

BENEFICE POLICY FOR THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

For review October 2024

Our Benefice is blessed by having many christening requests from those who live within our parishes of Clifton, Haynes and Southill as well as those who live outside these parish boundaries. For the latter, the family needs to ask permission from their parish priest for the Baptism to be held in one of our churches.

Our policy complies with Canons B21-25 and is 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 contacting the Rector to choose a mutually convenient date and time. The Rector gives the relevant information to the Parish Baptism Visitor who will contact the family, usually by email, to arrange an informal meeting. This gives the parent(s) an opportunity to ask questions, chat about the service and discuss the choice/role of godparents. They may also be offered copies of 2 Church of England booklets, one for themselves and the other for Godparents. The Baptism Visitor will complete an Application pro forma, either at this meeting or soon after, and return the completed form to the Rector, keeping 1 copy for themselves.

Baptism preparation

Owing to the significance of the sacrament of Holy Baptism, those requesting a baptism are invited to attend church on a monthly basis. This would be the appropriate service from the 9.30am service at St Mary's Haynes, 9.30am service at All Saints' Southill or the 11am service at All Saints' Clifton.

Baptism services

Baptisms are usually held during our Sunday morning services but may occasionally take place after the service, at the discretion of the Rector.

Families are invited to all our services, especially Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday, Harvest, the Crib Service and Christmas Day. Under the new GDPR, if we have their details and permission to use them, we can invite the families to other events.

Agreed by the PCC of All Saints, Clifton _____

Agreed by the PCC of St Mary's, Haynes _____

Agreed by the PCC of All Saints, Southill _____