

What is Baptism?

As a Baptist Church we follow one of the key principles of the early church, that the believers believed, repented and were baptised. What this means is that following their acceptance of Jesus as their Lord, and their turning to new ways of living, the early Christians celebrated and proclaimed their new faith by means of baptism - they acknowledged publicly their faith and symbolised the washing away of sin by immersion in water.

At Clarence Park Baptist we have a baptistry set into the stage, and hold services as people approach us asking for baptism. At a baptism service the candidate(s) usually give a short testimony, explaining how they came to the decision to be baptised, and the whole service is set in the context of a celebration of faith.



Why do we baptise by full immersion?

"Baptizo" means "to immerse or dip under water" (i.e., the dyeing of a garment or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another).

Who can be baptised?

There are no set age limits on baptism, although those being baptised are expected to be old enough to have an understanding of the action they are taking. In practice, the youngest is usually early teens, and there is no upper age limit. The key requirement is to be ready to publicly declare your faith in Jesus as Lord and to publicly commit yourself to Him. People come to baptism by many routes - some are baptised in early teens shortly after making their own private commitment to the Lord. Others may have started their life of faith in different denominations, and come to baptism after many years. In all cases, it is an act of obedience to the Lord.

Thinking about Baptism?

If you are interested in being baptised, speak to our minister,

Rev Steve Christian

Or one of the church leaders. You will then be invited to join a short course looking closer at the meaning and reasons for baptism.

Children and Babies

As explained earlier in this leaflet, we do not baptise or 'christen' babies or small children. Parents, however, often want to commit themselves publicly to the christian upbringing of their children, and give thanks for the gift of their little ones.

More information can be found about Dedication services on another leaflet which is available in the church.

What about church membership?

Wherever possible we try to encourage those being baptised to consider applying for church membership at the same time. However, there are those who want to come for baptism and want to consider looking at church membership at another time. This is not a barrier to coming for baptism.

We are also aware that different people all come to consider baptism at different stages of their life journey so please speak to our minister if you would like to investigate this topic further.

If however you would like to consider baptism linked with church membership then you can find out more about church membership via another leaflet in our church or by speaking to our minister.

What do you need to do?

When you have had a chance to think further about baptism or if you would like some help in thinking about it further, please contact our Minister:

Rev Steve Christian

It is easiest to contact Steve via the manse on 01934 628659. If he is not available then please leave a message and he will get back to you as soon as possible.

Further information on other areas of church life are available in leaflets in the church or via the church web site:

www.cpbcc.co.uk

Or email the church

enquiries@cpbcc.co.uk

Believers Baptism at Clarence Park Baptist Church



A short guide
to help you consider
applying for baptism at
Clarence Park Baptist Church