



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

CHARLTON
ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS



WHAT IS BAPTISM OR CHRISTENING? During a christening your child will be baptized with water. It's the start of an amazing journey of faith for your child and a special day for all your friends and family.

Your child is precious to you and precious to God. You want the very best for them, and so does God. You want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others.

A christening is just the beginning of this and so much more.



Over the years to come, it's a journey you'll share together with your child by:

- **Being there for your child** to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- **Praying for your child** through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- **Showing them practically** how to make those good choices in life.
- **Helping them to learn more about their Christian faith**, through their church and in other ways.

So it's a commitment to start as you mean to go on.

At St Luke's and St Thomas' we offer baptism at 10am in the main service of Holy Communion, or at 12 noon. The priest who visits you will discuss these options so you can choose the right one for you.



If you opt for a 12 noon service, the priest will discuss with you which reading you would like. Here are some you could choose from:

Matthew 7:24-27 - The Wise and Foolish Builders

John 6:1-13 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Isaiah 43:1-7 – I have called you by name

Matt 18:1-5,10-14 – Who is greatest in the Kingdom of God?

Mark 10:13-16 – Let the Children come to me

Psalm 139 v 13 – 16 – Created and loved by God

PREPARATION. Because this is such a wonderful step, we want you to understand just how important it is. For that reason, the priest who will baptise your child will do between one and three preparation sessions with parents before the baptism itself.

OPEN INVITATION. We also want you and your family to continue coming to church, so those who have been baptised can grow closer to God alongside other members of God's family. For this reason we will ask you if we can keep in touch with you.



Our church community will be praying for your child to be baptised, your family and godparents in the weeks before the baptism. You are always welcome at our churches and we will invite you to all family – focused worship. And, on the anniversary of the

christening, we will invite the whole family to the 10am service so you can light a candle and remember the step that was taken at baptism and all that means.

You and the godparents will also receive an invitation to our annual Godparents' Party



The Church of England has got a lovely Christening website with lots of information and ideas. Check it out at www.churchofenglandchristenings.org

And if you have questions or comments, you can contact us at rector@charlton.church

A BLESSING PRAYER

Creator God,

We thank you for the gift of

May your blessing of peace and joy be with them and protect them all of their days.

We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen

