

## **BAPTISMS (CHRISTENINGS) AT ALL SAINTS**

We are delighted to welcome you and your children for baptism at All Saints. It is usual to have some preparation before the service and we do this by inviting you to attend a Saturday day morning session (one hour) at All Saints church. Godparents are very welcome to attend with you. Tea and coffee is served and the minister will run through the service, explain the promises and answer any questions you may have.

You will also receive a booklet explaining the meaning of the service which will help and inform you before the preparation session.

Below are some questions often asked by parents:

### **Is Baptism the same as Christening?**

Yes, Baptism and Christening are exactly the same, but the Church prefers to use the word 'Baptism' these days.

### **Can I be baptised as an adult?**

Yes, you can be baptised at any age. It is usual for an adult to have a time of preparation with one of the clergy so you understand the promises you will be making.

### **Can I be baptised at the same time as my child?**

Yes, as long as you have been prepared for the service (see above). Baptising parents and children together has become quite a trend in recent years and we are delighted to hold services where family members can be baptised at the same time.

### **Can I have a private baptism for my family only?**

No, baptism is by nature a public service. We offer baptisms after the main morning services at All Saints and St James, and these will be shared with other families. You can also book a baptism within a main Sunday morning service at either church.

### **Do Godparents have to have been baptised?**

Godparents make important promises on behalf of children saying they will encourage them in the Christian faith, so it is important that godparents are themselves baptised and understand the nature of the solemn promises they are making.