



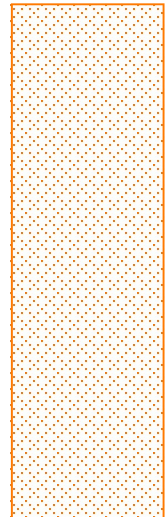
The Benefice of Tetbury, Beverston,
Long Newton & Shipton Moyne

Confirmation Preparation 2023

Have you thought about being confirmed?

In the new year (2024) we are inviting one of our bishops to lead a service of confirmation (including baptism).

If you would like to explore what this means as the next step in your faith journey, please read on...



Please contact Rev Dr Steve Bullock for more information:

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online please visit:

<http://www.churchofengland.org>

and search “confirmation”

What is confirmation?

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm your faith and your intention to live as a disciple of Christ. For adults who were baptised as children, it is the time when they affirm for themselves the promises made on their behalf by their parents. For others, it is a time when they are both baptised and affirm their faith. For all, this affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.

Why be confirmed?

In confirmation, we affirm our commitment to a journey of faith in Christ. We are acknowledging that we all need to turn away from selfishness and evil and to accept God's offer of a new start. We are thanking God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledging his love.

In confirming this faith we become a member of the local and worldwide Christian family. For many who do not already receive, this means receiving Holy Communion for the first time, participating fully in the life of the Church. In turn the Church promises to support and pray for you.

What if I wasn't baptised as a child?

If you would like to make this commitment of faith, and are not already baptised, you are invited to be baptised before being confirmed.

What happens during the confirmation service?

At the heart of the service are the promises you make, and the laying on of hands by the bishop. The bishop will speak to every candidate saying: "God has called you by name and made you his own." He then lays his hand on the head of each saying: "Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit." And the bishop will make the sign of the cross on your forehead with oil. This is a sign of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, and a sign that we are united with Christ.

There will be a rehearsal before the confirmation service so you feel prepared.

Supporting you in taking this step

You will have the support and prayers of everyone in our Benefice as you take this step. **You can also ask someone to be your sponsor.**

At Baptism, Godparents stand alongside the parents, making the promises on behalf of the child being baptized. At confirmation you can choose someone to be your sponsor, to stand with you as a symbol of their journeying with you in faith. Usually this is someone who has previously been confirmed: perhaps someone from the confirmation preparation group, a good friend, a relative, or a Godparent.

Am I ready to take this step?

Rest assured, even the greatest of saints feels unworthy! We feel we don't understand enough, or believe enough, or truly live out our faith. We can only ask for God's grace to be the very best we can be, and for forgiveness when we fail. To be confirmed, we don't need to be perfect. We just need to be sincere in our commitment to following Christ.

What happens during confirmation preparation?

To prepare for confirmation, we will meet regularly as a group. Our aim is to encourage each other in our growth in faith through teaching, discussion, prayer and reflection. Whatever stage you are at in your journey, we will explore together the building blocks of our belief and faith, and what it means to be a Christian.

When will the confirmation group meet?

We have the following dates planned:

27th Sept, 4th Oct, 18th Oct, 25th Oct, 8th Nov, 15th Nov

We will meet between 7-9pm on these Wednesday evenings at the staff meeting room in TESCO Tetbury. Please turn up and sign in at customer services and you will be shown to the room. If you cannot make these dates, let us know as there maybe another option available.

Where and when will I be confirmed?

This is still being planned but it is hoped a special service will take place in the new year of 2024

