

Baptisms and Thanksgivings
at
All Saint's Church, Mickleover



FIRST THINGS FIRST. We are delighted you have contacted us about either a Baptism service or a Thanksgiving service for your child. This leaflet gives you an outline of how we go about this at All Saints.

IT'S IMPORTANT

When anyone has a new child to care for there are many decisions to be made. One of these may well be “what will we do about our faith?” We view this as an important question to be asking. We think it is worth having time to reflect on the choices available to you.

Firstly, we would love to meet you and your child(ren). If you have your child baptised they will be joining a worldwide Christian family. When you are joining a new family it is wise to get to know them a bit first!

Before we talk together about a service for your child we therefore ask you to come to one of the following on 3 or 4 occasions.

- Our 11.15 Sunday service is family friendly. We meet every week except for the first Sunday of each month. Sometimes we are in the church and sometimes we meet more informally in the church centre. Twice a month there is a Sunday Club for children aged 4 and over during term time. On the first Sunday in the month we are part of the 10.15 Communion service which has a crèche and Sunday Club. Check our website for details of what is happening each week.
- Little Saints which takes place on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 1.30pm. This is specifically for pre-schoolers and their carers. There are action songs and Bible stories followed by games, chat and refreshments in the church centre. There is a Facebook page “Little Saints, Mickleover” with further information. They would love to see you.

Once we have seen you in church or at Little Saints 3 or 4 times we will be very happy to meet with you and discuss what Baptism and Thanksgiving are all about and which would be best for you. We can then give you an application form and fix a date.

This preparation meeting is designed to help you make the decision for yourself. They are both important services but have different purposes (see below).

The meeting will only last an hour and we hope it will give you space to think about what you want to do without interruption.

BAPTISM

At a Baptism service you will declare your own personal faith and commitment to Christ, and as parents and godparents you promise to bring the child up in the Christian faith and within the family of the church. You should be aware that godparents must be baptised themselves.

We don't expect you to understand everything about being a Christian, but we do expect you to be on a personal journey of faith that your child will join in with. Baptism is not meant to be just a one-off event on a special day, but the beginning of a special journey.

THANK YOU

There are occasions when a Thanksgiving may seem the right thing to do. It may be that what you are really trying to say is "Thank you" for the gift of your child. During the Thanksgiving service parents and families give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and everyone prays for family life.

Sometimes this is all you may want to do but it is also possible to have a Baptism at a later date, when you are ready to make the promises concerned.

THE BIG DAY

Baptisms take place once a month during either 10.15 Holy Communion service (on the first Sunday) or the 11.15 Family Service later in the month. We have to plan and fix Baptism Sundays several months in advance. It is therefore not always possible to have the date you might want. We will discuss with you what dates are available. Because of the promises you will make at a Baptism about bringing your child up in the church family, and the promise the congregation makes to support you in both the services, these take place on Sunday mornings in a main service and are not held as private family events. It maybe that there will be another family bringing their child for Baptism or Thanksgiving as well but we never have more than two families on one day.

A rehearsal will take place in church a few days before the service.

BELONGING

As we have already said, Baptism is not the end of the journey but the beginning. You will need to think about how you will start to fulfil the promises you make at the service and we are happy to help in a number of ways

- From time to time you will receive an invitation to special festival services
- If having your child Baptised has started you asking questions about the Christian faith we run Alpha on a regular basis – an informal course where all questions are welcomed.

WHAT NOW?

If you would like to talk to someone please contact the Church Office on 01332 510446 or admin@allsaintsmickleover.org.uk and a member of staff will ring you.