

## Baptisms Risk Assessment

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**Site:** Queen Mary Centre

**Date:** Sept 2025

**Review Date:** Dec 2026

Significant Hazards	Who Might be Harmed and How	Existing Control Measures	Further Control Measures
<b>Assembly / disassembly</b>	<p>Those assembling / disassembling the baptismal pool may be injured during the process e.g. bruises, finger trapping, dropping elements on feet etc.</p> <p>Those around the area where the assembly / disassembly is taking place may trip over the parts or the hose as the water is filling / emptying.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There must be at least 2 people to assemble and disassemble the baptismal pool.</li> <li>Children helping must be closely monitored by an adult.</li> <li>Where possible assembly should take place when there are no others in the building. If this is not possible, warning signs or cones should be used around the hose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whilst disassembly takes place a volunteer should be asked to stand by and monitor the area around the baptismal pool and the hose to give warning to anyone who gets close and keep an eye out for any leaks.</li> </ul>
<b>Electricity</b>	<p>Anyone using electrical cables could experience electrocution.</p> <p>Water spillages may come into contact with electrical cables and cause damage or even electrocute anyone nearby.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See General Risk Assessment.</li> <li>The baptismal pool should be positioned as far as possible from electrical cables.</li> <li>Any leaks or spillages should be addressed immediately. Clearing them before they reach any wiring.</li> <li>The water heater should always be used in accordance with the instructions given and any extension cables required should be at the furthest possible distance.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fire</b>	Anyone in the building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See General Risk Assessment.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Manual Handling</b></p>	<p>Anyone assisting in the constructing and deconstructing of the baptismal pool.</p> <p>Those conducting the baptism may slip or fall in the pool or may strain their back or musculoskeletal disorders (such as strains, sprains, and hernias), limb and joint damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See General Risk Assessment.</li> <li>• There must be at least 2 people to assemble and disassemble the baptismal pool.</li> <li>• There must be 2 individuals conducting the baptism unless the individual being baptised goes under and out of the water unaided.</li> <li>• Those with prior injuries or MSDs (Musculoskeletal disorders) or at high risk of such should not conduct the baptism.</li> <li>• Those conducting the baptism should have their feet apart in an appropriate stance (training can be given if required), should bend at the knee and not twist their back.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Water</b></p>	<p>The baptismal pool or hose could leak causing damage to objects surrounding it or to the building.</p> <p>Those in the pool could drown.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The baptismal pool should be monitored regularly whilst it is being filled and should be drained immediately if a leak is observed.</li> <li>• The baptismal pool should not be filled beyond waist height of an average adult.</li> <li>• Individuals may only enter the pool when there are others present in the room.</li> <li>• Children may not enter the pool without an adult being in the pool alongside them.</li> <li>• No one should enter the pool if they are experiencing dizziness or other symptoms of ill health.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Slips/Trips</b></p>	<p>Anyone in or near the baptismal pool could experience a slip or trip.</p> <p>Individuals are more likely to slip if the floor is wet.</p> <p>Individuals may trip over the hose when the pool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See General Risk Assessment.</li> <li>• The plastic used in the baptismal pool is designed to not be slippery when submerged.</li> <li>• Steps should be used to enter and exit the baptismal pool. Assistance should be given where necessary and someone should always be close at hand when people enter and exit the pool.</li> </ul>	

	is being filled and emptied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the individual being baptised leans back to undergo the baptism they should stand as close to the side they are facing as possible to give plenty of head space.</li> <li>• If anyone in the pool slips they should let go of any contact with the others and attempt to stand as quickly as possible. The others in the pool should assist where appropriate.</li> <li>• If anyone bumps their head or otherwise injures is injured they should immediately vacate the pool and seek the attention of the first aider.</li> <li>• Additional floor mats and towels should be used to increase grip on wet floors</li> <li>• The hose should be a bright colour so that it is easily visible. Cones or chairs or signs should be used to alert people to the presence of the hose. Those overseeing the hose should try to restrict those walking passed where possible.</li> </ul>	
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