

# Thinking about Baptism ...



We are delighted that you're thinking about having your child baptised and want to find out more. Baptism is a very special event – it marks the beginning of a journey of faith, and it tells the story of God's love for your child, using three signs or actions to do this.

## **Water:**



Just as we need water to drink or to wash, we use water in baptism to show our basic need of God. And just as water refreshes us, the water in baptism tells the story that God meets all our needs. Realising our need of God is how faith begins to grow.

*As a deer longs for a stream of cool water, so I long for you, O God, I thirst for you... (Psalm 42.1-2)*

## **The Cross:**



Just as you love your child, the mark of the cross in baptism speaks of God's love for him or her. Through the cross where Jesus died we are loved completely by God. This knowledge is at the heart of Christian faith.

*God has shown how much he loves us – Christ died for us (Romans 5.8)*

**Light:**



Just as we need light to find our way, the candle given in baptism tells of God's guiding love and his promise to care for those who know him. Christian people trust what Jesus said: *Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness* (John 8.12)

As the story of God's love is told with these signs and actions – **water, the cross and light** – your child's name is used again and again. This is to make very clear that the story of God's love is a story for each of us, about our lives telling the truth about what God promises each and every one of us.

We baptise children on the understanding that their Parents and Godparents will be sharing their faith in God as the children grow. So here are some resources which will help you ...

There are some wonderful books available designed to tell Bible stories in a way that children will respond to. Mick Inkpen (of Lullabyhullabulloo fame) and Nick Butterworth (of Percy's Park fame) have written some excellent versions of Jesus' parables, called *Stories that Jesus told*.

The *Lion Storyteller Bible* by Bob Hartman is a brilliant book written in a way that makes the stories easy to tell and good to hear.

The *Lion Book of First Prayers* provides a wonderful way into praying with your children for the first time. Reading some of the prayers at bed time is an excellent way of putting the day to rest and sharing faith with your child.

In the Baptism service, the Parents and Godparents make promises to help their child belong to the Church community. And as a Church we try to help you to do that. There never has been a better time to bring children to Church or to Sunday School – honest !

Children are always made welcome in our Churches. We try to make sure that you can relax and enjoy being together in Worship.

Our **Sunday Schools** run alongside the 11am Sunday services at St. Catherine's and St. Mary's and cater for children of all ages. In the groups they make friends and enjoy learning more about the Christian faith.

**Play and Praise** is a short child-orientated service aimed at pre-school children. It is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 2pm at St. Mary's Church.

**RUSH** is aimed at Primary School children and meets every Wednesday during term-time @ 6.30pm at St. Catherine's Hall.

**the Future** is our youth group for Year 6 and above and meets every Sunday during term-time @ 6.30pm at St. Mary's Church Hall.

If you want to know more about any of the groups, services or activities mentioned in this leaflet then do contact me.

We hope that you'll find us helpful and supportive as you grow in faith and as a family !

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*Kirk Christ with  
St. Catherine's (Port Erin),  
St. Mary's (Port St Mary),  
and St. Peter's (Cregneish)*