

# **Baptism (Christening) & Thanksgiving**

## **at St John's Church, Farsley**

We welcome all who would like to be baptised or to have their children baptised at St John's Church. (Baptism & Christening are different words for the same thing!). It is usual for baptism to happen at your local church but if you don't live in the parish it can happen at St John's if there are special reasons.

We also offer a service of *Thanksgiving for the birth/adoption of a Child*. This can be in addition to baptism or instead of baptism.

To help you choose what is best for your child:

**Thanksgiving** is just that - saying thank you to God for safe arrival (after birth or adoption). It can be adapted to suit you and your family's situation. It can be any day or time or in any place (it could be at home if you want). It isn't baptism, but baptism can follow at a later date if that is appropriate. You can choose 'Supporting Friends' if you like, who act a bit like Godparents.

**Baptism** involves parents and godparents making promises to bring a child up to follow Jesus, to set an example by living as a Christian & coming to church regularly. It usually happens at the 10.30<sub>am</sub> All Age service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, or at 12.15<sub>pm</sub> on the other Sundays (but not the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). If you choose 12.15<sub>pm</sub> we ask you to come to a 10.30<sub>am</sub> service soon after the baptism so your child can be welcomed by the Church family.

**Please ask to see the two different services before you make your choice.**

If you want to talk anything through please do contact Paul 0113 2570059 [paultudge@btinternet.com](mailto:paultudge@btinternet.com) or pop into the Church Office in St John's Church Hall any Tue 6.30-7.15 (ring before if you want to make absolutely sure there will be someone on duty).

## FAQs

- We usually include a photo of your child on PowerPoint at the beginning of the service. If you would like that please email a digital copy to Paul [paultudge@btinternet.com](mailto:paultudge@btinternet.com).
- You can take photos during the service.
- The 12.15<sub>pm</sub> service lasts about 20mins, the 10.30<sub>am</sub> All Age service lasts about 45mins.
- There may be more than one family at the service.
- Usually you choose 2 men & 1 woman for a boy, or 2 women & 1 man for a girl as godparents, but you can have as many as you wish. Check before asking them that they can make the statements that they are asked to speak in the service. You can choose godparents who can't be at the service.
- There are usually no hymns or songs in the 12.15 service but they can be included if you are sure your guests will sing! At the 10.30 service there will be hymns & songs but do tell us if you have a special request & we will try to include it (but don't guarantee).
- If you want to include a poem or prayer or something else in the service, that is usually possible - read by a guest or by the service leader.
- There is no charge for either Thanksgiving or Baptism. If you wish to make a donation to St John's that is much appreciated. If you are able to *Gift Aid* that's even better! (It costs over £1,000 a week to keep the church open.)