

All Saints Biddenden. St. Michael Smarden.

Application for Baptism of Children

Congratulations. We are delighted you want to bring your child to be Christened.

When completing this form, please read the notes overleaf.

Which church would you like the baptism to take place in?		How many guests do you expect to invite?	
What date and time would best suit you?		<i>Please note we would normally conduct baptisms either during or following the main Sunday service at the church, or on a Saturday afternoon. The date must be agreed with the priest taking the service.</i>	

Date of Child's Birth	
Christian Name(s)	
Child's Surname	

Parents	Mother	Father
Full Christian Name(s)		
Surname		
Address with Postcode		
Email		
Telephone		
Occupation		
Are you baptised? (Y/N)		

Godparents	Name	Address	Baptised? (Y/N)
<i>You should choose at least three godparents for your child. Godparents must themselves be baptised.</i>			

Other Children (with dates of birth)

Notes for completing a Baptism Application

This form is designed for children. There is a separate Adult Baptism application form for those over 16.

We encourage baptisms to take place during or shortly after a main Sunday morning service. If this is not convenient, or if you are inviting a large number of guests, we can also offer baptisms on Saturday afternoon.

We normally need at least one month's notice before a Baptism takes place.

Once this form is completed, please return it to us, either as a scanned PDF, (Sorry we can't work with a photo) or by posting, to Benefice office, 36 High Street, Biddenden, TN27 8AH. Baptisms are not "Booked" until you have heard back from us. Once we receive your form, we will arrange a time to meet and go through the Baptism service.

Godparents

Church law states that godparents must themselves be baptised. If this is not the case, they can be a sponsor and make the same promises alongside the godparents. We can arrange a baptism of parents or godparents in the same service.

There should be at least three baptised godparents for each child. If the parents are baptised, they can 'count' as godparents for this purpose. Please see <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings/parents-guide-christenings/choosing-godparents> for more information about choosing godparents for your child.

If you would like to know more about this, please discuss this with the priest taking the service.

Is there a maximum or minimum age for baptism?

Children and adults can be baptised at any age. If a child is old enough to understand, we include them in the discussion about the Baptism service, to help them understand the service.

Baptism for children who live outside the parish.

Baptism requires parents to make a serious commitment about the way they bring children up within the church family. The Church of England therefore assumed the best place for baptism is local to where you live. If you live outside one of our parishes, we can arrange baptism here, but will ask you to make contact with your local church before arranging a baptism with us.

Music

If the Baptism takes place in a main morning service, we can include hymn requests. When a baptism takes place as a separate service, music is not normally provided, but can be arranged. Please ask us. An organist is normally payable.

Fees for Baptism service

There are no fees for a baptism service. However, we do take a collection, and are grateful for your support.

For the purposes of data protection law, the data controller is the PCC of All Saints, Biddenden and St. Michael, Smarden, who will use the information on this form to ensure that the legal requirements relating to the baptism for the baptism are complied with and to make arrangements for the ceremony.

The PCC will only share information with those who need to see it for those purposes. Your data is securely stored by the PCC on systems owned by the church.

After the baptism, we would like to keep you in touch with services and events. If you would prefer us **not** to contact you with information about future church activities, please tick this box.

For further details, please see our General Privacy Notice on the church website which gives details on how your data is handled and stored.