



Covid-19 Protocol: Occasional Offices - Baptisms

Baptisms are a joyful celebration when a child or adult formally enters the Christian faith and the St Peter's Family. Whilst baptisms can now go ahead inside a church building, government guidance on physical distancing, and public health hygiene must be adhered to, and the protection of those particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 must be paramount. The following guidelines have been put in place to ensure the safety and well being of all. By booking a baptism you are agreeing that you and your guests will act accordingly. Within these guidelines the clergy and leadership team at St Peter's will still do its utmost to ensure as memorable an occasion as possible.

Before the service:

- **Baptism Preparation:** At least a week in advance, a baptism preparation meeting will be held via Zoom with the parents of the candidate, the Godparents, and the Rector. It is important that all make every effort to join this meeting. Please ensure you do not join households to do this, but instead all join from your respective homes.

Invitations:

Whilst we understand this is a celebration, please consider the following when deciding who to invite:

- Only a maximum of 30 people can attend including the candidate, parents and godparents (who must attend)
- If you know someone attending may be classed as vulnerable, please consider whether this is appropriate and advise your other guests to be mindful of this.
- Different households must keep at least a 2m distance at all times and should not share lifts to / from the church
- Ensure all those coming are aware of the restrictions upon them
- A list of those attending must be given to the Rector (Track & Trace scheme)

On the day:

- People will be able to enter the church 15mins beforehand; please do not gather outside
- As people arrive, they must go into the church and follow the one way system to their seats
- Households will sit together on one pew in an available pew marked 'Family Pew'
- The church is an enclosed space so masks should be worn by everyone inside the church (with exemptions for children under 5 and medical exemptions)
- Orders of service will only be given to the parents & godparents. Please take these away with you.
- Photos can be taken throughout the service, but social distancing must be maintained
- Live streaming of the service can be arranged
- Only clergy, parents & the candidate for baptism will stand at the font. All others will be in the pews.
- Where the candidate is a baby / toddler the parents will hold the child for the actual baptism
- The clergy will adhere to public health guidelines when administering this sacrament
- Following the service you will be asked to leave the church promptly, still observing social distancing guidelines

**IF ANYONE BECOMES UNWELL IN THE 7 DAYS FOLLOWING THE SERVICE,
PLEASE TELL THE RECTOR.**

We understand that this may not quite be the set up you had hoped for, but whatever the restrictions, the celebration of the sacrament will still be a special occasion, and the beginning of your child's new life in Christ. The community at St Peter's Church will always be here to support you, so please keep in touch.