

## **Baptism in the Parish of Farlington**

### **Our policy:**

Baptism is a sacrament of the church. It marks the beginning of a journey with God. It is the sign of entry into the Church. If the candidate is an infant there are important implications for the family and Godparents: There is a responsibility on both the church and the Godparents to help the child to understand and grow in the Christian faith; There is a responsibility on Godparents and parents to keep vows made on the child's behalf at their baptism service. So we strive to be open and welcoming to those in the parish who request baptism. We seek to help them experience God's presence. We seek to help them understand the promises they will be asked to make. We believe the process we use, helps take each candidate or family through from an initial enquiry to the baptism service and beyond.

### **Can I have my child baptised in St Andrew's or the Church of the Resurrection?**

If you live in our parish\* and the child's godparents are happy to make the promises, and are baptized themselves, then yes. If you live nearby and are a regular worshipper at one of our services (and the priest in the parish where you live agrees) the answer is often yes. If you live further away we would encourage you to make links with your church where you live – as you have a better chance of being a part of the church community there, something you promise to do in the service – and support you in holding your child's baptism service in that place.

### **What is 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 12 midday and alternates month by month between our two churches.

- **Enquiry and booking** - at present this can be done by contacting the parish office by telephone or e-mail. Our parish office is open from

10.00am to 12pm at the Church of the Resurrection on weekday mornings, enquiries can be made there also. After a baptism service date is agreed, an application form can be downloaded from our website.

- **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 encouraged 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 midday. 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 two 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.

\*Check this on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)