

**Saint Andrew's Church
PADDOCK WOOD
BAPTISM**



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www.standrewspw.org.uk



**The anglican and methodist church of
Saint Andrew
Paddock Wood**

Registered Charity Number 1137783

BAPTISM

The Service of Baptism takes as its starting point you as parents expressing your own personal commitment to the Christian faith.

During the service you will be asked to:

- declare your belief and trust in God.
- make promises to bring your child up within the Christian faith.
- make a commitment to publicly practice the Christian faith yourself, by attending Church regularly, praying privately and living by trust in God.

These promises do need thinking about, as the Baptism Service implies your intention on behalf of the child to take a fuller place in the life of God's family at St Andrew's.

You and your godparents will also be asked to publicly make and affirm on behalf of the child and yourself a willingness to :

- Turn to Christ
- Repent of your sins
- Renounce evil.

Clearly it is important to decide whether you and your godparents can make these promises and answer the questions truthfully. As parents, you will need to think carefully about why you want your child baptised and whether you want to commit yourselves before making your final decision.

Congratulations

Congratulations on the arrival of a baby in your family. We are delighted that you are interested in baptism for your child. This leaflet has been produced to help you think through why you want your child baptised, and what baptism (often called 'Christening') will mean for you and your child.

This is an important event so our aim is to help you prepare and understand all that Baptism involves especially in terms of Christian commitment. In the remainder of this leaflet you will find out what the Church of England & Methodist Church understands by the Services of Thanksgiving and Baptism and how we as a congregation can help you to prepare.

We look forward to getting to know you in the weeks to come as you explore with us what is right for you and your child.

The Clergy team at
St Andrew's

PARISH POLICY

Having made an initial enquiry you will be contacted by our baptism visitor who will arrange a home visit at your convenience. This is an informal 'get to know you' visit which will also cover the topic of Baptism & Thanksgiving as two different options to explore.

At the end of the visit we will discuss with you the way forward. You do not have to decide straight away and you may wish to discuss in private what is right for you and your family.

If you choose a Service of Thanksgiving a date for this will be fixed and we would ask that we see you in church at least once or twice before the service takes place.

If you choose Baptism we will invite you to attend church on a more regular basis and require a follow-up visit. This time we will help you prepare for the Baptism service and look at the promises and vows you will be asked to make during the service.

To avoid disappointment please note:

We can only baptise your child if you live in the parish / have lived in the parish, or if you are on the Electoral Roll of our church.

We cannot book dates immediately for baptism as preparation time and church attendance is required first.

Baptism will only take place within the main Sunday Morning service on the 2nd Sunday in the month.

THANKSGIVING

You may feel that you want to say 'Thank you' to God for the gift of your child. It is natural and right to do this. The service of Thanksgiving for the birth of your child gives you the opportunity to do this without you having to make promises to God about Christian commitment which you may not feel able to keep.

'Jesus said:

"Let the children come to me". . . and he took them in his arms and blessed them'.

The Service of Thanksgiving reflects the sentiment behind the Bible passage above. During the service a welcome will be given to you and your family, prayers will be said and a presentation made of a Gospel (part of the Bible) and a Certificate which marks the event. Finally, the service will conclude with a blessing for the child and its parents. The Thanksgiving will take place within our main morning service on the 2nd Sunday of the month and will be an occasion to which you can invite your family and friends to attend and help you celebrate.

Choosing a Thanksgiving Service is not 'second best'. Your child may choose to be baptised at a later stage, when old enough to decide for themselves.

THANK YOU

SERVICES

As part of your wish to have your child baptised we invite you to come to our Sunday services. The services highlighted in bold are the most suitable for those who are not regular worshippers at a church. Please remember to introduce yourselves to us when you come.

1st Sunday in the month

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in the month

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Church Lite

3rd Sunday in the month

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Holy Communion

4.45 pm Messy Church

4th Sunday in the month

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Morning Service

6.00 pm Holy Communion
(not every month)

(Sunday activities for children are available at all 10.00 am Services)

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

LITTLE PICKLES

This takes place on a Monday from 9.45 am to 11.15 am in our Church halls. It is aimed at parents and carers of pre-school age children and is a chance to meet others from the area. For further details please contact the Parish Office on 01892 837617.