

# BAPTISM



Start of an amazing  
journey

## EXPLORING MORE ABOUT WHAT A CHRISTENING MEANS

### Is a Baptism different to a Christening?

There is no difference between a christening service and a baptism service.

Some churches will use the word 'baptism' and some the word 'christening'. The moment when your child has water poured or wiped on their head is the actual baptism and is at the heart of the service.

Babies are baptised during a christening service just as couples are 'married' during a 'wedding' service.

Your child is precious to you and precious to God. You want the very best for them, and so does God. You want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others.

A christening is just the beginning of this and so much more.

Over the years to come, it's a journey you'll share together with your child by:

- **Being there for your child** to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- **Praying for your child** through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- **Showing them practically** how to make those good choices in life.
- **Helping them to learn more about their Christian faith**, through their church and in other ways.

So it's a commitment to start as you mean to go on.

## THE SERVICE

### The Promises

The parents and godparents make some important promises for your children at baptism and everyone promises to support your child from this moment on.

*Priest: People of God, will you welcome this child and uphold them in their new life in Christ?*

**All** *With the help of God, we will.*

### The Sign of the Cross

Before the baptism takes place your child will be anointed with Holy Oil (the sign of the cross on their forehead) as a preparation for what is to come and marking your child as belonging to God.

*Priest: Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.*

## Baptism by Water

Water is blessed in the Church's font and is then poured over the child's head. Baptism is a sign of a new beginning and becoming part of God's family.

*Priest: I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

## The Oil of Chrism

Your child will then be anointed once more with a special oil signifying their special place among God's people.

*Priest: ...as Christ was anointed priest, prophet, and king, so may you live always as a member of his Body, sharing everlasting life.*

## The Candle

A candle is then presented to your child, signifying the change that has taken place with their baptism and looking to their future in the world as a child of God.

*Priest: Receive this light. This is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.*

*All: Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.*

## What's next?

What happens next is largely up to you, parents and godparents. You will have made promises that we hope your child will one day make their own, Until that time they will depend on you to help them in their journey with God and to make sense of this life. We believe that walking with Jesus is the way to do this and this walk begins with our baptism.

## Prayer

There's nothing complicated about this - it's just the way we listen to and talk with God. As they grow, you can help your child learn this at home and by giving them the opportunity to join in with others of their age at church.

## The Bible

Baptism is the start of an amazing journey and when we travel we need a map. The Bible is the map God has given us to guide us on this journey through life. There are all sorts of child-friendly versions which can help you teach them the stories of God's people; stories full of wonder, mystery and excitement.

## Joining in

As your child grows you can help them discover their amazing life as part of the church family. Coming along to Messy Church might be one great step, where through activity, song and fellowship we learn together what it is to be a Christian.

You are also most welcome at the usual Sunday service where we come together as people of all ages to learn, to praise God and to be fed for our journey through life. There is an area for the youngsters to use during the service, with resources to help them learn in their own way, until they are old enough to join in with everyone else.

## Church Family

We think of ourselves as an extended family at All Saints and we look forward to sharing this exciting journey with you as your child is baptised and takes their first steps in faith.

## Godparents

Choosing the right people as godparents for your child is a big decision. Here are some key things which might help you decide:

- \* Godparents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come.
- \* They'll be people who you know you can trust and who'll be there for your child to talk about the bigger questions in life; questions about faith, hope and love.
- \* They should feel ready to make some big promises about faith for your child in church.
- \* There is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual.
- \* Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, godparents must already be baptised themselves.

