

Wilmslow Parish Baptism Application Pack

We really are delighted that you are thinking of being baptised yourself or (more likely) bringing your child for baptism. For the purposes of this information pack, we are going to assume the baptism is of a child. We hope that you will find the information helpful, and we have laid it out in a question and answer format based on the usual questions we are asked.

Q What is the difference between christening and baptism?

A The two words, normally, refer to the exactly the same ceremony. The church prefers to use the word baptism as christening does not describe the ceremony well but there is no difference. For simplicity the word baptism will be used in this document.

Q What is baptism?

A Christian Baptism is a ceremony that goes back 2,000 years to the beginnings of Christianity, of rinsing with water, as a one-off event. In more recent church tradition, it involves the sprinkling of a child's head with water from the font - the ancient stone basin usually located near the entrance of the church. The parents and godparents, on behalf of the child, make promises that they will encourage the child in their own journey of faith.

As we baptise, we welcome your child into God's church and we pray for them as they begin what we hope will be a life of faith.

During the service all kinds of images and symbolism will tell the Christian story: -

- the cross which reminds us of Jesus' death for us will be traced on the child's forehead
- 'going under' the water reminds us of God's cleansing love and that one day we all die and yet be raised up in Jesus
- a lighted candle will be given reminding us that Christians are meant to be a light in all of the world's dark places.

"Baptism is about beginning and belonging"

Q How did the tradition of baptising babies start?

A In the early years of Christianity, when adults came to Christian faith, and so were baptised, they naturally wanted to share the ceremony with their children as well, as a seal of God's love; a sign of belonging to the wider Christian family. So the tradition of baptising newborn babies soon became established.

Q How do I book a baptism?

A We like to see our families before we book any dates in the diary, and the best way is either to drop into a Sunday service at your chosen church or give us a call. We will then invite you to a session of preparation (in person or online) and we will discuss possible dates and

other arrangements with you then. If there is a reason why you would like us to baptise your child as a matter of urgency, then do call and speak to us.

Q When do baptisms usually take place?

A Sometimes baptisms may be part of a normal Sunday service (at either 9.30am or 11.00am depending on which church you choose).

If you have lots of friends and family likely to attend the service who are not used to church, then we may be best considering an afternoon service which will be much shorter and just be tailored for you and your guests. These will usually be at 1pm on a Sunday.

Q Can the service take place in any church?

Parents may bring their child for baptism in their own parish church – the church which serves the place they live. Baptism is also possible in a parish church where there are other significant family links but, as a courtesy, the vicar of the home parish should be informed in advance.

Q How much does a baptism cost?

A Baptism in The Church of England is free as the service celebrates the free gift of God's love! However, in order to enable the church to meet its practical running costs we are always happy to receive donations but that's entirely up to you!

Q What about godparents?

There is a tradition of a having two godfathers and one godmother for a boy, and two godmothers and one godfather for a girl. It is just a tradition and we will not hold you to it.

Three is the normal number for godparents but we are happy to stretch that to four. The role of godparent is a spiritual role of promising to pray for the child, and take an interest in its spiritual development. Strictly speaking, the parents and godparents should

themselves have been baptised and preferably confirmed, but we understand this may not always be the case. Please speak to us if you are concerned about this.

Q Can an older child or adult be baptised?

A Absolutely! Yes! In this case the person being baptised makes the promises and recites the vows personally. We may also ask them to attend a short course of preparation, but we are always delighted to baptise older children and adults.

Q Can we choose some hymns and songs?

There is a section on the form for you to tell us some of your favourite hymns and songs and where possible we will try to include at least one of them.

Q Next Steps?

A Many families bring a child for baptism and that's it for the time being and that's OK. We are here every week and, hopefully, we are the kind of people it is worth sticking around for a while!

For around twelve months after your service, we might invite you to special services and events in the hope you find them helpful and interesting. At any time, you can unsubscribe from our communication. We will keep loving you and praying for you but we will not bother you!

Thanks for reading this far...now here is the form!

Wilmslow Parish Baptism Application Form

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Church Location <i>please indicate your chosen church</i> | St Anne's <input type="checkbox"/> St Bart's <input type="checkbox"/> | Preferred MM/YY Dates Agreed at Preparation Session | |
| Parent 1 (Mother) | | Parent 2 (Father) | |
| Full name | | Full name | |
| Occupation | | Occupation | |
| Email address | | Email address | |
| Mobile number | | Mobile number | |
| Address & Postcode | | | |
| Child's Full Name | | Date of birth | |
| Godparent 1 Full Name Baptised Y/N | | Godparent 2 Full Name Baptised Y/N | |
| Godparent 3 Full Name Baptised Y/N | | Godparent 4 Full Name Baptised Y/N | |

****Please note we can only register 4 Godparents**.**

PTO

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| Other Notes Hymns/Songs Siblings Pastoral Concerns Likely Preparation Session Dates | |
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APPLICATION & CONSENT FORM

(including General Data Protection Regulation)

I/we wish to have my/our child baptised and I am/we are happy to attend church in the run up to the service and to attend the arranged preparation dates.

Your privacy is important to us, and we want to communicate with you in a way that has your consent, and which is in line with UK law on data protection. As a result of a change in UK law, we now need your consent to how we contact you. By signing this form, you are confirming that you are consenting to Wilmslow Parish holding and processing your personal data purposes connected with the baptism services and other events you may be interested in.

Contained at the foot of every email we send from our system has an unsubscribe link. You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting us on 01625 520309 or email: **office@wilmslowparish.co.uk**. Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.

Signed (Parent 1) _____

Signed (Parent 2) _____

Date. _____

**PLEASE NOTE WE NEED HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURES SO PLEASE PRINT THIS FORM OFF, FILL IT IN AND SEND IT BACK TO US
ONLINE OR DROP IT INTO CHURCH ON A SUNDAY, THANK YOU**