



### *Baptism or Thanksgiving?*

The decision as to whether your child is Baptized or has a Service of Thanksgiving is yours.

The difference is that for baptism you make promises to bring your child up within the family of the Church and to nurture your child as they grow in their own journey of faith.

To give you the necessary information for this decision we share a preparation time, during which we view a ten minute DVD entitled 'A Parents' Guide to Baptism'.



### *What is the next step?*

Contact Rev Philip Rowe: 01454 613223  
or email [vicar@stmaryssevernside.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryssevernside.org.uk)

# Baptism (Christening) or Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child



Through Baptism we recognise and give thanks for God's gift of life. We ask for protection for those being baptized and ask for the Church to give their support.

When we are baptized we are no longer alone but are members of the local and worldwide Christian family.

## *Who is eligible for baptism?*

We gladly baptize all those we can. The following groups of people can have their children baptized at St Mary's (or be baptized themselves):



- ◆ Those who live in the parish, or have regularly attended St Mary's for six months or more.
- ◆ Those who don't live in the parish but have strong pastoral links with St Mary's (for example the child's parents were married here, or the child's grandparents live in the parish), provided the vicar of the parish where they live has no objection.

Talk to us if you are unsure whether or not you may be eligible.

## *When are the services held?*

Baptism services are on Sundays at 12.30pm, which involves the giving of the candle and the certificate. If you would like to sing hymns at the Baptism, advance notice is required, and we will try to arrange for an organist to be present (please refer to 'What does the service cost?').



## *How about Godparents?*

It is usual to have three or four Godparents, including at least one Godmother and one Godfather. Godparents must be baptized. They should be people who will help with the spiritual welfare as well as the general well-being of your child.

## *What does the service cost?*

Baptism services are free – if you would like the organist to play, there is a fee of £35 payable on the day. There is also a retiring collection for donations.

## *What happens after the baptism?*

We hope that you and your child might want to be involved in further church life and activities afterwards. The All-Age Service at 10.45am each Sunday is an obvious option for children and their parents.

We will keep in touch with a card on the anniversary for three years, and also email you about family-friendly events which might be of interest to you.

