



## Baptism:

### *Frequently Asked Questions 2019*

#### **1. What is baptism?**

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives. It's the first step in response to God's love. But like any journey, we need to think about the next step too. So baptism makes most sense if you're already part of the church e.g. coming to Tiddlers (our toddler group) or a Family service or worshipping with their school.

#### **2. How old do you have to be?**

Any age! Children are often baptised aged just a few months but it's not unusual to have requests to baptise children when they are in school; when they start learning about their faith for themselves. Sometimes even adults get baptised if they haven't done so when they were much younger.

#### **3. My partner doesn't believe. Can we still have our child baptised?**

Absolutely! Provided one of the parents is baptised and the other partner is willing for the baptism to take place and happy for child to be brought up as a Christian, then the baptism can go ahead.

#### **4. Can our child be baptised if we're not married?**

Definitely! This is about marking your child's relationship with God. However if you're no longer living together, we need to be satisfied that both parents are happy for the baptism to take place. Just occasionally eg, if one partner isn't planning on coming to the service, we may ask you to confirm in writing that you're happy for the baptism to take place.

#### **5. Who can we ask to be godparents?**

The only qualification for a godparent is that they must be baptised. There's no age limit (young or old). You simply need to be confident that they can carry out the duties of a godparent ie, to pray for the baptism candidate and to encourage them in their faith. You need to have at least two godparents (male or female). Technically there's no upper limit – though after four it stops being special (and there's no room in the Baptism register!).

#### **6. How much does a baptism cost?**

Nothing! It's absolutely free. However you might like to make a donation to the church on the day.

#### **7. We're not sure whether baptism is right for us. Are there any other similar services?**

Some parents these days prefer to wait until their child is older and can make their own decision about faith. That's absolutely fine! In these circumstances you might prefer to have a Service of Thanksgiving. This isn't a baptism e.g. no water is used and there are sponsors rather than godparents. However it is a chance to give thanks to God for the birth of the child. Please ask for more details about this service if you're interested.

*If you have any other queries, please contact Sarah Nicholas, Benefice Administrator, on 01935 826113 or email : [benefice.martock@gmail.com](mailto:benefice.martock@gmail.com)*