

POLICY FOR THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Revised June 2018
To be reviewed June 2020

All Saints' Benefice is blessed by having a high number of christening requests from those who live within our parish as well as those who live outside of our parish boundaries. Our policy complies with Canons B21-25 and intends to be welcoming to all whilst at the same time conveying the importance of baptism as the first stage of Christian Initiation, a process that continues with Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Baptism requests

Requests for a baptism are made by completing the Christening Request Form, which can be downloaded from the Clifton Homepage website, and bringing it along to one of our services *or* the Breakfast Welcome which takes place immediately prior to our monthly all age service (2nd Sunday of every month). At this meeting, the family shall be provided with a copy of *Your Child's Baptism in the Church of England* along with relevant leaflets explaining the process.

Baptism preparation

Owing to the significance of the sacrament of Holy Baptism it is important for those requesting to be baptized to receive appropriate preparation. At All Saints' Clifton and Southill baptism preparation involves two elements: (1) regular attendance our services at the 9am service at Southill or our 10.30 service at Clifton; or the monthly all age service on the 2nd Sunday of the month; 9.15am at Southill or 10.45am at Clifton. (2) a 60-minute Saturday morning baptism class (including a rehearsal) held regularly during the year [Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July]. This standard pattern may be tailored to suit the circumstances of a particular family at the discretion of the incumbent, where there are strong pastoral reasons for doing so.

Baptism services

Baptism services normally occur 1st Sunday at Clifton at 10.30am or 2nd Sunday at 12 noon or Southill on 3rd Sunday at 9am or 4th Sunday at 12 noon.

Baptism follow-up

Families are invited to our monthly all age services; especially, Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday, Harvest, the Crib Service, and Christmas Day. Our Messy church takes place every 4th Sunday 10.30am in Clifton church Hall. Under the new GDPR with your permission if we have your details we can invite you to other events.