

What is Baptism?

Baptism for babies and children takes place in a service often called a Christening. At Glossop Parish Church this is usually during a main Sunday service called the Parish Communion.

In this service parents thank God for his gift of life, make a decision to start their child on a journey of faith and godparents promise help and support. The Christian community will promise to support you and to pray for you and your child.

For your child, being baptized at a Christening marks the start of a lifelong journey of faith as part of the local and worldwide Christian family.

As the baby or child is not old enough to answer for his or herself you and the godparents will be asked during the service to make the following declarations in front of the church congregation.

Minister: Do you turn to Christ?

Parents and godparents: I turn to Christ.

Minister: Do you repent of your sins?

Parents and godparents: I repent of my sins.

Minister: Do you renounce evil?

Parents and godparents: I renounce evil.

Here are some interviews about baptism from the Church of England website
<http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism/interviews-about-baptism.aspx>

Baptism for adults and young people of secondary school age is possible but usually takes place as part of a service of confirmation and after a course of preparation. The Vicar will be happy to discuss with you what this means without any obligation.

Frequently Asked Questions about Baptism

Q| What's the difference between a baptism and a christening?

A| None, they are just different words for the same thing.

Q| Can we have a private service of baptism?

A| Typically baptisms take place in Glossop Parish Church's main service at 10.30 am. This is because baptism is a public declaration that your child has become welcomed into the church family. It is important that the church congregation is there to support you and welcome your child. On some occasions, if circumstances make this difficult, it may be possible to arrange a baptism service, at 12.30pm.

Q| What is the right age for baptism?

A| Baptism can happen at any age. What matters is that those concerned believe it is right to ask for baptism.

Teenagers and adults may also be baptised – speak to the priest about this. This is celebrated with confirmation by the Bishop. You can only be baptised once, but there are ways of renewing your commitment publicly as an adult – the priest will be able to advise.

Q| I'm not a regular churchgoer. Can I still have my child baptised?

A| Yes. The Church believes that God's love is available to all, regardless of their background and circumstances. We can talk you through the options: you may prefer to have a Thanksgiving service first and then consider baptism when you have had time to talk through what is being asked of you.

At Glossop Parish Church we encourage parents to attend church but do not make it a rule that they must. As your child is being welcomed into the church family it is important that you have got to know the church and feel at home there.

Q| What does it cost?

A| The Baptism service is free. There will be a collection during the service for the work of the church.

Godparents

Q| What is a godparent?

A| Godparents, or supportive friends, make the same promises on behalf of the child being baptised as parents. Godparents promise to pray and support the child and to help the parents to bring up the child in the Christian faith. It is an important and responsible role. Canon B23(2) specifies that godparents in the baptism service "shall be persons who will faithfully fulfil their responsibilities". This is usually taken to mean someone who is at least a teenager and who is baptised and confirmed.

Q| How many godparents should I have?

A| You should have at least three: usually, two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex. Parents can also be godparents.

Q| Who should I choose to be a godparent?

A| Godparents can be family members or friends. However, it is important that you choose people who will take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and who will pray for you and your child.

Q What happens after the baptism?

A Baptism marks a new start for your child as a member of the worldwide Christian community. In turn, the Church welcomes you and your child and promises to support you in bringing the child up in the faith. Children are encouraged to bring their family back each year for the anniversary of their baptism.

At Glossop Parish Church there is a crèche for babies and young children in the centre of the church during the service. There are also activities for KS1 children and upwards who withdraw for part of the service with responsible and trained adults.