

# St Mary's, Comberton

## Christian Baptism

### **Thank you for asking**

We welcome to Christian baptism all those living in the parish of Comberton.

Baptisms normally take place in the context of the main morning service, at 9.30am on Sunday mornings. This will be after you have had the chance to meet together with the minister and to think through the meaning of baptism and the pattern of the service itself.

### **If you live outside the parish**

If you live outside Comberton parish, but have strong links with the village, we will be happy to consider baptism at St Mary's. However, you must also make contact with the minister of your local parish church to ensure that they are happy for the baptism to take place in Comberton, and to allow you to develop the link with your own parish church. We normally suggest that the best place to have your child baptised is your own local parish church.

### **Will it cost anything?**

There is no charge for baptism. Should you wish to have a baptism certificate we are obliged to make a small charge, which is passed on to the Diocese of Ely, and is not kept by St Mary's church.

### **Thinking seriously about what's involved**

Christian baptism is a commitment to bring up your child within the Christian community, and to encourage him or her to grow in Christian faith. You need to be ready to take this seriously, and to offer all the encouragement you can by a commitment to regular Christian prayer and worship. We will do all we can to help you in this. Two things which may be relevant are:

**Baptism and confirmation for yourself as a parent.** We can only pass on to our children what we have ourselves. If you are not baptised (and there is no age limit for it!), or were baptised as a child but have not been confirmed, we will be very happy to talk through with you what is involved in this.

**Christian marriage.** The best foundation for a child's upbringing is Christian marriage. If you are on your own, you are very welcome, and we will do all we can to support you. If you are together but not yet married, or have had a civil wedding but would like to renew your vows in the sight of God, we would be delighted to discuss a church wedding or a blessing on your marriage.

### **Godparents**

During the baptism service Godparents make a commitment to support the parents in bringing up the child as a Christian. Passing on the Christian faith to children is an exciting but sometimes challenging task and so we ask that you think carefully about to ask be a godparent. They should be someone who will take seriously the commitment to pray for the child and pass on the Christian faith. They should be baptized themselves and regular attenders at church. They should also be confirmed (or the equivalent if they are members of a Christian denomination other than the Church of England). If you are finding it difficult to think of someone appropriate to ask, we would be very happy to make suggestions.