

## **What Happens at a Christening?**

At a christening, a child is baptised with water. This is the heart of a christening.

### **WELCOME**

The vicar will welcome everyone and especially the child who will be christened and their family. There will be a Bible reading, and the vicar will also talk about what a christening means.

### **THE PROMISES**

The parents and godparents will make some important promises for the child in the service. Everyone promises to continue supporting the child from this moment.

### **THE WATER**

Water which is blessed in the church's font will be poured over the child's head by the vicar. This is the child's baptism. It's a sign of a new beginning and becoming a part of God's family.

### **THE SIGN**

Special oil will be used to make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead. It is a significant moment, which marks the child as belonging to God. During the prayers later in the service, your child will be specially mentioned.

### **A CANDLE**

A candle will be given to the child at the end of the christening.

### **COST**

The church does not make a charge for christenings within a main service, although donations for the work of the church and the repair and maintenance of the building are very welcome.

On the rare occasion that a christening takes place outside of the Sunday morning service, there would be a charge of £25 for a vergers (someone who gets the church ready, lights candles, arranges chairs and looks after the sound-system), and £25 for an organist if you want to sing hymns.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

If not already, we would love you to make All Saints' Church your 'spiritual home' after your child's christening.

*It's our responsibility to help you to keep those important promises you will make to 'walk alongside your child in faith' and for your child to take their place 'in the life and worship' of the church.*

The All-Age Service on the second Sunday is aimed at young families to make it easier to bring your child along.

We also run Messy Church throughout the year which is ideal for families of children aged 0-11. There's crafts, story, song, games followed by a cooked meal. Please check the church's website

**[www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk](http://www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk)** for dates, or follow us on Facebook (All Saints' Church, Cottenham).

We also have a parent and baby/toddler group - 'Little Saints' - that meets on Monday mornings during term-time from 10-11.30am. There are lots of toys for the children to play with, plus story, song and refreshments.

# Baptisms at All Saints'



**All Saints Church  
Cottenham  
with Rampton**

*A church for everyone  
and open to all*

# Baptism

Baptism is a public commitment to follow Jesus Christ. When a young child is baptised or christened, the parents and godparents make this commitment on their behalf. Older children and adults make the commitment for themselves.

Whenever it happens, whether as a baby, child or adult, baptism is at the heart of an amazing journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ.

In the case of a young child, over the years to come, it's a journey to share together with your child by:

- **Being there for your child** to talk 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 other ways.

So, baptism is a commitment to start as you mean to go on.

## Your child's baptism

We are delighted that you are considering having your child baptised. Your child's baptism is a very important occasion both for the Church and for your family.

Baptisms at All Saints' take place either within the 10.30 service or at a special baptism service which can be in either Cottenham or Rampton churches.

We hope that it will be a happy and memorable time for all concerned and, like everything else important in life, your child's baptism will require planning and preparation.

Your first step is to contact the Rector—Revd. Lynda Davies on 01954 583651 or [rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk](mailto:rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk). Alternatively you can visit or telephone the parish office to let us know you are considering baptism.

We will take your details and arrange for one of the ministry team to meet with you. They will explain what our church offers for children and young people and also let you know the next steps in the process of preparing for a baptism.

This will include attending a regular Sunday service and also a preparation meeting with the Rector or Curate.

Enjoy the party – a key part of the day is being with family and friends. If you want to book the Church Hall for after the service, please contact Matt, our Parish Administrator, by emailing [admin@allsaintscottenham.org.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintscottenham.org.uk)

## Choosing Godparents

God parents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come.

They may be relatives or friends of the family.

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.

Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual. If you'd like to know more about this, talk to Revd Lynda Davies about the practicalities and she'll be pleased to advise you.

Parents may be godparents for their own children, providing they have at least one other godparent.

Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, godparents must have been baptised themselves (parents don't have to be unless they are acting as godparent to their child).

If you're thinking about asking someone who is under 18 to be a godparent, talk to Lynda first. There's no minimum age for godparents, but they must be mature enough to understand the responsibilities they're taking on.

