

Baptism at St Francis

We are always pleased to receive enquiries about baptism at St Francis's Church, whether from adults seeking baptism for themselves or from parents who are looking to have their child baptised. The initial approach should be made to the Vicarage either by e-mail (vicar@terrierschurch.org.uk) or by telephone (01494 520676). General information about baptism in the Church of England can be found at <http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism-confirmation.aspx>.

Anyone who is thinking about baptism, either for themselves or for their child is welcome at St Francis's, whether at one of the Sunday services or at activities and events for parents and children which are held in the Church or the Church Hall. Details of most of these appear elsewhere on the parish website.

Because we are only too aware of the many pressures facing families these days, we try, in this parish, to take seriously our responsibility for preparing parents for the important event of their child's baptism. Parents are invited to a series of three 45-minute introductory sessions in church, usually on a midweek evening beginning at 8.00 p.m. Each session covers a different aspect of baptism:

- A general introduction, exploring what the parents are expecting and what the local church has to offer (and, for newcomers, an introduction to the local church and community).
- An explanation of the various elements in the baptism service and their meaning.
- A walk-through of the service, with commentary.

Parents who have already chosen prospective godparents for their child who live within easy travelling distance of Terriers, are encouraged to invite them along to all or any of these sessions, but especially the third.

Parents also receive a copy of the leaflet, "Your child's baptism in the Church of England" for them to read and keep, and two copies of the leaflet "Becoming a godparent in the Church of England", to pass on to their child's godparents. They also receive a pack of information about activities at this church, including material of special interest to families with young children.

Those who are seeking baptism for themselves should contact the Vicar, either by e-mail (vicar@terrierschurch.org.uk) or by telephone (01494 520676).

Note: Baptism is about belonging, not only to the world-wide Church but also to a local Christian community. Most enquiries about baptism come from people who live within the parish boundaries. Occasionally people who live outside the parish make enquiries about baptism in Terriers. Where there is a clear link (e.g. the parents' marriage took place at St Francis, or they were part of the local church community when younger) we are happy to take these requests forward. Where this is not the case we encourage the enquirers to make contact with their local church, but we always leave the door open to the possibility of their returning to us if this does not work out.