

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF BUCKSHAW VILLAGE



BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION POLICY

We are delighted that you are considering baptism either for your child or for yourself. We love to welcome families who want to baptise their children (also known as christening) and help parents and godparents to explore and grow in their Christian faith and remain faithful to the promises they make at baptism.

Infant baptism

Your child is precious to you and precious to God. You want the very best for them, and so does God. You want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others. An infant baptism is just the beginning of this and so much more.

Over the years to come, it's a journey you'll share together with your child by:

- **Being there for your child** to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- **Praying for your child** through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- **Showing them practically** how to make those good choices in life.
- **Helping them to learn more about their Christian faith**, through their church and in other ways.

How do I get my child baptised?

If you are considering baptism for your child, please first email us using the address: vicar-pa@buckshawvillagechurch.org.uk. We will send you an application form to complete so we know a little more about you and what you're looking for.

We will then:

- Arrange a mutually convenient meeting with our vicar James Gwyn-Thomas. This will be an informal meeting and give James a chance to introduce himself. You can discuss what is involved at an infant baptism service and some potential dates (if one hasn't already been decided). This will also be a chance to ask him any questions that you might have. You will also need to pass back your completed application form at this stage.
- Invite you both (as parents) to attend 1 x baptism preparation class prior to the baptism service. This would be a 2-hour session taking place over a Sunday lunch time. These preparation sessions would be run by either James Gwyn-Thomas or another member of the Church. There will be optional preparation session dates available, which can be confirmed during your initial meeting with James Gwyn-Thomas.
- Please join us (as a family) for three of our Sunday services between meeting James and the baptism service date. There would be no expectations of you on these Sundays, but we feel it is important to come and experience Buckshaw Village Church and see what we're all about.
- If required, arrange a final meeting with James Gwyn-Thomas to run through the service and any final questions you might have (but this isn't compulsory)

When are the infant baptism services?

- We aim to hold 6-8 services across the year; three to four services between January and June, and another three to four between August and November.
- All our baptism services are held on designated Sunday's throughout the year and form a special part of our 10.30am service.
- NB: It is commonplace to celebrate multiple infant baptisms on the same date - so please do be prepared to share your service date with another family.

What is the cost of having a baptism?

- Baptism is free at BVC, however we graciously ask each family to prayerfully consider an optional donation should they feel moved to do so.

Is there anything that may prevent my child from being baptised?

- To be baptised at BVC you need to either live in the parish of Buckshaw or be a member of BVC. If you are in any way unsure then please email vicar-pa@buckshawvillagechurch.org.uk
- Where parents are bringing a child to baptism, at least one parent must be baptised. If one parent is not baptised, they may like to consider baptism for themselves.
- You may like to consider a special service of Thanksgiving and Blessing for the birth of a child instead of baptism. This is a shorter service without the water or the promises of baptism and is done at the same service as the infant baptisms.

What about baptism and confirmation for adults?

- We love baptising adults as well as children at BVC. Again, in the first place please email vicar-pa@buckshawvillagechurch.org.uk or have a conversation with a member of the Buckshaw Village Church team and we'll provide you with an application form to fill in.
- Adult baptisms are usually by full immersion and occur once a year during one of our regular baptism services.
- There is a service of confirmation each year with other churches in the area. If you are an adult or a child in Year 6 or above and are considering getting confirmed, please have a conversation with a member of the Buckshaw Village Church team.
- Preparation for confirmation means attending three sessions on faith about Jesus, trust, and transformation.

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.

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.

This policy was adopted by the PCC on 03.05.2020