

Infant Baptism Policy



"To win people for Christ and to build them up in Christ."
www.stjameschorley.org Registered Charity No. 1130725

1. Welcome

Jesus taught his followers to make disciples of all nations and to baptise those who believed the message about Jesus and trusted in Him. From early days followers of Christ have also baptised their children trusting that the promises of God apply to our children and longing that they should grow up to trust in Jesus for themselves.

We welcome those who wish to have their children baptised at St. James. However, if you are not regular worshipping members of the church, or are not resident in the parish we ask that you approach the church in whose parish you live.

2. Our Policy

In accordance with the practice of the Church of England we also require parents to go through preparation before their children are baptised.

- In particular we require that if you are not already worshipping members of St. James then you attend public worship at the church at least twice a month for three months. We realise that for those who are not familiar with church this may be a bit daunting but we try to be welcoming at St. James and hope that our services are not dull or dusty. However, you should understand that we truly believe the Christian message and want our worship to be joyful, full of truth and honouring to God.
- We also require parents to attend a couple of preparation meetings led by one or two members from the Church. These may be held with other parents or on your own depending upon the circumstances.

Unless a child is dangerously ill Baptism always takes place during the main service in Church at 10.30am on a Sunday morning. The service lasts just over an hour and in addition to the baptism itself includes songs of worship, reading of the Bible, teaching from the Bible and prayers led from the front. You are very welcome to hang around for refreshments after the service and chat to people.

We don't permit photography of any sort during the service because it is an act of worship. However, you are very welcome to take photographs after the service.

Children being baptised require at least three godparents who will make promises on behalf of the child. At least two of the godparents must be of the same gender as the child. The father or mother, or both, may be godparents.

Godparents must have been baptised themselves and the details of when and where they were baptised should be included on the application form. Godparents are welcome to attend the preparation meetings if they wish.

Where possible baptisms are conducted on the third Sunday in the month.

3. Thanksgiving and Dedication

If for any reason you do not wish to have your child baptised we would be pleased if you would join us for a Sunday morning service when we can use a form of prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of a child and prayers of dedication.

4. We believe

The parents and godparents are required to make various promises and declarations during the baptism service. The words used in the service, together with some explanation can be viewed on our website (stjameschorley.org).

Adults and older children are also baptised at St. James. However, this will take place after they have clearly accepted that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour.

If you wish to know more about the Christian faith then you will find out much by attending our Sunday services. We also occasionally run a course called Christianity Explored which uses one of the four Gospels and a DVD to look at who Jesus truly is and what that means for you today.

St James Chorley
Parochial Church Council
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