

Baptism & Dedication



So you're thinking about baptism? That is great news! Here at Buckingham Church, we love baptisms. Joining the church family is hugely important for the spiritual and personal growth of an adult or child.

Baptism means
'immersing,
dunking, or
washing in
water.'

What is baptism?

- Baptism is very important - Jesus told us to baptise those who believe in Him as Lord, God, and Saviour (Matthew 28.9). Being baptised is a way of showing the world that you belong to Jesus - it is a symbol much like how a wedding ring lets people know you are married - it would be quite offensive to many partners if their spouse didn't wear their wedding ring! In baptism, just like at a wedding, you take very serious, binding vows that should *never* be broken—because of this baptism carries great responsibility for all involved and should not be taken lightly
- Baptism is the symbol of entry into the family of the church.
- Baptism is a sign of what we call '*regeneration*' or being '*born again*.' If children receive baptism rightly (i.e. as they grow up they live out the promises you are making for them and come to believe in Jesus for

themselves) God uses baptism as a visible sign and seal to remind them, as he does for adults getting baptised, of the promise of forgiveness for sin (things we do that offend God) and the fact that they are adopted children of God whom He will never, ever, abandon but will love perfectly till the end.

- Baptism is much more than just a sign and symbol, it is a time of active and great prayer. In baptism there are many powerful and life changing prayers by which faith is strengthened for the future and the grace and love of God increased in the life of those being baptised.

What baptism is not:

- Something that means you or your child will go to heaven.
- An excuse for a party or family get together.
- Simply a way of celebrating the birth of a child.
- Something to do because your grandma tells you.
- Something to be taken lightly.
- Something to do if you don't intend on regularly coming back to church after the baptism.
- Meaningless.

If the reason for wanting your child baptised is any of these and you are not comfortable with what baptism really is, then you may wish to have a '*Dedication Service*' for your child.

If you would like to have your child christened/baptised or dedicated at BPC we would love to meet you.

Baptism (or to use a traditional word 'christening') is for those who understand the huge promises that parents and godparents are required to make or for those who are not yet old enough to make these promises for themselves.

Dedication is for those who do not feel able to make the baptismal promises but who want to thank God for the gift of their child and to have the Church pray for them. This is a popular alternative to baptism where parents are unsure of their faith.



For families that do not regularly attend the Church, we like you to meet one of the clergy after a service to discuss what is right for you and/or your child and then to attend an appropriate preparation session.

Please do speak to a minister if you have any questions

See bpchurch.uk/baptism for further details

Or contact baptism@bpchurch.uk

SUNDAYS

9am - Traditional Communion

11am - Family Service

6pm - Contemporary Service

WEEKDAYS

Wednesday 10am - Communion Service

Here at Buckingham Church we believe that *Connect Groups* are the building blocks of a healthy church. *Connect Groups* offer fellowship and prayer, encouragement and teaching. For more information on joining a *Connect Group* contact connect@bpchurch.uk