

## **All Saints Church, Clipstone**



### **Thanksgiving after Childbirth and Baptism**

Congratulations on your new baby!

The responsibility and wonder you sense is something we want to celebrate with you as you bring your child to the Church for Thanksgiving and perhaps for the Sacrament of Baptism. Our parish family is very happy to have a new member; your child will bring new life to you and to our Church.

We are very pleased that you are considering Holy Baptism for your child and perhaps for yourself. Baptism is not simply a “naming ceremony” or even just a blessing for a new baby. It is the beginning of the Christian life and the gateway to eternal life. Because of this some people prefer a service of Thanksgiving and Naming.

### **Thanksgiving after Childbirth**

Some parents might want to celebrate the gift of a child in a way without which does not involve the commitment that baptism does. During the Thanksgiving service parents and families give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and everyone prays for family life. It can take place in church with the congregation, or with just family and friends gathered, or elsewhere such as home, or even in hospital.

A Thanksgiving Service is not a Baptism. There are no promises to make about the Christian faith. The child will be blessed and prayed for, and supporting friends will promise to support the parents in bringing up their baby.

### **Baptism**

Baptism for babies and children takes place in a service often called a Christening. In this service parents thank God for his gift of life, make a decision to start their child on a journey of faith and godparents promise help and support. The church also promises to welcome the child and to pray for the family; with the church you promise to help bring them up in the faith, to read the Bible and to worship God.

For your child, being baptized marks the start of a lifelong journey of faith as part of the local and worldwide Christian family.

Remember Baptism is the start not the end of the Christian journey; bring your child to church and ask if we can help you bring them up in the faith of Jesus Christ.

## **How do we arrange a Thanksgiving or Baptism?**

- Come to see us in church after the 9.30am service on a Sunday (ending about 10.30am) or after the 9.30am service on Tuesdays (ending about 10.00am). If you have any difficulties try one of the telephone numbers details of which are at the end of this leaflet.
- Thanksgivings and Baptisms usually take place on the second Sunday of the month either during the morning service at 9.30am which last about an hour and a quarter, or in a special service at 11.30am which last about 45 minutes.
- If you expect more than 30 or so guests we ask that you come at 11.30am.
- Thanksgivings and Baptisms can sometimes be arranged on other days and at other times; please talk to us about your needs.
- Emergency baptisms can be done at any time and in any place.

## **Preparation**

- We do ask that you attend worship a couple of Sundays before the service. The 10.30am service (only on the first Sunday of the month) is good place to start, but you will be welcome at any of the 9.30am services.
- The priest taking your service will contact you and may ask to come and see you at home at a time convenient for you, and if they can come, the godparents. They will share about faith in Jesus Christ, go through the service and answer any questions you have.

## Godparents

- Traditionally a girl has two godmothers and one godfather, and a boy has two godfathers and one godmother; but you can have as many godparents as you want.
- Godparents **must** be baptized (christened) themselves as they take the promises on behalf of the child to be baptized; it does not matter which Christian church they are part of. If you have people who are not baptized they may stand in as 'supporting friends'. Parents do not have to be baptized but perhaps need to think about it for themselves. There are no godparents at a Thanksgiving service.

## How much does it cost?

- There is no charge for a Thanksgiving or Baptism; there is a voluntary collection at the end as people leave.

### Contact Points

#### **The Revd Canon Tony Evans** (Vicar)

The Vicarage, West Lane, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9QT  
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### All Saints contacts

#### **Mrs Jennie Sims**

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#### **Mr David Marriott**

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### **Edwinstowe Church Office:** *(Tuesdays- Thursdays)*

Jane Harley (Administrator)

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