

**The Parish of
St. Matthew and St. Luke, Chadderton**

Holy Baptism



We welcome all who are brought to the church in our parish for baptism as infants, or who seek this sacrament for themselves, as children or adults. Information and application forms are available at church after any service.

Baptism is normally administered on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1pm. However, we also encourage baptisms within the main service, on a date by arrangement, where this is pastorally desirable.

A **Service of Thanksgiving** for the birth of a child is available, if you wish to defer baptism until later years, or in addition to baptism (replacing the old Churching service). A similar service of thanksgiving after adoption can also be arranged.

Admission to Communion and Confirmation are the next steps in Christian initiation, and details about these can be obtained from the vicar. Parents who are not themselves confirmed may want to consider this, if so, please ask for more information when arrangements are made.

It is usual to have three **Godparents**, two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex, but one of each is sufficient, and you may have more if you wish. Please note that we can only enter four names on the register. Parents may be godparents to their own children, as long as there is at least one other godparent. All godparents must be baptized, and at least two should be confirmed. Please choose godparents with care. Give the attached letter to each of them, explaining what they are undertaking. (Older candidates may have sponsors, who fulfil a similar role).

Your completed **application form** should be returned to one of the clergy or baptism team. You will be given a sheet with the time and date of the baptism. If you wish to rearrange or cancel the baptism, please let us know as soon as possible. (Just for your information we have been asked to remind you that having your child baptized does not guarantee them a place at St. Matthew's School).

If you live **outside the parish**, you should normally ask for baptism at the parish where you live so that your local church will be able to offer you on-going support. If you feel there is a particular reason for having your child baptized here, please discuss this at the time of booking. The goodwill of your own parish priest should usually be sought in this instance. A final point: there is **no fee** for baptism – but if you would like to make an appropriate donation to enable the work of the church to continue, please use one of the giving envelopes, filling in your details, so that we can claim gift aid. Thank you.

Vicar: Rev Liz Devall

Holy 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. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents and godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provide an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is a sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit, this reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in the light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' John 10.10

Parents and Godparents promise to journey with those they bring for baptism in the following ways:

- † Through praying for and with the child.
- † By their example and teaching to encourage the child to lead a Christian life.
- † To encourage them in their prayers
- † To read and hear the stories of the faith.
- † By enabling them to take their place in the life of the Church and attend worship regularly.

At St. Matthew's and St. Luke's we promise to support all those who come to us for baptism. Details of service times can be found on the back page. Details of the various activities of the church can be found in the church magazine and at stmatthew-stlukechadderton.org.uk. Please let us know if there is any other way in which we can be of service to you.

Service Times

Sunday: 9.00am
Thursday 6:00pm

Holy Communion
Family Communion

Vicar
Rev Liz Devall

Baptism Co-Ordinator
Jane Wernick
07800 753591
janewernickchurch@hotmail.com

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A letter to Godparents

Congratulations on being asked to be a godparent! It is a real privilege to take on the responsibilities involved, not just for the material welfare of a growing child, but more importantly for his or her spiritual nurture. This is usually a task shared with the parents and with the church.

To help you decide whether you can honestly take on this commitment, here are the questions asked of you and the parents during service:

God knows each of us by name and we are his.

Parents and godparents, you speak for (name of child) today. Will you pray for them, and help them to follow Christ?

Response: We will

We all wander far from God and lose our way: Christ comes to find us and welcome us home. In baptism we respond to his call. Therefore. I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

Response: I do

Do you reject evil?

Response: I do

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Response: I do

Do you trust him as Lord?

Response: I do

It is unfair, to you, to the child and to the church to make such important promises if you cannot mean or fulfil them. But if you can, you will certainly find being a godparent brings many rewards. We will play our part in helping you be a good one.

Vicar: Rev Liz Devall

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Application for Baptism

Child's date of Birth			
Date of Baptism		Number attending (approx)	
Child's Christian name(s) & Surname			
Parent's Christian name(s) & Surname		Tick if - Baptized? - Confirmed?	
Parent's Occupation			
Parent's Christian name(s) & Surname		Tick if - Baptized? - Confirmed?	
Parent's Occupation			
Address <i>including postcode</i>			
Telephone		Email	
Names of Godparents (Mr/Mrs/Ms/title Christian name in full and Surname)			
1		Tick if - Baptized? and - Confirmed?	
2		Tick if - Baptized? and - Confirmed?	
3		Tick if - Baptized? and - Confirmed?	
4		Tick if - Baptized? and - Confirmed?	

Parent's signature..... Parent's Signature.....

We would love to stay in touch with you. If you tick the box, we will add you to our mailing list. You can unsubscribe at any time, either by clicking on the unsubscribe link at the bottom of our emails, or by contacting the Church Office 0161 652 4006). St. Matthew and St. Luke PCC is a Registered Charity, No 1143492. Any personal information will only be used by St. Matthew & St. Luke PCC and its officers, and will never be passed on to a 3rd party. Our privacy notice is available on the church website and the notice board in church

Please tick

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