

How can Baptisms be arranged?

If you would like to arrange a Baptism please contact one of our Priests:

Revd Anthony Chandler
01354 652894

Revd Jenny Webb
01354 650855

Email: anthonychandler@btinternet.com
revdjennywebb@btinternet.com

They will be happy to discuss dates and arrangements with you.

Other Activities in our Churches

Other regular activities involving children and families, include our [Junior Church and creche](#) which meet on Sundays at 10.45 am, at the same time as the main morning Service ; and our [Tiny Tots Group](#) which meets in St. Peter's Hall on Thursdays from 10-11.30 a.m in term-time.

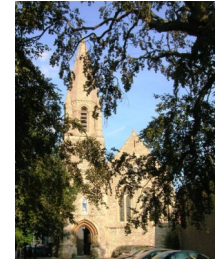
More information about our Churches can be found on our web sites:

stmaryschurchmarch.co.uk

stpeterschurchmarch.co.uk



**St. Mary's and
St. Peter's
Churches,
March, Cambs**



**We welcome children and
their families
in our Churches**



Information for Parents and Godparents

What is Baptism? (also known as 'Christening')

In Baptism children are welcomed into the family of God's Church. In the Baptism service parents thank God for the gift of their child. They promise to bring up their child in the Christian faith, with the support of Godparents and the Christian Church. Baptism is therefore the start of a life-long journey of faith.

The Baptism itself is an outward sign of God's love for us, love that was revealed to us in His Son, Jesus Christ, who forgives us all that is wrong in our lives and calls us to follow His example in our daily lives.

Where and When can Baptisms take place?

In the Church of England Baptisms are normally held in the Parish Church which covers the area where people live, unless they have strong connections with another Church.

At St. Mary's and St. Peter's Churches Baptisms can take place in our main Sunday Service, which means that the whole congregation can welcome the child and their family, but can be arranged as separate services for each family, usually on Sunday lunch-times/early afternoons.

What about Godparents?

The role of Godparents is to speak on behalf of the child being baptised during the Baptism Service itself and to support the parents in bringing the child up as a Christian, within the family of the Church. So that they can fulfil their role, Godparents need to be able to make the declarations and promises in the Baptism Service, which is why the

Church of England requires all Godparents to be baptised themselves. Children usually have three Godparents, two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex.

What happens in the Baptism Service?

Parents and Godparents will be given a full copy of the Baptism Service in advance so that they can read it through and check that they are prepared to answer the questions they will be asked in the Service and to make the promises on behalf of their child.

During the Service the Priest will ask the Parents and Godparents to gather round the Baptism Font.

After the Blessing of the water, four things will happen:

- the child will be Baptised with water in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, This is a sign of being washed free from sin.
- the sign of the Cross of Jesus will be marked on the child's forehead. This is a sign that in Baptism we make a commitment to follow Jesus.
- a lighted candle is given to the child, lit from the Easter Day candle which is a sign of Jesus' resurrection, The candle is a reminder of the way in which Jesus can light up our lives if we follow him every day. The candle can be lit by parents on each Anniversary of the child's Baptism.
- The child and the Godparents will each be given Certificates to remind them of the Baptism and the commitments they have made,