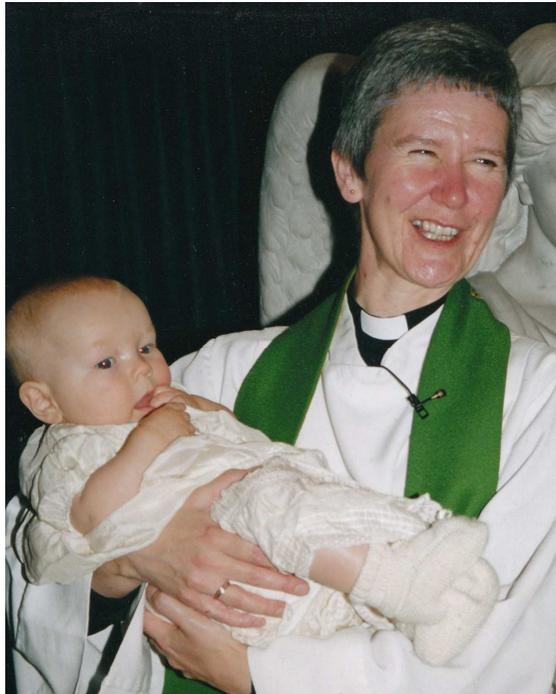


A GUIDE TO THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN [CHRISTENING]



**at St John the Evangelist,
Knole Road, Preston, Brighton**

*This leaflet explains the process of children's baptism
(which is sometimes called christening) at St John's.*

*If you are an adult seeking baptism in the Church of England,
please contact us to find out more.*

Can our child be baptised at St John's?

The Church of England welcomes all children for baptism.

- ❖ If you live in the area which St John's covers (the 'parish') or you consider this is your 'home' church, St John's is probably the best church to come along to for your child's baptism. (You can check if you live in the parish at www.achurchnearyou.com by typing in your postcode.)
- ❖ If you live some way away, it may be worth considering having your child baptised in the church that is easiest for you to go along to as a family, although we will not turn you away!

There is **no charge** for baptism, because God's grace is a free gift!



How do we go about it?

Step 1 : Coming along to St John's

- ❖ A key aspect of baptism is becoming part of the Christian community, so all baptisms take place at **the main 10.00 am service on a Sunday at St John's.**
- ❖ We therefore encourage families to bring their children along to the main Sunday service two or three times **before booking the baptism** in order to get the 'feel' of the place and the community, and so that we can get to know you a little.

If you are coming along because you are considering baptism for your child or children, please ask to be introduced to the Vicar, who will be happy to help you.

Children's facilities at St John's

St John's aims to be a **family friendly church** and welcomes children to the services.

There is an **area with rugs, activities and toys** for parents with young children to enjoy, and there's a **baby changing facility** in the toilets at the back of the church. There are other young families and several understanding grandparents in the congregation as well as a sound system, so no need to feel anxious if the little one has an urge to gurgle or cry! However, if you feel your little one is having a particularly 'bad day', please don't feel embarrassed about deciding to go home before the service ends and coming again another week.



Families of all shapes and sizes are also very welcome at **Messy Church** on the second Sunday of the month (except August and December). Messy Church starts with a story, a song and a prayer activity. Then there are a number of different craft activities and the afternoon ends with supper in the Knoyle Hall. You make the mess and we clear it up! For more information and pictures of Messy Church sessions see our website www.brightonstjohn.org.uk

Step 2 : Booking your baptism

Once you have had a chance to come along a few times and get to know St John's a bit, you are most welcome to contact us to book a date for your baptism. Full details of how to contact us are given in the box on the back of this leaflet.

- ❖ We try to make each family feel that the service is special and personal to them, so we only book one family baptism on any one date.
- ❖ As the service on that Sunday morning is focussed on the baptism, we try to book just one such service in each month, so please bear with us as we try to fit everyone in.
- ❖ When we book your baptism date, we usually also try to make a time to meet up with you to talk through the baptism.
- ❖ If you have not already done so, this may be a good time to look at a couple of **explanatory leaflets** on baptism for parents and godparents, which we provide, so that you are able to think about it before meeting up.

Step 3 : Meeting up to talk about the baptism

This is simply a chance for us to get to know your family a bit better and for you to ask any questions you may have. At the same time, we can take the necessary details and run through the practicalities of what will happen.

How to contact us:

Alison Bowman ~ Vicar
01273 555033
avbow@aol.com

Parish Administrator
01273 553311
info@brightonstjohn.org.uk

St John's Church Halls Bookings
01273 550077
knoylehall@yahoo.co.uk

How to find us:

Church website
www.brightonstjohn.org.uk

St John's is on the A23 into Brighton on the corner of Knoyle Road and London Road, opposite Sainsbury's, near Preston Park

Bus numbers 5 and 5A go past the front door