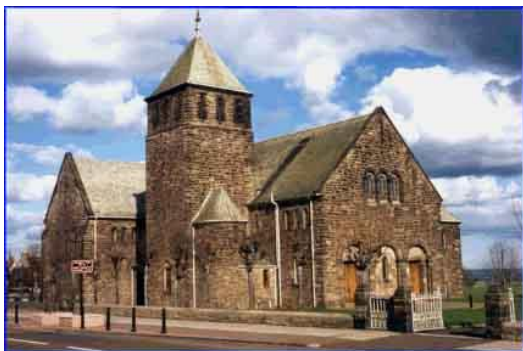


# Wellesley Parish Church



THINKING ABOUT  
BAPTISM FOR YOUR  
CHILD OR FOR  
YOURSELF?

A GUIDE TO THE VOWS  
AND WHAT IS  
INVOLVED

## What is Baptism?

Baptism is one of the two sacraments recognised by the Church of Scotland, the other being the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In the case of infant baptism, the Church asks that at least one parent or other close family member is a member of the Church or is willing to consider becoming a member. In the baptismal service those appropriate adults profess their own faith and promise to give the child a Christian upbringing. In the case of adult baptism, the person themselves makes the appropriate promises.



Baptism normally takes place during Sunday worship in front of the congregation. This emphasises the nature of the sacrament as becoming part of the body of Christ and the life of the Church. There is a little more flexibility in the case of genuine emergencies, normally in a hospital situation.

## What does it mean?

The vows that are taken when a child or adult are baptised mean that the child will be brought up in the Christian faith. For an adult it is also a confirmation of their faith, and this is usually undertaken just before vows of membership are taken for “joining the church”.

At Baptism water is poured onto the child’s head while the words “I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” are said. This confirms our belief in God as three persons, and follows the example of Jesus himself, who was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

Baptism is often regarded as a new start, a way forward for people who are new believers. It is often a very moving and emotional occasion, but one that will bring great joy too.

## Do we need Godparents?

You can have Godparents for your child, the number traditionally is one per child, but you can have as many as are appropriate for your situation.

The role of the Godparent in the Church of Scotland is to be a support and an encouragement to your child in all aspects of their life, but particularly in their Christian faith. They may, for example, encourage them to come to Young Church, or give them books with a Christian theme.

The most important aspect of being a Godparent is that they are a secure, steady support for the child throughout their life, and are someone that they can rely on for advice and practical help.



## What are the vows?

**You will be asked the following promises during the Service:**

Do you present your child to be baptised, earnestly desiring that he/she be joined to Christ as a member of his family, the church?

**I do.**

Do you confess your faith in God as your heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your guide and helper?

**I do.**

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to teach your child the truths and duties of the Christian faith, and by your own prayer and example, to bring him/her up in the life and worship of the church?

**I do.**

[Godparents], Do you promise to do everything you can to help to bring [name] up in the Christian faith?

**I do.**

## WANT TO DISCUSS THIS MORE?

Contact Gillian Paterson,  
Minister at Wellesley Parish  
who will be happy to discuss  
Baptism with you.

She can be contacted on:

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