



Your Baptism At Northop And Northop Hall



Parish Church - Northop

Parish of Northop
www.northopchurch.org
Plwyf Llaneurgain



St. Mary's - Northop Hall

Thank you for enquiring about a baptism
in the Parish of Northop.

We are delighted that you want to
share this happy and
important occasion with us.

This booklet contains information
you might find helpful
in getting ready for the service,
both the practicalities
and the meaning of the service.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Rev Dr Richard Hainsworth
Vicar

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE NOW GOING
BACK TO CHURCH ONCE AGAIN



THIS IS USUALLY BECAUSE THEY
HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING LIKE
THEIR KEYS OR JACKET OR GLASSES

What is a baptism?

Baptism, or 'Christening' as it is often called, is the 'membership rite' of the Christian Church. People have many different reasons for wanting to be baptised or to have their children baptised, and there are no right or wrong reasons. At its heart, though, baptism is a sign of wanting to be a follower of Jesus and be part of his family on earth - the Church.

Jesus was baptised himself when he was in his 30s, as many Jews were at that time, as a sign of starting a new stage in his life and relationship with God.

Jesus asked his followers to continue to baptise anyone who became a Christian 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

What does baptism symbolise?

Jesus was baptised by being totally immersed in a river. Christians understood this to symbolise his dying, being buried and rising from the dead. It is a sign that just as Jesus shared our human life and death, we will share in his life in heaven.

Today we don't usually baptise by full immersion in water - especially not with babies (Health and Safety!), but the symbolism of using water is still the same. Full immersion baptisms can still be arranged on request however!

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Thanks to Benoit Paquette

01-18-2001

I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER
... OH, I KNOW THIS ... OMMMM, THE SON,
AND, OH, THE OH, I CAN'T BELIEVE I
FORGOT THIS

Who can be baptised?

Anyone who wants to be a Christian has the automatic right to be baptised in their local Anglican Church. There are no restrictions on age or particular forms of Christian belief. Sometimes adult friends or

relatives of a child who is being baptised want to be baptised with them. So long as they have not been baptised in any church before, we would welcome the chance to do this for them.

To be baptised in Northop or Northop Hall church you will need to either attend the church regularly, live or have lived in the Parish (that is, in Sychdyn, Northop Hall or Northop), been married or baptised here or have a parent or grandparent who was married or baptised here. If you do not have one of these 'qualifying connections' you can still have your baptism here, so long as we have the permission of your local Church in Wales or Church of England Vicar where you live.



What promises do I have to make in the service?

In the service, the Vicar will say to you:
In asking for *N* to be baptised, you are accepting the responsibility of bringing *him/her* up as a Christian. In caring for *him/her*, will you help *him/her* to keep God's commandments by loving God and neighbour as Christ has taught us? Will you pray for *him/her*, and draw *him/her* by your own example into the community of faith?

You answer: With the help of God, we will.

In other words you are committing yourself or your child to live a life of love for God and other people, to pray and to be part of the church community. The church is here to help you keep this promise, and not to judge you, but if you do not feel that you can make this promise honestly, but still want to have a service in church, we could arrange a Service of Thanksgiving for you instead.

What do I have to do to book?

Please phone the Vicar on 01352 840842 to reserve a date. Baptisms can be held in any of our 9:30am Sunday services at Northop

Hall, any 11:00am Sunday service at Northop or as a separate service (with just the people you invite) at 1:00pm in either church on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. If there are pressing reasons, it is possible to arrange a baptism for another day of the week, please contact us to discuss.

You can see which dates are still available by checking the calendar on the Future Events page of northopchurch.org. Booking 3-4 months in advance is advised, particularly for dates in spring and summer.

Once you have reserved a date, you need to attend one of the following family services:

Northop - first and third Sundays of the Month, 10am

Northop Hall - second Sunday of the Month 9:30am, (From Feb 2015 onwards)

There you will be given a form to fill in which gives us your contact details and names of Godparents and other information that we need for the baptism register which is kept in the church

We hope, early in 2015, to have a volunteer member of the church trained to come and see you and take you through the service beforehand and answer any questions you may have so that you feel prepared for the day. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with the Vicar.

What do Godparents do?

We all need people to support us in our lives and Godparents are exactly that - sources of help and support. They are particularly there to help with keeping the promises mentioned above. In the service they say that they will help and support the person being baptised in their Christian faith and so they say that they themselves believe in God.



"And who is going to be the Godfather?"

This is symbolised in the service by them holding the person who has been baptised and by receiving a lit candle on their behalf.

Who can be a Godparent?

For guidance, traditionally a girl has 2 Godmothers and 1 Godfather and a boy has 2 Godfathers and 1 Godmother, but you do not have to stick to this (the Vicar's son was recently baptised with 7 godparents!). It is most important that you feel happy choosing a number of people who will be most support, rather than overly worrying about traditions. However any child being baptised should have at least one Godparent. If you have difficulty finding one, we can provide one for you!

Godparents must be over 18 and should be baptised Christians who can help you with the Christian parts of the baptism promises. We hope you will chose people who are actively involved in the Christian faith.

We also recognise that there are many people who will play an important part in your or your child's life who are not baptised, and/or are not comfortable making a declaration of Christian faith. We would not want these people to be placed in the position of having to say things they don't believe and we also want to affirm their importance in your life. Therefore you are welcome to invite anyone who cannot be a Godparent to be a Sponsor instead. Sponsors will make a promise to help and support you and need only make the declarations of faith if they choose to. Anyone, of any age or faith can be a Sponsor.

Will anybody else be being baptised at the same service?

Not normally, we usually like to be able to celebrate each person's baptism individually, but if you would like to join together with a friend or family member and have your baptisms together then of course we are happy to do this.

What about little children in the service?

We are family-friendly churches and young children are always welcome. Please don't feel that they have to sit still and silent throughout the



service, they are always welcome to explore the church and see what is going on. There are toys and books at the back of the churches which they are welcome to bring into the service.

Can we take photos or video?

So that the service remains as special as we hope it to be, we would ask that if you want photos or video during the service you appoint one person to officially do each of these. Otherwise we will ask your guests to wait until the end of the service, when we are happy for you to spend as long as you like posing round the font. We have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northopchurch and would encourage you to share your pictures of the day there, so that others may be encouraged to also come to us for baptism and that the wider community can share your happy occasion.

How much does it cost?

There is no charge for a baptism, but if you wish to give a donation to help us with the £500 a week it costs to provide our churches for our community, then anything you wish to give will be gratefully received. There will be a chance to do this after the service.



The Baptism

Are there car parking, toilets, disabled access etc at the Church?

Sadly, neither of our churches have car parks although there is free parking in the nearby roads. Neither has a toilet, but the local pubs are usually very helpful!

Northop Church has a level access through the churchyard and there is space for a small number of vehicles to park to allow for those with restricted mobility. Please contact us. Northop Hall Church has a small step at the entrance. Both churches have hearing loops and amplification installed.

Our website at www.northopchurch.org has an interactive map which will give your guests directions to the church.

So I've been baptised, what happens next?

We hope that you will feel part of the Northop Parish family, now that you have become a member. We would love to welcome you to our services, particularly the family services. You can see when these are and what is going on in the church by checking the Future Events page at northopchurch.org

The rite of Confirmation is the natural next step after baptism. This is chance to publicly confirm your baptism promises in front of the Bishop. It is usually reserved for those who are old enough to have made a settled, personal decision to commit to Christian discipleship (for example those who are 12+, but often candidates are much older). If you would like to explore confirmation, speak to us and we would be happy to help you prepare.



I still have questions!

Please do get in touch with the Vicar:
Rev'd Richard Hainsworth,
The Vicarage, Sychdyn Road
Northop CH7 6AW
Northopchurch@gmail.com
01352 840842

*We hope that you enjoy the service and wish you every blessing.
From all at Northop and Northop Hall Churches.*