



**St Mary's - Ecclesfield**  
**Minster of the Moors - 1500 years**

**Vicar: The Revd. Daniel Harley**  
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## **PARISH BAPTISM POLICY**

**In baptism**, we thank God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledge his love. In the Church of England it is common to baptise young children; this is sometimes known, outside the church, as christening.

Baptism is a 'sacrament' (holy ritual to symbolise grace) in the Christian tradition that is traced back to Jesus himself being baptised in the river Jordan.

**We welcome** all from this parish for baptism, including those who regularly attend worship here but live in another parish in the wider area. Those outside the parish and without a direct link with the church should approach their local church for baptism there. If you do not know which parish you live in then please follow the link below and enter your postcode when directed.

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

Below is a summary list of those we welcome for baptism.

1. Anybody, child or adult, who lives in this parish
2. Anybody on the electoral roll of this parish (**see note 1 below**)
3. Anybody who as a qualifying connection with this parish (**see notes 2 and 3 below**)
4. A child with at least one parent who has a qualifying connection with this parish (**see notes 2 and 3 below**)

Because baptism indicates a desire to bring children up in the Christian faith, it is important that there is a connection with the church community where that faith is formed and nurtured. This is because baptism is not supposed to be an isolated event, but part of a journey of faith in which worshipping in the church will be an important ingredient now and in the future.

## Notes

1. If you live outside of the Parish of Ecclesfield and wish to become involved in the worshipping life of our Church then please contact the Vicar of Ecclesfield, the Revd. Daniel Hartley, by telephone on 0114 257 0002 or by email at [vicar.ecclesfield@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.ecclesfield@gmail.com). After six months of worshipping with us at St. Mary's you may register to be placed on the Electoral Roll.
2. For the purposes of baptism, a qualifying connection is defined as
  - One of the parents of the candidate was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish;
  - The candidate or one of the parents of the candidate has ever lived in the parish for six months or more;
  - The candidate or one of the parents of the candidate has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more;
  - The candidate or one of the parents of the candidate were married in the parish.
3. It is currently the practice for many of the weddings of St John's, Chapeltown to be conducted in Ecclesfield. Those who were married in such circumstances, *unless they meet one of the other criteria in the list*, are **not** eligible to have their children baptised at St Mary's, Ecclesfield and should contact the Vicar of Chapeltown on 0114 257 0966 to discuss arrangements.