non-religious (although prayers, etc, can be added.

As with our “Stand-Alone” baptisms and blessings, these can include music, CD’s, poems and tributes of your own choosing!

Again, the ceremonies are free, but a donation into the collection plate on the day of the service is appreciated.