



St Paul's Peel Parish Church, Little Hulton

Manchester Road West, Little Hulton

Dear Parent,

We are delighted to know that you are thinking of having your child baptised. We hope this pack will help you as you make your decision and plans.

Baptism is an important step for all who are involved – for you (and the godparents you may choose) as you promise to bring up your child as a Christian, and for the Church as a new member is welcomed into God's family, a member who needs the support and encouragement of fellow Christians. Baptism should not be undertaken lightly but only after serious thought and consideration.

So we ask you to join with us in taking time to prepare carefully for this event. We invite you to discover more about baptism, to get to know your local church and to meet some of the congregation there.

With this pack is an application form which needs to be completed, **with both parents signing**, and returned to the Surgery Clerk. We only accept one signature in exceptional circumstances.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Rev David Green, Vicar.

GUIDANCE NOTES

INTRODUCTION

The Procedures for Baptism at St Paul's Peel are governed by the Baptismal Policy of the church which comes into effect on the 1 January 2010, and which is reflected in the following information.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Under this policy, we ask parents of children under the age of five to bring by arrangement their child to a Service of Thanksgiving which will be held on the 4th Sunday of most months during the 10.45am All-Age Service. During this service your child will be given his/her name and the church family at St Paul's will pray for your child and yourselves. You will not be asked to make any commitments, declarations or vows on behalf of your child or yourselves, and Godparents are not required at this stage. **You may invite close family and friends to attend this service with you, but we ask that you do not invite a large number of people.** It maybe that you are happy just to attend a Service of Thanksgiving and do not wish to proceed to baptism. That is fine. However, if you wish to proceed to baptism, you need to continue reading further on.

ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SERVICES

After the Thanksgiving, we then ask you to make a commitment to attending the 10.45am service at St Paul's Peel for a minimum of six services in the following three months prior to the baptism.

PREPARATION SESSION

After your sixth attendance, you will be given a date to attend one of our monthly Baptism Preparation Sessions (usually held on a Thursday evening towards the end of each month apart from August and December) and a date for the Baptism. **Please do not book parties until you have been given a date for the baptism as we only have a limited number of baptism slots on any given baptism date.**

Baptisms will usually take place on the Third Sunday of each month (December excepted when there is no baptism service) at 1.00pm. We have a limit of four families at each baptism service.

OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

For children and young people aged five up to 16, a Service of Thanksgiving is not required, but you and your child are asked to regularly attend services at St Paul's for a minimum of six services in the three months prior to baptism and to attend the Preparation Session (Children over the age of 11 should also attend).

ADULTS

For adults requiring baptism to stand as Godparents, the same requirements as for older children apply in terms of attendance at services and the preparation session.

For Adults who wish to make a commitment to the Christian faith, we offer Believers Baptism either by baptism at the font or by full immersion. Enquiries regarding full immersion baptism should be made direct to the Vicar (0161 799 6300).

GODPARENTS

The normal number of Godparents is three. In exceptions **four** will be allowed but no more. Godparents should be over 16 and baptised and preferably confirmed. It is usual if it is a boy being baptised for there to be two male and one female Godparents and for a girl, two female and one male. Those who wish to stand as Godparents but are not baptised must agree to be baptised prior to their Godchild (see above re-adults). Preferably all but at least one Godparent should be present at the Preparation Evening.

For Adults being baptised there should be two sponsors, both of whom should be baptised and preferably confirmed.

These guidance notes form part of the Baptism Policy agreed by the Parochial Church Council of St Paul's Peel, on Monday 20 July 2009. This policy becomes operative for all Baptisms at St Paul's Peel after the 01 January 2010.

