

# Baptism Policy as agreed 20/07/2009

## Step 1

Enquiry at the Parish Surgery. Explanation of the Baptismal Policy. Parents given a pack. Booking for Service of Thanksgiving for children aged five and under..

## Step 2

Children up to the age of 5 are brought to a service of Thanksgiving during All-Age Worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

## Step 3

Attendance at services for minimum of six weeks. This applies to the parents and child of candidates aged 5 and over and adults. Believers baptism by immersion to be offered to adults who make a Christian commitment. Date of baptism not confirmed until after six weeks of attendance.

## Step 4

Preparation session for parents and at least one Godparent.

## Step 5

Baptism

## Exceptions

Exceptions will only be granted were one or both parents of the child are currently serving in HM Forces. Here some of the requirements, ie A Service of Thanksgiving for a child under 5 and attendance at a preparation session will still have to be met.

## Rationale

This policy affirms that all who come for the **Sacrament** of Baptism will be welcome, to this extent it is an “**Open Policy**”, but rejects the idea of **indiscriminate** Baptism. The requirements should not be seen as hurdles to overcome but as opportunities to learn more about the Christian faith, to meet and get to know Christians and to understand the Sacred promises, declarations and vows which are a requirement of Baptism.