

Eccleston Team of Churches

Baptism Policy

What is Baptism?

Baptisms (also known as Christenings) are special services. When a person is baptised God declares them to be part of his family. When a child is baptised, parents and godparents make promises to pray and care for their child and to bring them to church so that they can learn to follow Jesus.

The church also makes promises to the child, promising to welcome them and help them on their journey with God throughout their life.



Every baptism service is unique, just like you are. However, every baptism will include a Bible reading, some prayers, and promises. Sometimes a service will include music or poems.

There is a special moment when the sign of the cross is made on your child's forehead with holy oil. The baptism itself, is the moment when water is poured on their head to symbolise the washing away of an old life, and the start of a brand new life with God.

What happens in a baptism service?

Who can be baptised?

In the Eccleston Team of churches we regard baptism to be very important, and we are happy to baptise babies, children and adults, provided they have not already been baptised. Everyone is welcome to join God's family no matter how young or old they are. In the Church of England anyone can request a baptism in their local parish church.

Baptism only makes sense, however, if those being baptised then become regular members of a church family. This is because of the promises made by the congregation, parents and the godparents. (see to the right).

Keeping those promises requires not only a personal faith but also an ongoing commitment to church attendance.

Can my child be baptised if I've not been to church before?

We are delighted when our first contact with a family is through an enquiry about a baptism. We ask that both parents and children start attending one of our church services regularly, which will help prepare you, and also, help make clear what baptism involves. We normally request a person attends for 3 Sundays before making a booking. Service details are below.

Baptism Promises

Will you support this child as they begin their journey of faith?

Response: We will.

Will you help this child to live and grow within God's family?

Response: We will.

God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and Godparents, you speak for this child today. Will you pray for them and help them to follow Christ?

Response: We will

We all wander far from God and lose our way. Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home. In baptism we respond to his call. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

Response: I do

Do you reject evil?

Response: I do

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Response: I do

Do you trust in him as Lord?

Response: I do

Parental Consent

We are legally required to obtain permission from all of a child's parents before a baptism. This involves meeting the parents in person, and obtaining signatures. In situations where one parent is raising a child, we understand that it might sometimes be difficult or upsetting to obtain both parent's permission. If this is the case, please speak to the vicar who can advise.



Choosing Godparents

We encourage you to choose godparents for your child very carefully. Godparent must be baptised themselves. Many churches require that godparents have also been confirmed. We don't require confirmation, but we do expect that godparents are people who are committed to the Christian faith and attend their own church regularly. This is because godparents make promises to pray for your child, and to be a Christian role model to them. The best godparents may or may not be members of your immediate family. It is usual for a child to have 3 or 4 godparents (though they can have more). Parents too can act as godparents, but they cannot be the only godparents for a child.

What does it cost?

Baptisms are **free services** in the Church of England. There is no charge. However, there is an opportunity after the service for you and your guests to make a donation to the church if you wish. We are a charity and appreciate any donation, no matter how small or large.

How do I book a baptism?

1

The first step is to let us know you're interested.

You can do this by filling in our webform (scan the QR code below) or by emailing our administrator on: admin@ecclestonteam.org.

2

Feeling at home.

Then, as mentioned above we encourage you to start attending services so we can get to know you and vice versa. In our team of churches we hold services at the following times on Sunday mornings:

9.30am at St Luke's Church
Knowsley Road, WA10 4PU

11am at St James Church,
St Helens Road, L34 2QB

11am at St John's Church
Crossley Road, WA10 3ND

3

A visit from the vicar.

One of our clergy team will visit you at home. They will be able to discuss the date and time of the service, and they will also need to see your child's birth certificate and fill in some forms with you.

4

A practise run

A week or two before the day itself the vicar taking your service will arrange a quick rehearsal so you can feel happy and relaxed on the day.

May God bless your child as they begin their exciting, life long journey with God. Amen

