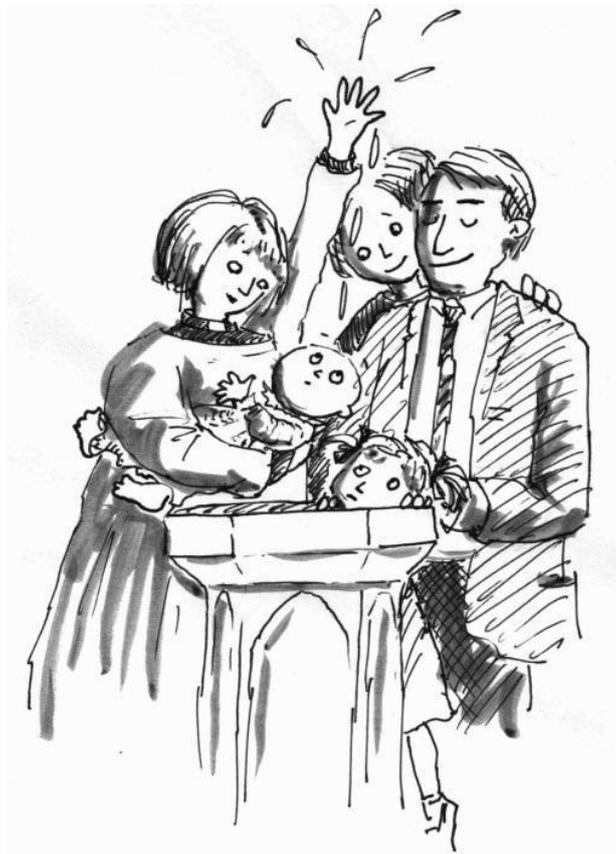




St Peter's Church

a heart for Harton

Thinking about Baptism for your child?



Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in baptism at St Peter's. This guide explains a little about what baptism is, who it is for, and how to apply. Baptism is a joyful but serious sacrament, and should be carefully considered.

What is Baptism?

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love.

In the beginning of Christianity – and in many places of the world still today – being 'marked for Christ' put people at risk of punishment by those who wanted to see Christianity stamped out. Being baptized made you stand out, as someone who lived differently, who had chosen to follow Jesus Christ in all areas of their life.

Today in baptism, parents and godparents stand before the church to declare their faith, the faith into which they promise to bring up their children. They give thanks for this great gift of a child, committing to teach a child about Jesus Christ, his saving grace and his instructions as to how to live honouring God. Family and friends who join in the celebration also promise support and prayer for the future.

We take baptism and the promises made by parents and godparents seriously, and we expect you to do so too. We promise to support you in helping your child grow in faith and participate in the Christian community, and we will stay in touch with you to help you.

The promises and declarations form as much of the ceremony of baptism as the moments when the minister marks the sign of the cross on the child's forehead, sprinkles them with water from the font and baptizes them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

If you really want to celebrate the birth of your child, but do not feel confident enough to make the baptism promises, please do ask the Vicar about Thanksgiving services and/or about our courses to learn more about the Christian faith.

What happens?

The service of Baptism contains rich symbolism of the Christian faith:

We are anointed with the sign of the **cross**, reminding us of Christ's death for us.



We are 'born again' in the **water** of baptism, dying to sin and being raised to new life in Christ.

As a sign of that new life, we receive a lighted **candle**, to remind us that the light of Christ always conquers the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

Those being baptized will be prayed for and you may then want to take photographs to remember this special day by. Usually the celebration continues after church with a party somewhere!

Who and how?

We gladly accept our responsibility to baptize children or adults who live in this parish. We will also baptize the children of any person whose name is on the church's electoral roll or who worship here regularly. We always encourage building relationships with your local parish church, but children or adults who live outside this parish may be baptized here at the Vicar's discretion.

In all cases, we will probably ask you to join us first in worship – we are a friendly church and visitors and children are very welcome in church and in Junior Church – and also to attend a preparation session to think about your hopes and dreams for your child, and the promises you will be making on their behalf. We will encourage you to bring your godparents to this session.

Godparents are really important people in a baptism. Choose wisely, up to a **maximum of 5 people** (usually there are three, two of the same gender as the child and one of the opposite) who will pray for your child and help them grow in faith and support them now and in the future. Godparents must be baptized themselves. (Parents need *not* be baptized, but how lovely it would be to baptize you and your child together?!). Please complete all the required details of your godparents on the application form and ensure they are baptized before returning it. On occasion, we may ask to see baptism certificates.

When?

Baptisms usually take place one Saturday each month (sometimes in 'wedding season' it is a Sunday afternoon). When you apply a minister will contact you to let you know when the next available date is (2017: Jan 14th am, Feb 4th pm, March 4th am, April 1st pm, May 6th am, June 3rd pm, July 1st am, Aug 5th am, Sept 2nd pm, Oct 7th am, Nov 4th am. These are all Saturdays). Due to the high number of baptisms and weddings, it is rarely possible to respond to particular requests for dates, but we will offer you the nearest we can manage.

You may be the only family in a service, often there are two families. The baptism service lasts around 40 minutes, and you can fit around 50-60 guests per family. We will suggest a maximum of 80 if you are the only family, but we would not be able to confirm being the only family until a week or two in advance.

On special request, we also baptize in the main worship service, which is usually the second or third Sunday of the month. This service is the family communion service, and is quite busy, so a more limited number of guests (12-20) will fit. This service lasts around an hour.

Application for Holy Baptism at St Cuthbert's/St Peter's

Date (month) requested for Baptism

Child's name

Date of birth

Father's Name

Occupation

Mother's Name

Occupation

Address

.....

Telephone

Email address

Completed application forms can be returned to church or directly to the Vicarage
3, Page Avenue, and you will be contacted with available dates as soon as possible.

Godparents:

Name

Baptized

.....	<input type="checkbox"/>

There is no fee for Baptism, but there is an opportunity to make an offering at the service, and any gifts will help to maintain the mission and work of the parish.

Please note that the use of cameras or videos is discouraged during services, but pictures may be taken when the service is over.

Baptism applications for children under 16 **must** be signed by both parents.

Signed.....

Signed.....

Date

Church use
<i>Date of application</i>
<i>Baptism</i> <i>at</i>
<i>Accepted</i>
<i>Preparation dates</i>