

The Bible

The Bible is an important way to get to know God, through Jesus. At St Thomas' church we give a Bible to the person who has been baptised, to help them on their journey of faith.

We invite you to choose a Bible verse for your child, which will be included into the service. This will be a special verse to tell your child about as they grow up. Some verses you might like are:

Numbers 6.24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Psalms 27.1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Ephesians 5.8b-9

Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

John 6.35

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.



Would you like your child to be Christened?

A graphic of two black footprints, one slightly behind the other, with a red heart shape in the center between them.

www.stthomasipswich.org.uk

Why have your child Christened?

Some popular reasons are:

- We want to say thank you for the gift of a child
- It is a tradition in our family
- We believe it's the proper thing to do
- Faith is important to us and we want to share that with our child
- Being baptised makes you part of something bigger
- We want God to bless our child

Did you know? Being christened means your child becomes part of God's family, the church.

You can also pray using your own words. If you're not sure how to do it, just talk to God the same way you would talk to a friend. God always listens when we pray. Or sometimes it is good to pray using traditional words, such as the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

During the service, you will be asked to promise to pray for your child. What sort of things do you hope and dream for them?

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of the service. Did you know? Prayer is simply talking to God. Although most people think of prayer as being done in church, sitting quietly with closed eyes and bowed head, you can pray anytime, anywhere!

- *As well as praying for your child, it is wonderful to pray with your child. Even very young children can enjoy regular bedtime prayers.*

God in heaven hear my prayer
Keep me in your loving care.
Be my guide in all I do,
Bless all those who love me too.

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you God for everything.

May the light of a thousand stars shine upon you,
May the love of many angels now surround you.
May the sorrows of today be far behind you.
May the deepest, sweetest sleep always find you.

What's next?

Getting your child christened is free!

If you would like to have your child christened at St Thomas' Church, simply get in touch to arrange to see the vicar. We will offer a couple of meetings to explain the meaning of baptism and the Christian faith, and to set a date for the christening.

Contact details:

Reverend Jutta Brueck

Mobile: 07958 360564

Email: jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org

Or

Reverend Cat Connolly

Mobile: 07530 412988

Email: revcatconnolly@gmail.com

How does it work?

At St Thomas' church, a christening usually takes place during a normal Sunday morning service, so that the whole church can support and welcome you and your child.

- **What about Godparents?** A godparent is someone to help your child in their journey of life and faith. It is good if at least some of the godparents have also been baptised, as then they and your child are on the journey of faith together.

As part of the service, parents, godparents, family, friends, and the congregation, will all make promises to support, teach, and pray for your child.



Did you know?

'Christening' and 'baptism' are the same thing?

During a *christening your child will be baptised, just like during a wedding people are married.*

Christening, or baptism, is the beginning of the journey of faith as a Christian. It is a special moment in your child's life. The service includes lots of special symbols - water, the cross, a candle, and holy oil. These all focus on new life, belonging to God, and what it is to be a Christian.



During the service, the sign of the cross will be made on your child's forehead. This shows that your child is beloved by God, and belongs to God.

The water being poured over your child is a sign of being born as a Christian, a sign of a new life of faith.

Did you know? Jesus was baptised too, as an adult, in the River Jordan.

A christening is not a naming ceremony, but your child's full name will be used, because names are important. It is a powerful way of saying that he or she belongs to God, as well as to you.