



Baptisms at St John's Beeston

The following guidance was agreed at a Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 7th September 2023.

This church welcomes the baptism (aka 'Christening') of infants and children as well as adults and is committed to providing a place of welcome and hospitality in which those coming forward for baptism, together with parents and godparents, can explore and grow in the Christian faith and remain faithful to their baptismal promises. It seeks to be a safe and welcoming place for all.

We can baptise all infants who reside in the parish and fulfil criteria 1-3 (see below). Baptism of infants who don't reside in the parish shall be undertaken if the parents worship in this church, have a connection to this church, or after the goodwill of their home parish Priest has been sought.

(1) Families seeking baptism will be invited to attend a Sunday Service and then a meeting with the Vicar and Baptism Co-Ordinator where a date will be discussed. They will then be asked to complete a Baptism application form.

(2) Parents and, where possible, Godparents are encouraged to come along to services at the church as part of the baptism preparation process.

(3) Parents should normally select at least 3 Godparents, usually two of the same sex as the child and at least one of the opposite sex. Godparents should be baptised but the Church of England recognises that it can be difficult sometimes to find 3 baptised Godparents and so allows concessions. One such is that parents can also be Godparents. Another is that two Godparents is acceptable rather than 3 (<https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/for-parents/do-we-have-to-have-three-godparents/>). There may also be non-baptised 'sponsors' in addition to Godparents. The intention of this church is to do as much as possible to ensure that those seeking baptism are not obstructed.

Baptisms may take place either during the main 10am Sunday service, as part of a Messy Church session (usually on a Saturday afternoon) or by special arrangement with the Minister (normally on a Sunday afternoon at 12.00 noon).

Baptising Adults: The Church is aware that there are many adults who were not baptised as children. Often adults in this situation will feel like they have missed their chance for baptism. This church welcomes the baptism of adults, seeing this as a joyful and wonderful occasions. Baptisms may take place during the main Sunday morning worship or at another suitable time. Baptism preparation for adults is tailored to meet the needs of the individual.

Alternatives to Baptism: A Service of Thanksgiving and Blessing

The church recognises that many people feel they would like to give thanks for their child in Church in a very special way, to seek God’s blessings for their child and mark the occasion with a family celebration. For some people, however, baptism can feel like it is too big a commitment which they are not yet ready to make. In this case, parents may like to consider a special service of Thanksgiving and Blessing. This is a shorter service without the water or the promises of baptism. A service of Thanksgiving and Blessing can occur during the main 10am Sunday Service.

*“Go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
(Matthew 28:19)*



IncumbentFather Wayne Plimmer

Churchwarden

Date: