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St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Baptisms

at St Edmundsbury Cathedral



St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds

01284 748720

What is baptism?

Baptism, also known as Christening, is the start of a journey of faith for your child and a chance to celebrate that with your family and friends. As a parent, it's a commitment to the journey you'll take as a family which will include:

- 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.

You don't have to have been baptised yourself, and you don't have to have been a regular churchgoer.

You also don't have to be a child to be baptised! Many adults choose baptism when beginning a faith journey later in life.

Baptisms are part of the everyday life of the Cathedral and as such are part of services rather than private events. This also means that there's no fee.

Godparents

Baptism includes choosing godparents for your child. A godparent's role is to support your child's faith journey and be there for them as they grow.

Choosing godparents for your child is a big decision. Likely they will be people who:

- will be in touch with your family for years to come. They can be relatives or friends.
- you can trust and who will be able to help your child with big questions in their life.
- are baptised themselves. If someone you want to choose to be a godparent isn't baptised, speak to our clergy team and we'll be happy to discuss.

There are different traditions for the number and gender of godparents, but the choice and number of godparents is up to you. We're happy to chat this through with you.

There is no minimum age for godparents, but the person chosen must be mature enough to understand their role and responsibility in your child's life.

How to book a baptism

We encourage you to join us for our All-Age Eucharist service at 9.00 am on Sundays. You'll be able to chat to Canon Matthew Vernon or another member of the clergy afterwards about your interest in having your child baptised.

Alternatively, contact baptisms@stedscathedral.org and our team will give you further information.

Before the baptism you'll be asked to fill in a booking form and a member of our clergy will guide your preparations.

Available services

We offer specific services through the year when you can have your child baptised. This means there may be other children being baptised during the same service and we encourage a family atmosphere. No one should be worried about brothers, sisters and other friends and family members sitting silently and still!

Our baptism dates for 2023 are:

- 19 March
- 14 May
- 25 June
- 17 September

All at 12.30 pm.

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