



St Andrew's Maghull



## Baptism Information

We are pleased you have chosen to have your child baptised at St Andrew's and look forward to welcoming you to the service. We hope it will mark an important day for you and all the family.



The Maghull & Melling  
Team Ministry

## **Baptism (sometimes known as Christening) involves:**

### **you and the Godparents:**

- thanking God for His gift of life;
- deciding to start your child on the journey of faith and asking for the Church's support;
- joining the Church in expressing your belief in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and praying for your child.

### **your child**

- beginning a journey of faith;
- becoming a member of the local and worldwide church;
- sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **the Church**

- promising to welcome, support and pray for you and your child;
- being reminded of the importance of baptism for every Christian;
- providing a worshipping community where everyone can grow.

Christians describe baptism as a sacrament - a visible sign of God's love. At baptism we turning away from evil, sin and darkness and turning towards Christ.

### **The Decision**

A baptism is a very important occasion involving serious decisions. You have to say that you will help the child 'walk in the way of Christ' and 'take their place within the life and worship of Christ's church'. You will have to answer questions on your child's behalf, stating that you turn away from everything which is evil or sinful and turn instead towards Jesus.

## **The Service**

During the service various symbols are used to underline the baptism. These include:

- the signing of the cross on the forehead of the child which is like an invisible badge;
- water being poured on the child's head in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Water is a sign of life - both feeding and cleansing;
- light is an important symbol as Jesus is called the light of the world, so a large candle is lit during the service a smaller candle is passed on to you at the end as a reminder of the light that has come into the child's life.

## **How we organise the diary**

At St Andrew's, once you have been in touch we will arrange for one of our Baptism Visiting Team to call and talk through the details.

From November 2018 Baptism services will be held on the first and third Sunday of the month, at 12 noon. Occasionally, for Church members, we may include a baptism within our main 10am service, if this may be appropriate please ask.

Dates need to be organised with our Baptism Co-ordinator and as we can get quite busy sometimes please make sure you sort the dates out before planning the important party for afterwards.

## **Other information for the day**

Traditionally there are three godparents, though this can be varied please to choose carefully. The godparents must already be baptised themselves.

Photographs can be taken in Church as long as they are done without flash and with sensitivity so as not to disrupt the service. There is always the opportunity to pose for photos after the service. Videos can also be taken, but if these are done professionally we insist that you let us know beforehand and that a declaration concerning copyright is signed.

### **What St Andrew's can offer you afterwards:**

You will always be made very welcome at any of our services, especially at:

- **Keystone All Age Service** at 10am on the second Sunday of the month when the uniformed organisations attend and take part.
- **Livewires** is our Sunday School and meets alongside our 10am Sunday service most weeks during term time.
- **Keystone All Age Service** at 11:30 am on the fourth Sunday

**If you would like to be assisted in discovering more about the Christian faith please do feel able to talk to the clergy now or in the future**

### **Contact numbers:**

Parish Office		526 8972
Baptism Co-ordinator	Tricia Hugo	526 9791