



Baptism at Saffron Walden Community Church

This leaflet outlines this church's attitude to Baptism and provides some guidance as to who it is for.

The church's statement of faith includes the following statement – *"We believe in: Communion and baptising believers as two acts of prime importance in the Church because they were expressly commanded by Jesus."*

- We carry out baptism by immersion for people who are believers in Jesus, as was the practice of the early church up to the time of Constantine.
- A person is baptised on the basis of their profession of faith in Jesus Christ. It is a public witness to a personal faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- Baptism speaks of us having been made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.
- In Baptism we use the Trinitarian formula; we baptise in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons who together are one God.
- Baptism is a symbol, of "dying" to our old way of life and "rising" as a new creation in Jesus, but it is not just a symbol. If we engage with it sincerely, it is an act of obedience and faith through which we encounter God and receive more of his grace and power in our lives.
- Baptism also signifies inclusion in the church family / community.



Who is Baptism for?

- Baptism is for a Christian believer, a person who has already come to faith in Christ. Baptism does not make you a Christian.
- It is not easy to set a minimum age, but a person does need to be old enough to profess sincerely their faith in Christ and to understand what they are entering into|– A lifelong commitment to Christ.

As a guide it would be exceptional for us to agree to baptise someone of primary school age.

- The decision to baptise someone requires agreement from
 - The person being baptised
 - If under the age of 18, their parent / guardian
 - The person conducting the baptism on behalf of the church.
- Although we believe baptism is important, it is not a condition of church membership or of receiving communion.