

Baptisms and Thanksgiving Services at All Saint's Church, Mickleover



FIRST THINGS FIRST

We are delighted you have contacted us about either a Baptism service or a Thanksgiving service for your child. This leaflet gives you an outline of how we go about this at All Saints. Please note that we normally only do Baptisms for families living in Mickleover. The exception to this is if you are already regularly worshipping with us or attending one of our regular events for families.

IT'S IMPORTANT

When anyone has a new child to care for there are many decisions to be made. One of these may well be “what will we do about our faith?” We view this as an important question to be asking. We think it is worth having time to reflect on the choices available to you.

Firstly, we would love to meet you and your child(ren) if we have not already done so. The decision to have a Baptism or a Thanksgiving is an important one so taking time to reflect on your personal faith and how what you believe affects your life and decisions is also important. After contacting us, one of our Clergy will arrange to visit you. It is always good to talk to families and we will explain the services we offer. We have to plan and fix Baptism Sundays several months in advance. It is therefore not always possible to have the date you might want. We will discuss with you what dates are available. This preparation meeting is designed to help you make the decision about the way forward for yourself. Both thanksgiving and Baptism are important services but have different purposes (see below). The meeting will only last an hour and we hope it will give you space to think about what you want for your family.

THANKSGIVING

There are occasions when a Thanksgiving may seem the right thing to do. It may be that what you are really trying to say is “Thank you” for the gift of your child. During the Thanksgiving service parents and families give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and everyone prays for the parent(s) and child(ren). You may wish to invite sponsors to come and support you and your child. Sometimes this is all you may want to do but it is also possible to have a Baptism at a later date, when you are ready to make the special faith promises concerned.

BAPTISM

At a Baptism service you will declare your own personal faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. As parents and godparents you promise to bring the child up in the Christian faith and within the family of the church. You should be aware that godparents must be baptised themselves.

We don't expect you to understand everything about being a Christian, but we do expect you to be on a personal journey of faith that your child will join in with. Baptism is not meant to be just a one-off event on a special day, but the beginning of a special journey.

THE BIG DAY

Baptisms may take place during the Morning Worship service at 10am. This is most appropriate if there is a small number of guests.

We also offer to do Thanksgivings and Baptisms either at 12noon on a Sunday or during Sunday afternoon. There may be another family at the same service as you, but we never have more than two families on one day.

We find a short rehearsal in church can be helpful, particularly on the first occasion.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We realise you may well find it important to have photographs of this important day. Generally we would encourage you to take these after the service and we will provide ample opportunity for this.

If for any reason you would like to take photographs **during the service, you must discuss this with the member of staff officiating beforehand. The final decision on this is ours.**

BELONGING

As we have already said, Baptism is not the end of the journey but the beginning. You will need to think about how you will start to fulfil the promises you make at the service, and we are happy to help in a number of ways.

- Our 10am Sunday service provides a creche area and a play table for young children. This service alternates between Communion and a less formal Morning Worship. Check our website for details of what is happening each week.
- Who Let the Dad's Out – for Dads, Grandads and carers of children aged 8 under. This takes place on the second Saturday of each month at 8.15am-9.45am – a time for the adults to talk. Games and craft for the children and breakfast for all.
- We also run Breakfast Church once a month on Sunday mornings at 8am – dates are on our web site (see below) This is an all-age service for everyone involving breakfast, worship, Bible stories craft and fun.
- if you have questions about the Christian faith, you may find it helpful to attend one of our Alpha Courses. Check the website or ask a member of the Clergy.

WHAT NOW?

You may already have been in touch with us and have contact details for a member of the Clergy. If not, and you would like to talk to one of the Clergy about a Thanksgiving or Baptism, please contact the Church Office on 01332 510446 or clergyteam@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk and a member of staff will then be in touch.

Our website, giving details of Sunday services, family activities and Alpha can be found at www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk