

## **Baptisms at St Leonards**

### **Our Services**

#### **Sundays**

9.00 am Holy Communion

A traditional service from the Book of Common Prayer

10.30 am Parish Communion

A service for all ages (2nd Sunday in each month

Parade Service for Uniformed Organisations)

# Congratulations!

We are pleased you are considering Baptism for yourself or your child. Baptism is an important event in a person's journey of faith and sees them become part of the Church family. It is a joyful event but not one to be taken lightly, the vows taken at Baptism are serious and this is why it is important to consider what you are about to do for yourself or your child very carefully.

Parents and Godparents should ask themselves:

- Are you prepared to the best of your ability to give the child a Christian upbringing?
- Will you help the child to become part of the Christian family, to pray and attend public worship regularly?
- Will you encourage the child in due time to come to Confirmation and Communion?

## Baptism Information

- If you live within the parish of the Church where you wish the baptism to take place, you are entitled to have your child baptised there. If you lived outside the parish then there has to be special reasons why the baptism should not take place in the parish in which you live.
- The number of Godparents is usually three. For a boy, 2 male and a female and for a girl 2 female and one male Godparent.
- Godparents are required to be baptised and confirmed. The parish priest has some leeway in this, but unless there are very good reasons, at St. Leonard's, we expect Godparents to be baptised and preferably confirmed; parents likewise, should fulfil this criteria.

# Baptism at St. Leonard's

Baptism is a commitment to faith and requires more than simply going through a ceremony.

As a Church we would want to welcome, encourage and support parents and those to be baptised.

We want to help prepare you for this important event and as part of this preparation we would expect you to make a commitment to come to Church before and after the Baptism.

Becoming part of the Church family is one way of strengthening your faith, making baptism meaningful and supporting you as a family.

If you wish to pursue your request you will need to obtain an application form. Once completed, bring the form to a service at St. Leonard's.

Completing a form does not guarantee the baptism.

On the application form you might want to indicate when you would like the baptism to take place. If possible we will try to accommodate your choice.

Baptisms are usually on Sundays, after our morning service, at approximately 12.30pm. In certain cases it may be possible to have the christening as part of the morning service.

At some stage the Vicar or a member of the Church will contact you, look to visit you at home and discuss the baptism with you before we make any firm arrangements.

If you feel you wish to take your enquiry further by making these commitments then we look forward to seeing you at Church and receiving your application. If for whatever reason you do not feel baptism is right for you at this stage, then please feel free to contact the Vicar to discuss any other ways in which we can welcome you to the Church family.