

## Some FAQs

### How much do these services cost?

Both Blessing & Naming Ceremonies and Baptism Services are free, but we are always happy to receive donations to support the work and upkeep of the church.

### We're not married. Does that matter?

No! But we're more than happy to talk about weddings too. The Bible describes being married as the best environment in which to bring up children and we might even be able to combine the two celebrations into one!

### Does it matter where we live?

Anyone can give thanks to God for their child, and we want to thank Him with you. If a Baptism Service is right for you and you don't live in the parish of Prudhoe, it is polite to (and you must) contact your local Vicar for permission. This is almost always a formality, as they will be delighted to approve it, and we will gladly help you work out who to contact.

### At what age can a child be baptised?

Children can be baptised any time from birth. But once a child is old enough to understand the Christian faith for themselves and make the promises for themselves, it needs to be their choice. Therefore, with older children, the Vicar will want to talk it through with them, as well as with you as parents.

### How many godparents can my child have?

There is no limit but please be sensible!

You need to have three, traditionally at least two of the same sex and one of the opposite sex to the child. (It is possible for parents to also be godparents)

### Can anyone be a godparent?

A Blessing & Naming Ceremony has no restrictions on who can be named as a supporter.

However, godparents at a Baptism should be Christians themselves. They need to make the same promises that the parents do and should be good examples of what it looks like to live a life of faith. That's why the regulations state that you can only become a godparent if you have been baptised yourself. That's also why we also ask godparents to come to the meeting where we run through and explain the content of the service. Anyone who fits that description can be a godparent, including both relatives and friends, young or old.

### I'm not baptised myself. Is that OK?

It is possible to have your child baptised even if you haven't been baptised yet. It could be that baptism might also be right for you too. We will talk about this possibility as we look at the promises and talk through the details of the service. (We could even do both baptisms in the same service!)

### What next?

To book either a Blessing & Naming Ceremony or a Baptism Service, just come along and join us for any 10am Sunday morning service. You'll get to see what our services are like, and the Vicar would love to speak to you afterwards and try to put a date in the diary.

Please let us know you're coming so we can meet and welcome you:

**Rev Daniel Freyhan** (Vicar)  
(01661) 836 059  
[vicar@prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk)

# Thanking God for the gift of Children



## A Guide for Parents

St Mary Magdalene  
Prudhoe

[www.prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk)

# CONGRATULATIONS!

We are thrilled that you want to thank God for the gift of your child. The Bible tells us that all good things come from God, including our children — so the right response is to enjoy them and thank Him for them.

At St Mary Magdalene, we want to offer you and your children a very warm welcome and will do all we can to support you and celebrate with you.

That's why we have two special ways to give thanks to God for the gift of a child and to ask for God's blessing and His help in bringing them up.

## A Blessing & Naming Ceremony

A new child is always a reason to celebrate, and for centuries people have brought their children to church to say thank you to God for their safe arrival and to ask for His blessing on them.

This ceremony has a number of traditional elements:

**The blessing** — Just as Jesus took little children in His arms and blessed them, so the minister will hold your child and ask God's blessing on them and all the family.

**The naming** — The minister will ask what name you have chosen for your child, and proclaim it to the congregation. (The giving of the Christian name is sometimes called the *christening*).

**The supporters' promises** — A few carefully chosen close friends or family members promise to be there for and to support both your child and also you (as a parent), as your child grows up.

## A Service of Christian Baptism

In some ways, Baptism Services are much like Blessing & Naming Ceremonies and there is the same desire to thank God and ask for His blessing. However in a Baptism service there is also a bit more...

We also ask God to ensure the child grows up in the Christian faith, and we both express our trust in Him to bring this about, as well as promising to do all we can to pass our faith on to the child.

God does not intend that parents do this alone, and so both the church family and some specially chosen godparents make promises to God to help and support your child in their faith as they grow up.

For this reason, baptisms make sense as part of our main Sunday morning service, and are a great family celebration!

To help you prepare for the service, the Vicar will arrange to meet with you and the potential godparents (*usually in your home*) to talk through the service and explain the promises to be made.

That way you can be sure this service is the right choice for you.



Psalm 127:3

*Children are a gift from the Lord;  
they are a reward from him.*

**A Blessing & Naming Ceremony can happen at any time and on any day which suits both you and the church.**

*Turn over for some common questions and information about what to do next.*