

# The Benefice of Bacup and Stacksteads

comprising

Christ Church with St John the Evangelist, Bacup  
and  
Holy Trinity, Tunstead with St Saviour, Bacup



## Baptism Policy



October 2019

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.

## 1. Thinking about Baptism?

At Christ Church and Holy Trinity we welcome those who wish to bring their children for baptism; however we want you to be fully informed and aware that there are promises that you as parents along with your chosen god-parents will be making during the baptism service. These promises are a commitment to bring your children up in the Christian faith and to help them on their Christian journey which is something you have to play your part in as the likelihood is that the children are too young to make that decision for themselves.

On our part, we take those promises seriously and so before agreeing to baptize your children we want you to be certain that this is the right path to take and so we have an agreed Parish policy that is outlined below and which we expect anyone coming for baptism to respect and adhere to.

If for any reason you feel that baptism isn't right at this stage, or you wish to defer your decision to a later date, we can offer a service of Thanksgiving and Dedication. This an opportunity to come to Church during our normal Sunday morning service during which we use a form of prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of a child and prayers of dedication. Whilst similar in some ways, this isn't a service of baptism, but could be seen as a sort of steppingstone towards baptism. In baptism we are holding big promises, and at times we may not be comfortable with those promises in which case we would encourage you to take seriously a thanksgiving service.

## 2. Our Policy

In accordance with practice within the Church of England we request that parents undertake some preparation before their children are baptised.

This involves attending Church as a way of helping you in your decision as well as some simple teaching preparation in advance of the baptism service.

- If you do not live in the parish of either Christ Church or Holy Trinity we would in the first instance ask that you approach your local Parish Priest to get their consent to having your child baptised in a different parish to the one where you live; it would be helpful to make us aware of the reasons why you are considering a baptism service with us i.e. perhaps you used to worship at our Churches and have moved away from the area? etc.
- In particular we require that if you are not already regularly attending worship at Christ Church or Holy Trinity then you should attend public worship at the church at least twice a month for three months prior to the date you would like the baptism to take place.
- We realise that for those who are not familiar with church this may be a bit daunting but we try to be welcoming at Christ Church & Holy Trinity and hope that you will enjoy our services and discover the worship to be joyful, full of truth and honouring to God and more importantly that you will gradually feel part of our church family.
- We also require parents (and godparents where possible) to attend a couple of baptism 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.
- For adults wanting to be baptised, our suggestion is for you to choose a sponsor (adults generally don't have God parents) that has walked with you in your journey of faith. This can be a member of the Church family that has supported and will continue to support you in your journey of faith.

Unless a child is dangerously ill, baptism always takes place at Church either during the morning service or by special arrangement with the Clergy in the afternoon on Sundays The service lasts just around an hour and in addition to the baptism itself the service may also include songs of worship, a reading from the Bible, teaching from the Bible and prayers led from the front.

Godparents must have been baptised themselves and are welcome to attend the preparation meetings if they wish.

There are no limits to the number of godparents you can have, however we suggest three or four and perhaps more importantly that careful consideration is given to choosing people who you are confident will play their part in helping you to bring up your children in the Christian faith.

**Further information.**

If you wish to meet with us to discuss baptism in more detail then we would love to see at one of our morning services which take place as follows:

**Christ Church – at Central Church, Burnley Road, Bacup. OL13 8AB.**

10.30am – worship takes place each Sunday in the Hall

**Holy Trinity – Newchurch Road, Stacksteads. OL13 0BY.**

10.15am – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Parade service; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday All Age worship.

Whenever it's the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month we have a joint service at either Church.

The Clergy team are as follows:

Rev'd Dave Brae – Team Rector

Rev'd Derek Allen – Team Vicar

Rev'd Dan Cook – Curate

Rev'd Leila Allen – Curate

If you come to one of our services please make yourself known to one of us.

If you have any queries you can contact Rev Derek Allen on 01706 875960 or via e-mail at [Allennewline@aol.com](mailto:Allennewline@aol.com).

You may find the following link to the Church of England's website helpful too

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings>