

The United Benefice of Old Brampton and Great Barlow

Baptism Policy

At baptism a person becomes a member of the family of God and, in recognition of that membership, joins the worshipping communities of these churches. For this reason baptisms ideally take place at a church's main service, unless there are overriding pastoral reasons, as judged by the Incumbent, for them to take place at another time.

In the first instance, contact the Rector (01246 558112; peter.green_99@tiscali.co.uk) and arrange to meet him.

Child and infant baptism

- Parish residents have the right to be baptized in the parish church, notice of at least a week normally being necessary.
- Those who live outside the benefice have no right of baptism in one of the churches of the benefice. However, they may be baptized in a church of this benefice if the Incumbent is satisfied that there is adequate connection (eg parents or grandparents are regular worshippers or on electoral roll). Parents who live outside the parishes should inform the Anglican Minister of their parish of residence of the intention for baptism to be administered at Old Brampton or Barlow.
- Parents are requested to undertake preparation before the baptism of their child(ren). This will usually involve at least two meetings at which the content and nature of the Baptism Service is discussed. This may be dispensed with for good reason at the discretion of the Incumbent.
- Parents are encouraged to become regular members of the worshipping community.
- If parents are unwilling to undertake preparation, they may be offered the alternative of a *Service of Dedication* which requires neither preparation nor any level of Christian commitment.
- Godparents:
 - Each child should have at least one godmother and at least one godfather. A third godparent of the same sex as the child is usual.
 - Parents may be godparents for their own children so long as there is at least one other godparent.
 - Godparents must fulfil their responsibilities both by their care for the child(ren) committed to their charge and by the example of their own living.
 - Godparents must have been baptized.

Adult baptism

- Parish residents have the right to be baptized in the parish church, notice of at least a week normally being necessary.
- Those who live outside the benefice have no right of baptism in one of the churches of the benefice. However, they may be baptized in a church of this benefice if the Incumbent is satisfied that there is adequate connexion (eg parents or grandparents are regular worshippers or on electoral roll). Applicants who live outside the benefice should inform the Anglican Minister of their parish of residence of the intention for baptism to be administered at Old Brampton or Barlow.
- Adult baptisms usually take place at the same time as confirmation. In certain circumstances they may be held at other times, but only for those who are desirous of confirmation and who give a commitment to seek confirmation as soon as possible.
- Candidates for adult baptism are expected to have a basic understanding of the Christian faith and a genuine desire to become more so.
- Sponsors:
 - An adult for baptism should choose at least two sponsors, who shall present him or her at the font and afterwards remind him or her of the Christian faith and duties.
 - Sponsors must have been baptized and confirmed. In certain circumstances, the Incumbent may dispense with the requirement for confirmation.

Peter Green, Vicar

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