

**SERVICES OF BAPTISM** can be held as part of the main Sunday Service which lasts about an hour and a quarter. More usually people choose a separate service of baptism usually at 12.15pm, which lasts about 45 minutes. There may be more than one family at any baptism service. For baptisms, you are requested to come, with the Godparents, to a 10.45am service for a welcome and blessing. We will agree with you dates for both the Blessing and for the Baptism.

**GODPARENTS** are chosen to have a special relationship with the person being baptised. They promise to care for the person, to pray for them, and to bring them to confirmation.

There is no upper or lower age limit for baptism, or to act as a Godparent, people are usually over 10 for Confirmation. If you are interested in Confirmation please contact the Church.

The traditional number of Godparents is three, but this is only a guideline. If someone you wish to be a Godparent has not been baptised, then this baptism may well be a chance for them to be baptised too.

If any Godparents, or other members of the family would also like to be baptised at the same time or on a different occasion, please let us know.

*We are also giving you a copy of the middle part of the service which includes all that Parents and Godparents have to say. This is to help you prepare and enjoy the service.*

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION WITH YOU.**

*For further information please contact  
the Rector, Andrew Smith 01354 279232*

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN THIS IMPORTANT EVENT IN YOUR LIVES.**

# **St Peter's March**

## **BAPTISM**

### **also called Christening.**

**WE ARE PLEASSED** that you have chosen St Peter's for baptism. Baptism is an important and happy occasion in which the person being baptised is welcomed into the church, and in which we affirm that they are indeed, like all people, made in the image of God, and are inheritors of the Kingdom of God that Jesus lived and preached about.

#### **MEANING OF BAPTISM**

*When someone is baptized, that person is brought to Jesus Christ, and is made a member of Christ's Church. It is a new start to life in which the baptised person is accepted and sealed by God with the Holy Spirit to represent Christ to the world.*

*As a response to the baptism which God gives us, we and the candidates declare our faith and intention to serve Christ, and we ask for God's continuing grace to support us throughout our lives. When baptism is of a baby or child, the baptised person receives the love and shared faith of the family to grow up into Christ.*

*Through prayer and fellowship within the body of Christ, God strengthens and nourishes us. Family and friends are to help with their presence, their prayers and their love.*

**Jesus said "I came that you might have life,  
and have it abundantly."**

## **THE BAPTISM SERVICE**

Baptism celebrates the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates, but also the parents and Godparents, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future.

Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on the journey of faith, which is now shared with this new member of the church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens in the Christian way. Our "drowning" in the waters of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us in Christ's dying and rising; a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit, as Jesus was at his baptism.

There is the anointing using olive oil with the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us all. Anointing is a very ancient custom, used in Old Testament times. You cannot see the sign of the cross on your forehead, you could ignore the eternal benefits which are given to you – but how much better to accept them joyfully and with thanksgiving, by having your faith in Jesus Christ strengthened in a Service of Confirmation when we exercise our full membership given at baptism.

As a sign of new life, there is a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

The benefits which you have received at Baptism need to be kept alive. You are invited to journey with the whole Church throughout the ages into the fullness of God's love. God continually renews our Faith, our Hope and our Love through the consecrated Bread and Wine at a celebration of the Communion. Jesus commanded us at the Last Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me."

*You are welcome to the **JUNIOR CHURCH** which meets every Sunday as part of the 10.45am service. Junior Church have their own activities, and they join the worship.*

There is NO charge for a baptism. Everyone is invited to make a donation during the service.

**PHOTOS and Videos**, *You are welcome to take photos or videos during the service – it is usually better and less noticeable if you do NOT USE FLASH, please use common sense so as not to spoil the service for others.*

*The regular **SUNDAY SERVICES** are a quiet said service at **8am**, the **main service** at **10.45am**, and a 6.30pm service alternate weeks.*

*There is also a service at 10am on Wednesdays, and, of course, special services at Christmas and Easter.*

For details of services and of the other activities  
please see the noticeboards and **MAGAZINE**.

**We welcome all people who regard St Peter's as their church, for baptism and other occasions, whether resident in the parish, or who have family or other connections with St Peter's. We welcome you.**