



MARESFIELD AND NUTLEY CHURCHES

SEEKING TO KNOW, LOVE AND FOLLOW JESUS

Thanksgiving and Baptism Welcome Form

We are so pleased you enquired about celebrating the birth of your child and praying for their future with us.

At Maresfield and Nutley churches, we offer two options for welcoming and celebrating a child's life, which are Thanksgiving and Baptism.

Thanksgiving

A thanksgiving service is exactly that. It is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God for the life of our children and pray for the whole family. Here are some of the words included in the service, including some words in bold that you say, too:

Do you receive these children as a gift from God?

We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

We do.

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God's blessing on N.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for his/her birth;
surround him/her with your blessing
that he/she may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all his/her days.

Why might I choose a thanksgiving service?

It might be that you currently don't feel able to say the baptism declarations, or would rather have a smaller thanksgiving that still involves your friends and family. A thanksgiving service is still special, and we would be glad to welcome you to our churches for this celebration. It doesn't exclude the possibility of a baptism at a later date.

Baptism

Baptism is about celebrating the birth of a child, but it's more than that. Baptism is a gift of God, by which we are reminded and encouraged about the promises he has made. It's also a moment between yourselves (as parents and Godparents) and God, where you declare to the church your own life of faith and repentance, following Jesus. It's also a moment to publicly declare your intention to encourage your children to follow Jesus themselves. Here are some of the promises you will say (you may wish to compare these to the thanksgiving service).

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Preparation

Our baptism preparation seeks to reflect the significance of baptism and the content of the baptism service. Our preparation involves:

Meeting together

Meeting with one of our clergy, who will be glad to meet you. You will meet on 2-3 occasions to explore and talk about the meaning of baptism, a life of repentance and faith and being part of the local church.

Attending church

As baptism is (in part) about welcoming children into the family of the church, we ask that you attend church with us for two months (coming at least twice a month), before we put a date in the diary. This is an opportunity for you to get to know your local church family (if you don't already attend) and experience our worship together.

After the preparation is finished, we can spend some discussing the next step and whether a Thanksgiving or Baptism service is the right thing for you and your children at that moment in time.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. On the next page is a form for you to complete with all the necessary information for preparing for baptism. Please could you complete the form and return to our Vicar, Ben at vicar.maresfieldandnutley@protonmail.com



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Thanksgiving/Baptism Information Form

Child 1's full name	
Child 1's date of birth	
Child's 2's full name	
Child's 2's date of birth	
Child's 3's full name	
Child's 3's date of birth	
Father's full name	
Father's occupation	
<i>Has the father been baptised?</i>	<i>Has the father been confirmed?</i>
Mother's full name	
Mother's occupation	
<i>Has the mother been baptised?</i>	<i>Has the mother been confirmed?</i>
Email:	
Address	
Telephone numbers	<i>Home</i> <i>Mobile</i>
Name and signature	<i>Date</i>

