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17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents and children in Years 4, 5 and 6 (and older)

Confirmation on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 4pm in St Mary's Church Beaminster with the Bishop of Sherborne**. Would your child like to be confirmed?

We would like to offer the opportunity for your child to explore their faith and perhaps consider confirmation. The tradition within the Church of England is that children are often baptized or christened as babies. Confirmation is an opportunity for them to make their own choice. They "confirm" the promises made on their behalf and decide for themselves to want to be a Christian and follow Jesus. Confirmation is a public declaration of faith. It involves making promises to God and committing to a life of prayer, bible reading and worshipping God. It is also a wonderful and joyful way of celebrating faith in God.

We feel that children aged 9+ are mature enough to make this commitment for themselves. Many of the children at our church schools attend worship at family services or Messy Church and participate in collective worship at school. Many of them are clearly thinking deeply about faith and what it means to them. Being confirmed gives your child a chance to explore faith more deeply and make decisions for themselves.

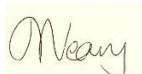
There will be a series of preparation sessions to help your child prepare for confirmation and explore their faith. These will be held on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer, 4-5pm on Sundays in St Mary's Church Beaminster. The sessions begin on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July and will continue through to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. There will be no session on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August. We recognise that the summer holidays will inevitably mean sessions missed, but we encourage young people to attend as many as they can.

**Session dates: 27 July, 3,10,17,24 August, 7,14 September. 4-5pm St Mary's Church Beaminster.**

Signing up for preparation does not commit you or your child to anything, they may decide after preparation that confirmation is not for them. However, if your child is interested do encourage them to sign up and explore it for themselves before making a final decision. If your child is not baptized yet but would like to be then that can be combined with confirmation. We are also happy to include older siblings or other family members if they would like to be confirmed. Just let us know how we can help.

If your child or any other members of your family would like to be confirmed or baptized, please contact me directly by phone or email to book their place (details above). I would be pleased to answer any questions you or they have. If the dates don't suit, then please do let me know to try to arrange alternatives. Then join us on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm for the first session. Or come and find us at one of our Sunday services. Information about all our church services can be found on our website: [beaminsterteamchurches.org](http://beaminsterteamchurches.org)

With every blessing



Jo Neary Team Vicar, Beaminster Area Team