

## **BAPTISM IN THE PARISH OF FARLINGTON**

### **Our policy:**

Baptism is a sacrament of the church expressing the beginning of a journey with God and entry into the Church. As a sacrament, baptism provides a way through which God's grace is given to the one who is baptised. It has important implications for the family and godparents, in particular if the candidate is an infant. This is because there is a responsibility to consider how the child is going to be helped to understand and grow into the vows made on their behalf at their baptism service. Our policy is therefore to be open and welcoming to those in the parish who request baptism, and seek to help them experience God's presence in this way. We have a process that helps take each candidate or family through from an initial enquiry to the baptism service and beyond.

### **The process:**

Our baptismal process is designed to help you meet those in the parish who have had experience of baptism, answer any questions you may have, and introduce you to the church community. It is expected that those requesting baptism will follow this process through. The baptism service is generally held on the second Sunday in the month at 3pm and alternates month by month between our two churches.

- **Enquiry and booking** - at present this can be done by contacting the Rector by telephone or e-mail. Our parish office is open from 9.30am to 12pm at the Church of the Resurrection on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, enquiries can be made there also. After a baptism service date is agreed, an application form will sent out with a copy of the 'Baptism in the Church of England' leaflet which answers some basic questions.
- **Home visit** – a visit from one of the clergy or the baptism preparation team can be arranged if required, to discuss any questions that may arise.
- **The preparation class** – a monthly discussion meeting is hosted by one of our baptism preparation team members, and gathers the families who will be attending the baptism service to talk through any questions and explain what happens at the service. At present this happens at an evening session in the month before the baptism. Generally parents are encourage to attend this without the distraction of younger children, although any candidate who is old enough to appreciate it, or any godparent is also welcome to attend. Discussion is based around the

baptism leaflet provided and printed discussion cards: there is plenty of time to raise questions.

- **A rehearsal** – taken by the priest who will perform the baptism and generally held immediately following the 10am Family Service in the month before the baptism service. We run through the service and choose the hymns or songs.
- **The baptism service** – usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday afternoon at 3pm. We alternate venues between the two churches, which means up to four families can be fitted in at Church of the Resurrection and up to three at St. Andrew's. Those who have led your preparation class should be there to welcome you, and present your baptism and godparent certificates.
- **Meet the family** – because the baptism service is dedicated to that purpose, it means that most of our regular congregation will not be present. We therefore invite all baptism families to come back to join us for worship on a normal Sunday to meet the congregation. The Family Service happens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 10am at Church of the Resurrection – it is an all-age service designed to be child friendly, but children and families are welcome at any time to any of our services.