



## **BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION POLICY**

All are welcome to be baptised in Buckshaw Village Church.

We rejoice with parents as they decide to bring their children to be baptised. Our baptism policy for children is set out below.

All enquirers are directed to the church website for more information and asked to fill in the baptism enquiry form at the following link <https://www.bvchurch.co.uk/baptism-enquiry>:

Once an enquiry form has been received, families are invited to book onto two baptism preparation sessions – one on Zoom, the other on site, in person. It is expected that all families will have attended church at least four times before booking a baptism date. This is because we want families to meet and know the church family they are joining as they bring their child to be baptised. When families attend for the first time, they should make themselves known to a member of the clergy.

After the second preparation session, families are emailed a link to the baptism application form which includes the available dates for baptism and the option for them to choose their preferred date. This email will also contain confirmation of the baptism fee. Once the form is filled in and the families have attended church, we will then confirm the baptism. We will always strive to agree the preferred date, however this may not always be possible as baptism dates are booked on a first-come first-served basis. On occasion multiple children will be baptised at the same service. Baptisms can take place either in the Sunday service at 10:00am or at a separate service on a Sunday at 12.30pm.

For families living outside the parish, once the baptism booking form has been filled in families are asked to seek permission from their parish priest. You will be provided with a form for your parish priest to sign. More advice on how to do this is given by the Baptism Coordinator (as it varies from parish to parish).

### **Godparents**

All children need at least two Godparents. The norm is 3-5. All Godparents must be baptised and able to make the baptism promises in good conscience.

### **Thanksgiving**

During the second preparation when the promises are explained, the option of a thanksgiving service is also raised. If parents do not feel they can make the baptism promises in good conscience, they are encouraged to discuss the option of a thanksgiving service with a member of the clergy.

### **Adult baptism**

Baptism isn't just for children. Adults are also able to make public affirmations of faith for themselves, and an adult baptism is the perfect way to do that if you were not baptised as a child.

You are a child of God, and you are precious to him. God wants the very best for you, wants you to make right choices in life, for yourself and for others. Baptism is a way of

saying "thank you" to God for all He has done for you, and "I'm ready" to start living His way in His world.

Buckshaw Village Church will help and support you to learn more about your Christian faith in the build up to your baptism, and afterwards as you continue on your walk with Jesus.

If you are considering baptism, please get in contact with a member of the clergy.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised.

If you were baptised at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ.

At a confirmation service you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you.

If you are considering confirmation, please speak with a member of the clergy.

**This policy was adopted by the PCC on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022**