

**St Paul's Peel Parish Church,  
Little Hulton**

(Part of the Walkden and Little Hulton Team Ministry)

**INTRODUCTION TO BAPTISM**

**What is Baptism?**



Please read this leaflet carefully  
before you make any family arrangements.

**Thank you for asking about having your child baptised. We are pleased that you have thought about this as it is right that you should acknowledge that your child is God's gift to you. So why have you decided to have your child baptised?**

Well, there are as many answers to this as there are children but the main reason ought to be that you yourself have a belief in God and that you want to bring up your child within the family of the Church.

During the Baptism Service you will be asked to make some declarations about what you believe and some promises about your intentions for the future. It is important that you think about these promises and whether or not you intend to try to live up to them before you bring your child to be baptised.

The parents and godparents will be asked the following questions:

*Do you turn to Christ?*

***I turn to Christ.***

*Do you repent of your sins?*

***I repent of my sins.***

*Do you renounce evil?*

***I renounce evil.***

These are very clear statements about your Christian commitment which you have to be sure about.

Baptism celebrates the fact that God loves your child and has a place for him or her in his Church. At the same time because the child is too young to answer for themselves, parents and godparents speak on their behalf.

These are not easy promises to make, nor should they be just empty words. You wouldn't dream of neglecting your child's

physical needs food, clothing, etc. - so neither should you neglect his or her spiritual needs. As your child grows he or she needs to be brought regularly to Church to be fed spiritually.

### **What if we don't feel we can answer these questions honestly – and with a real intention of keeping them?**

If you don't feel that you could answer honestly and with the intention of following them through, then you should think seriously about simply attending the “Service of Thanksgiving” as the occasion for your family celebration instead of baptism. This involves no commitment on your part, gives thanks to God for your child, asks for his blessing on you as a family, and you will be given a certificate and a copy of one of the gospels for your child. These services will be arranged to take place in our main Sunday service on the Fourth Sunday of the Month at 10.45am.

### **When does baptism take place?**

If you decide to proceed to Baptism at St Paul's Peel, the services usually take place on the Third Sunday of each month (except December) at 1.00pm.

### **Walkden and Little Hulton Team Ministry.**

If you live in Walkden or Little Hulton you are welcome to have your child baptised in any of the three churches that make up the team ministry. **The other two being: St John the Baptist, Hill Top, and St Paul's, Walkden Moor.** If you don't live within the parish boundaries of St Paul's Peel or don't have a special reason for requesting baptism at Peel, we would suggest that you should consider having your child baptised at the church that is nearest to you, as it is the focus of the Christian presence in the area where you live and where we would hope you will bring your child each Sunday to share worship with all of God's people. Baptisms at St John's can be arranged by attending a service at 10am on a Sunday and at St Paul's Walkden Moor by attending the Parish Surgery on Wednesday evening's between 7.00pm

and 8.00pm.

## **What about God-parents?**

You should normally have three – we suggest two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex - who will have to make exactly the same declarations and promises as the parents. It is important that you think carefully about who you ask to take on this very important role Just because someone was your bridesmaid or best man doesn't mean they will make good god-parents - they need to have some faith themselves. **PLEASE NOTE: God-parents MUST be baptised themselves and must be over 16 years of age.** (It is possible to baptise god-parents prior to the child's baptism so long as they understand the commitment they are making).

The meaning of Baptism will be explained to you by one of our staff members at a Baptism Preparation Evening and you will be taken through the service in detail so that you will know what to expect and what is expected of you. You will be expected to attend services during that time to give us all the opportunity to get to know one another better.

## **What do I do next?**

- 1) **If your child is aged five or under, bring your child to the “Thanksgiving Service” arranged. Attend the 10.45am service for a minimum of six services. Attend the Thursday Evening Baptism Preparation session which you will book with the Parish Surgery Clerk.** We expect both parents and if possible all the God-parents to be present.
- 2) **Do not make any arrangements for a party** until you have made a firm Baptism booking as we are often booked up for several months ahead.

**PLEASE NOTE** that photographs are NOT allowed during the service but the Clergy will be happy to be photographed with your child after the service.

