

CHRISTENINGS

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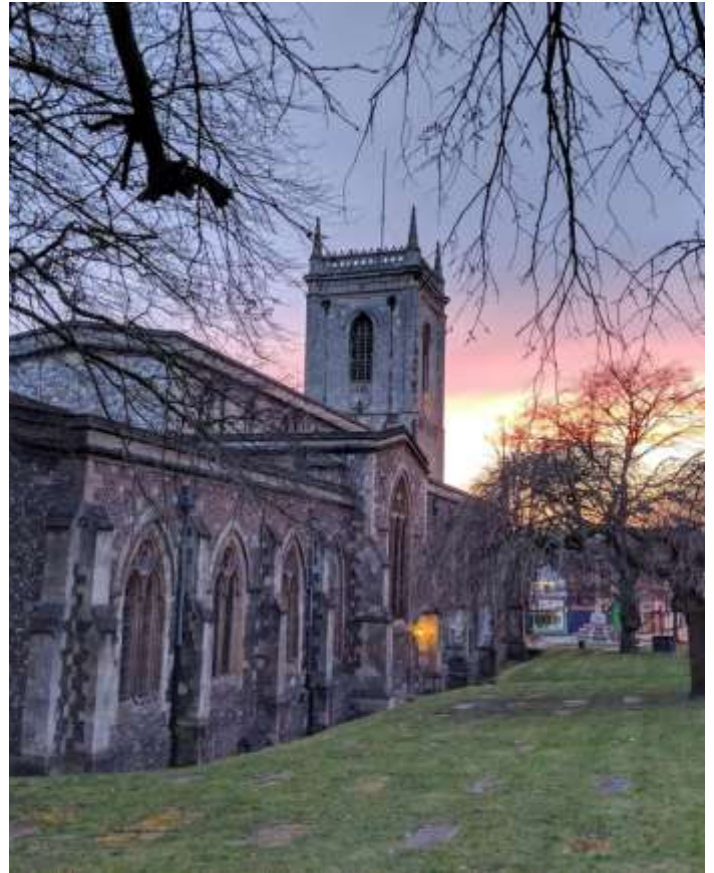


ALL SAINTS
HIGH WYCOMBE

Welcome

Whether you're exploring the possibility of a christening or you've already decided, we will be delighted to talk to you about it.

You can always be christened in your local church, and it's good to make a connection locally so your child's church family is close by. If you do not live in the parish but you have a link to the church, such as a family connection, then you can still ask us about having a christening here. When you call the church, you may be able to book a date straightaway or someone may call back. You'll then meet either with one of the clergy that works in the parish to talk through the service and to help answer any questions you may have.



During a christening your child will be baptised with water. It's the start of an amazing journey of faith and a special day for all your friends and family. This booklet has been prepared to answer some questions you may have and to explore all that a christening means, not just on the day but long afterwards.

We also encourage you to visit the website churchofenglandchristenings.org which has a wealth of generic information about the purpose of a christening, the role for godparents, and much more.

All Saints, High Wycombe



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Contents

Location	4
I'm wondering...?	6
History	7
Personal	7
Godparents	8
Order of Service	9
Preparation	11
Youth Provision	12
Contact us	14

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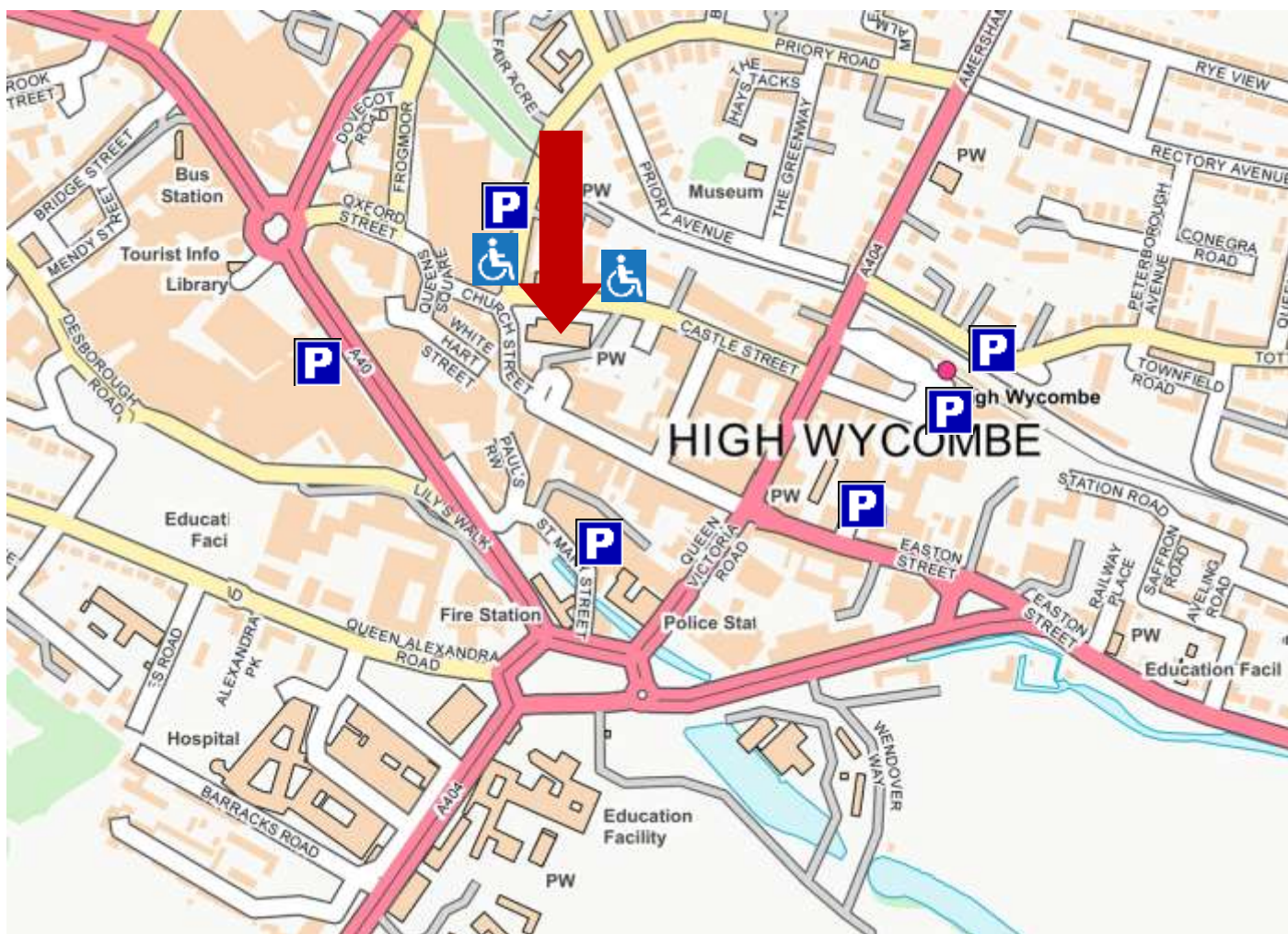
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Every care has been taken to ensure the information contained is valid and all information was correct at the time of publication in March 2021.



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Location



We are located at the very heart of High Wycombe which has excellent bus and rail links. High Wycombe also operates a park and ride service from the M40 Junction 4.

We unfortunately only have limited disabled parking at the church although there is additional disabled parking and 'pay and display' parking outside the church on Priory Road.

Within 5 minutes walking of the church is the Swan Car Park which is off St Mary Street and the Easton Street Car Park. Alternatively there are two train station car parks and the Eden Centre Car Park which is approximately 8-10 minutes walk away.



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*First steps on an
amazing journey*

I'm wondering...?

...what's the difference between a baptism and a christening?

There is no difference between a christening service and a baptism service. Some churches will use the word 'baptism' and some the word 'christening'. The moment when your child has water poured or wiped on their head is the actual baptism and is at the heart of the service.

...I am not baptised, can I have my child baptised though?

You can have your child baptised at a christening regardless of whether or not you, the parents, are baptised.

...at what age can I or my child be baptised?

Any age! but there are different forms of the service for babies, older children and adults.

...can we have a private christening?

Christenings usually take place during the Sunday service of a church, so that the whole congregation can offer a warm welcome to you and your family. There are opportunities to have a service at a different time (usually on a Sunday) if you are expecting a large number of guests, guests travelling from a long distance away or another suitable pastoral reason.



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History

Did you know that All Saints Church is over 900 year old. The exact date the church was built is unknown but research shows it was around 1087. It is the oldest building still standing in the town and it is the historical heart of High Wycombe.

When your child is baptised here in this church you join the many millions of townspeople who have also been baptised here. Your child forms that connection and becomes part of the continuing history here.



Personal

You will be involved in making choices about your ceremony. The extent will vary depending on whether the christening is part of a Sunday service or outside of the main service.

When supporting you in something as important as christening, the church will pray for you before, during and after the event. The Church will also welcome you as part of the family and as such invite you to various events in the churches life.



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Godparents

Do I need Godparents?

If the christening candidate is a child, yes!

Are Godparents important?

Choosing them is one of the biggest decisions you will make. Godparents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come. They'll be people who you know you can trust and who'll be there for your child to talk about the bigger questions in life; questions about faith, hope and love.

Who can be Godparents?

They may be relatives or friends of the family. Parents may be godparents for their own children, providing they have at least one other godparent. If you're thinking about asking someone who is under 18 to be a godparent we will want to ask some questions around this. There's no minimum age for godparents, but they must be mature enough to understand the responsibilities they're taking on; we can help you decide if this is the right choice for your child and the young godparent.

Do Godparents need to be baptised and confirmed?

Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, godparents must be baptised themselves. Ideally they should be confirmed too, but this is not an absolute requirement. They should feel ready to make some big promises about faith for your child in church. We will talk this through with you.

How many Godparents can my child have?

Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual. If you'd like more than that, talk to us about the practicalities and we'll be pleased to advise.



Order of Service

A christening typically usually lasts about 1 hour as part of the main Sunday service. At the christening your child will be baptised with water. This is the heart of the christening.

Welcome

The priest will begin with a few words of welcome to all present for the christening. There will be a reading and the priest will talk about what christening means.

The promises

Parents and Godparents will make some important promises for your child. We will talk these through with you in advance. Everyone present then promises to continue to support the candidate from this moment.

The sign

A special oil is used to make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead. It's a significant moment as it marks them as belonging to God.

The water

Water which is blessed in the church's font will be poured over your child's head by the priest. This is the moment of christening. It is a sign of a new beginning and becoming part of God's family.

Prayers and welcome

The priest, or someone else will pray for your child and all those who will support them in their faith. If you are having your christening as part of the main Sunday service everyone present will then welcome the child into the family of the church. If you are having the service outside of the main Sunday service then this will take place during the main Sunday service on the first Sunday after the christening.

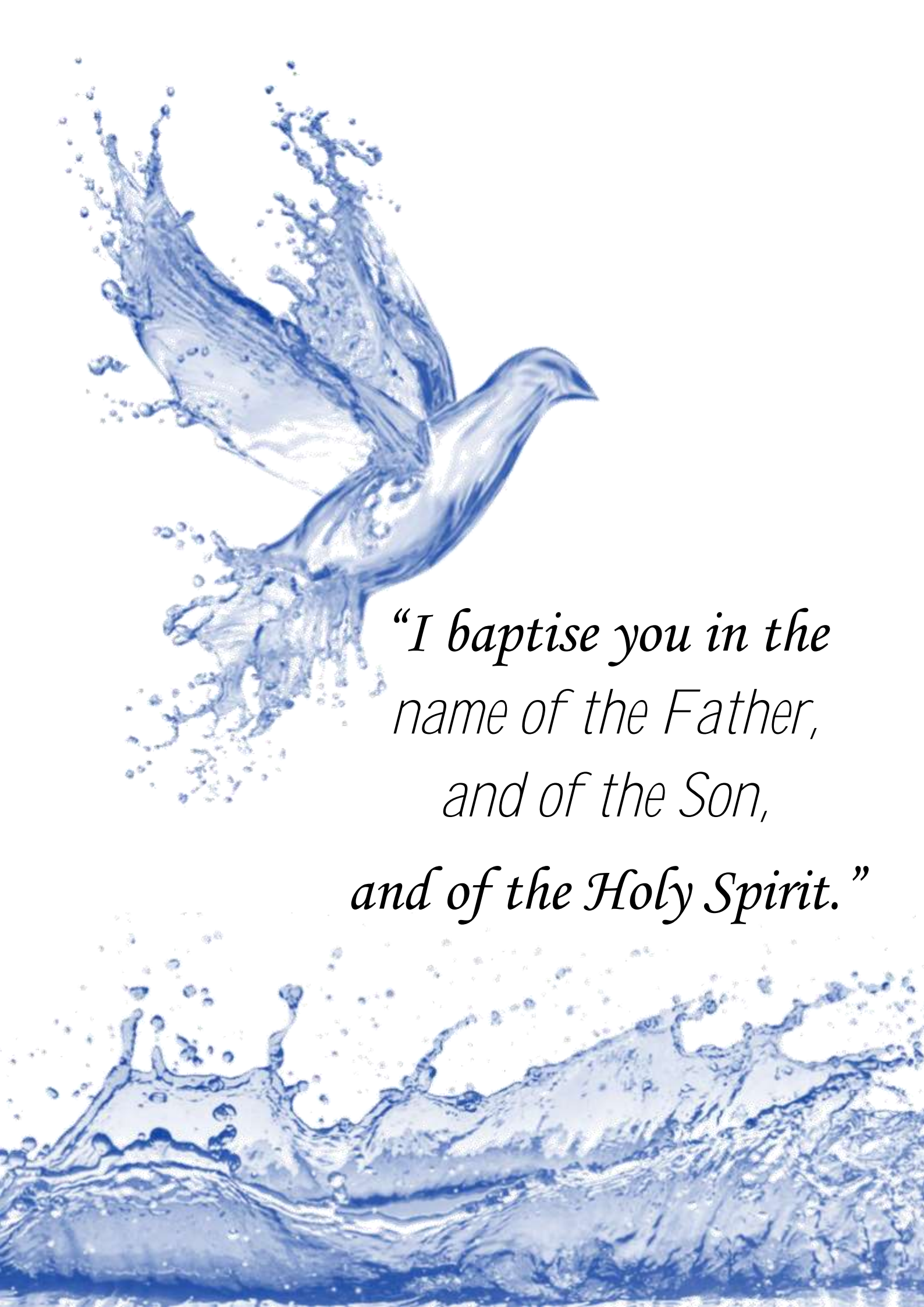
A candle

A candle is given to your child at the christening to symbolise the new life now present within them. Our suggestion is that you keep this and light it every year on the anniversary of their baptism as a reminder of the promises made.

What next?

You will be invited to join the church family whenever you can. We will keep in touch with you and support you as much as we can in the faith formation of your child.

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*“I baptise you in the
name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Preparation

Getting ready for your christening is exciting. But there's also a lot to think about and do. Whether you have done this before or not, read on for some helpful ideas and tips.

- Have a look at what will happen in the service and the words that you will be saying. We will go through the service step by step with you.
- It's a great idea to go along to church or one of the various church activities before the day so you can meet some of the people at the church.
- You will need to attend our preparation class when invited in order to talk more about the meaning of a christening.
- Enjoy the party – a key part of the day is being with family and friends.
- Think about what you/your-child are going to wear. Like any celebration event, many families like to dress up for the occasion too. There are no hard and fast rules – choose what you'll be happy and comfortable wearing on the day.
- Get in touch with any godparents and tell them what will be happening. They might like to know about the preparation class as they can attend with you! They may also want to look at the website churchofenglandchristenings.org which has some information for godparents on it.
- Don't forget photos!
- Why not take a few moments to ask God to be close to you and your family as you start this amazing journey of faith. You might like to pop into church to light a candle and say a prayer.



*“Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when they are old they will not depart from it.”*

(Proverbs 22:6)

All Saints Ark



Here at All Saints we want children and young people to grow in their faith and find that this journey is fun and exciting. On alternate Sundays at 9.30am during term times we run All Saints Ark. It is aimed at children aged between 4 and 12 years. Join Robyn our Children & Families Minister for a fun filled activities session with songs and prayers.

SmAll Saints



As an additional offering to children aged between 0-5 years we run SmAll Saints on alternate Fridays at 10.30am during term times. Join Robyn our Children & Families Minister together with your pre-schoolers and toddlers for a fun filled activities session.

Continuing to develop our provision for children and young people is a priority for us. Our aim is to enable children and young people in our community to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

'Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God'

(Micah 6:8)

Safeguarding our children and young people is an essential part of our duty of care. All our groups are run by volunteers who have had appropriate safeguarding training.

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A photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a clear blue sky. The hand on the left is open and palm-up, while the hand on the right is reaching in with fingers slightly curled. The text is overlaid on the image in a black, cursive font.

*A Christening
is the first step
in the journey...*

*...and we will walk
with you as you
continue that journey*

Contact us

Our Parish Office is located in the Oakley Hall in Castle Street and is usually open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am until 2.30pm. The address is:

All Saints Parish Office

8, Castle Street

High Wycombe

Bucks HP13 6RF

You can also phone or email us as follows:

01494 527526

office@allsaintshighwycombe.org

Or click on the 'contact us' button below to fill out a web form.



To enquire about holding your Church Christening please complete the Life Events Enquiry Form.



Please also visit the Church of England website for further information on Church Christenings.



churchofenglandchristenings.org