

Charity Number: 1134595

Jesus said, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." John 15.16

We seek to make Jesus known in our community, through our joyful, loving service and worship

Parish Baptism Policy

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10.10), and "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15.16)

St John Baptist Parish, Broughton welcomes, supports and encourages family life within the parish. Part of this is to welcome people of all ages into the life of faith and into the family of the Church through Baptism. We believe that Baptism is an essential step an individual's faith journey and we will do all we can within the parish to support and make this journey possible, fruitful, life-giving and lasting.

As part of the candidate's journey the support of the family, friends and local community will be necessary for the person to come, eventually, to Confirmation and the Eucharist, establishing their own independent and ongoing journey of faith in Jesus. Our Diocesan Vision 2026 emphasises the need to be witness and disciples of Jesus, and highlights the need for baptism preparation and growth of disciples. This is supported by Canon Law (Canon B22.4), which recognises the need for support and preparation in the parish prior to baptism. St John Baptist PCC recognises the need for provision of a robust baptism policy, and within it to offer support for all concerned throughout the process so that informed decisions can be made that will be appropriate for candidate's needs, and those who are supporting the candidate.

Therefore the PCC has adopted the following Parish Baptismal Policy:

Baptism is available if one or more of the following connections can be established by the parents of the child:

- One or both parents live in the ecclesiastical parish of Broughton St John Baptist
- One or both parents have at any time lived in Broughton Parish for a period of at least 6 months
- One or both parents were baptised in Broughton Parish
- One or both parents were prepared for Confirmation in Broughton Parish

- Parents were married in Broughton parish
- One or both parents have at any time regularly gone to normal church services in Broughton Parish (St John's Church, St Peter's Chapel, St Martin's Chapel) for a period of at least 6 months
- One or both parents' parents and/or grandparents were baptised in Broughton Parish
- Families who live outside the parish and do not meet any of the above connections to the parish will be redirected to their local parish
- Should a family still wish to have the baptism at Broughton, they should first establish a link with Broughton parish by attending worship regularly in one of the parish worship centres at least once a month for a minimum period of six months. Once such a connection is established, the baptism enquiry procedures may follow
- Enquiries for Baptism in Broughton Parish should be made via the Parish Office, after which a Baptism Enquiry Pack will be sent out to the family.
- Once the Enquiry Form has been completed in full by the family and returned to the Parish Office, parents, together with godparents and any other supporters, will be asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Session in church (in line with our Diocesan Vision 2026 and Canon B22.4). Preparation Sessions will take place on the second Thursday of the month from 6.45pm-7.45pm. Families should arrange to attend a session via the Parish Office.
- Only after the Baptism Preparation Session has been attended will discussions begin with the parents regarding dates for the baptism service.
- The Baptism Preparation Sessions will be delivered by the Parish Baptism Team, which is made up of clergy and lay people. Every effort will be made to engage with enquiring families to ensure they are made fully aware of the faith promises, commitments, responsibilities and consequences that they are asking to make on behalf of their children; that their needs are being met; and to assess, if any ongoing support might be needed.
- Holding the Baptism Preparation Session in church will allow families to meet with other families, form greater attachments to the church community, and make new friends. Meeting in church is also protective of the members of the parish baptism team, being mindful of parish health & safety and safeguarding procedures.
- Following the Preparation Session members of the Preparation Team will visit the families in their homes to discuss the next steps eg. Baptism or Thanksgiving, suitable dates etc. These visits by team members must be made in pairs, being mindful of parish health & safety and safeguarding procedures.
- Should baptism prove not be the right option for a family, a Service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child may be offered, together with appropriate ongoing support, that will allow the family to consider Baptism at a future date.
- Baptism will ordinarily, be celebrated on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month at 1pm in the Parish Church. Baptism and Thanksgiving Services will not take place during the season of Lent. Families should speak to the vicar if they would like the Baptism service to take place during Sunday Eucharist.
- Arrangements for a Service of Thanksgiving is made via the vicar.
- Regular follow-ups and invitations to parish services and events throughout the year will be sent out to families from the Parish Office.
- We make a commitment to make our worship as inclusive as possible, using the resources that are available in the parish. This includes exploring fresh expressions of worship eg. Messy Church, Little Fishes, that may be more appropriate to families who would appreciate a more gentle introduction to worship.

Reviewed and adopted by PCC on 14th May 2018

Signed on behalf of PCC by:

Shaun Baldwin

Rev'd Shaun Baldwin, Vicar & Chairman of PCC