

## Baptism Information & Guidance Sheet

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We are glad you are in contact with us, and want to find out about Baptism. Please read this leaflet carefully. If you want to talk anything over with us, do get in touch so that we can fix a convenient time.

### Coming to Church

Parents considering a Church Baptism for their children really need to come regularly on Sundays themselves. We know it's a big effort to get to Church especially if you haven't been used to coming recently. But you are very welcome here and there are plenty of others who haven't been coming long.

Attending Church is not just sitting out an hour or so in an old religious building! It is discovering and worshipping God, the God "who loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ – so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life". That is the best news human beings have ever had!

Don't hurry the baptism. There is no rush. Come to Church for at least a few Sundays before deciding about the baptism. The main Sunday Services are at 9.45am, 11.30am and 6.30pm. The 0.45am Service is probably best as we provide a crèche for babies and also groups for other children while parents attend the service.

### Deciding about Baptism

The Baptism Service says that children are too young to declare for themselves that they accept the Christian faith. So a child's baptism is carried out only on two main conditions. There are questions in the Service concerning your response to these two vital conditions.

1. Will you be a Church family while your child grows up? Attending regularly as parents and encouraging your child to be part of the Church too. It says in the Service – Children 'are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church'
2. Do you (Parents and Godparents) turn to Christ, believing and trusting in him? Three answers you are asked to give – "I turn to Christ" "I repent of my sins" "I renounce evil"

We have tried to spell these conditions out clearly in order to avoid a situation where parents and godparents suddenly find themselves having to say things they don't mean – at least at present. If you decide to go ahead with you child's baptism then it must be that you (and the godparents you choose) readily accept the conditions, and can make these statements honestly and gladly.

## **Arranging a Baptism Service**

Parents who eventually decide to enquire further about arrangements for Baptism can tell one of the clergy on the way out of Church on Sunday. We can then suggest a suitable date and give details of the preparation for parents.

All Baptisms take place in a main Sunday morning Service.

## **Or a Service of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

For parents who are not sure about Baptism for their child we will be very pleased to arrange a Thanksgiving Service in our Church. Maybe you want to wait until the child is old enough to make up their own mind about Baptism, or honestly feel that you cannot take on the conditions of Baptism, at least for the moment. Family, friends and relatives can come together for this Service when we can give thanks and pray for your child and for you as parents. Let us know if you are interested and want more details.

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