

Baptism and Thanksgiving

St John's & St Luke's
Together, Bilton

Congratulations and Welcome!

The birth of a new baby is always an exciting event and a cause for celebration. Many people are overcome by a sense of awe at the creation of new life and want to express their thanks to God. At St John's and St Luke's we offer two service options that enable families to do this.

The Thanksgiving Service

In this service we invite you, parents, together with your families and friends, to express your thanks to God for the birth of your child. Your child is prayed for and the 'Sponsors' you have chosen play a part. You will be presented with a copy of one of the New Testament Gospels and encouraged to read it together as a family. We welcome and encourage you to come to worship God as you prepare for the Thanksgiving service.

The Baptism Service

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God that continues for the rest of our lives. It is the first step in response to God's love. In addition to expressing thanks for the birth of your child, you, as parents, together with the Godparents, **(who must have been previously baptised themselves)** will be asked to declare your own commitment to Jesus Christ, and your intention to bring up your child "*within the family of the Church*". You will, therefore, acknowledge publicly that you are on a journey in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

You will promise to express this relationship with your child so guiding and enabling them to accept Jesus as friend, Saviour and Lord for

themselves. The promises you will make are very significant and therefore the time taken leading up to the baptism will not be rushed.

Getting to know each other

We want to get to know you and it's important that you get to know the family of the church, the family you are promising to be part of with your child. This will, therefore, take time.

To help you make an informed decision as to which is the most appropriate service for you and your child, you will be invited to attend an Information Evening which will take place in the East End Room in St John's Church. The Information Evenings take place on a monthly basis. In a relaxed atmosphere you will watch a short DVD. You will have the opportunity to discuss the contents of the DVD with the team leading the evening and ask any questions that you may have about the Christian faith and Thanksgiving/Baptism services at St John's and St Luke's.

The services at St John's take place at either 12.15pm or 12.30pm on the second Sunday of the month. Services at St Luke's occur by arrangement with the clergy. The maximum number of baptisms/thanksgivings at any one service is three.

If you are unsure about the Christian faith and want to know more we invite you to attend an Alpha course to help address some of your questions.

If you chose the option of a Baptism service we expect you to attend Sunday morning services for us to get to know you and you to know the church family. A warm welcome awaits you.

So that the church can welcome parents and the baptised child into the church family, the final part of the baptism service i.e. the Welcome, will take place the Sunday following the Baptism service at the main service. It is at this time the baptism certificate will be issued.

The most suitable services to attend as you prepare for your child's baptism are:

St John's

On the first Sunday of the month:

9.30am Family/Parade service

Every other Sunday:

10.30am. There is a crèche and children's groups for all ages.

St Luke's

10.30 am each Sunday

9.30am-11.30am: Thursdays during term time 'Little Fishes' meet. This is a parent/carer and toddler group.

3.30pm-4.45pm: Themes + Fun Thursdays during term time -All age service.

The member of the clergy team who is to take your service of Thanksgiving/Baptism will, prior to the service, visit you in your home.

Thank you for approaching St John's and St Luke's. Should you need any further information please contact:

The church office: 11-12am Monday, 9am-12.30pm Tues-Friday

Tel: 01423 565129

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Simon Dowson (Team Rector): 01423 525349