

When do Baptisms and Thanksgivings take place?

On Sunday mornings usually at the 11am Service. The worship style has a contemporary focus and there is interest and interaction for children.

It is also possible to have the baptism at the 9:30am Holy Communion for those who prefer a more traditional service.

Procedure:

- * Visit the church for a service :
- * Collect a Baptism Pack which will give you further information on how to proceed.
- * Meet the Rector and / or

Phone: 01767 682499

E-mail: office@sandyparishchurch.org
to arrange a meeting.

We look forward to meeting you

Huw Davies

Rector

Family Life

Relationships, marriages and family life are important to us. We all need some encouragement, wisdom and help at times to make relationships work well and be the best they can be in today's world. Even if you are not in a great reader you will find the books listed below easy to read and packed with wisdom and helpful, practical advice.

The Highway Code to Marriage
The Highway Code to Parenting
by Michael & Hilary Perrott

The Sixty Minute Marriage
The Sixty Minute Mother / Father
The Sixty Minute Family
& others by Rob Parsons (www.careforthefamily.org.uk)

The Five Languages of Love
The Five Languages of Children
The Five Languages of Teenagers
by Gary Chapman (a great book with some Americansims!)

Left to their own Devices - Confident parenting in a world of screens (Guidance about social media)
by Kathrine Hill

You can also find encouragements and resources for family life and marriage relationships on our website along with stories from people who talk about the difference faith in God has made to them:

www.sandyparishchurch.org/inspiringstories

Sandy Parish Church
(St. Swithuns)



Infant Baptism

(or Christening)

Thanksgiving

*When a new child joins a family
everyone wants to celebrate.*

www.sandyparishchurch.org

Baptism or Thanksgiving?

BAPTISM is a powerful symbol and wonderful celebration of God's love and kindness.



Baptism implies an active, living faith in Jesus Christ. In the Bible baptism is talked about in three symbolic ways:

BIRTH - the need for spiritual birth and life that comes through a living faith in Jesus Christ.

WASHING - the need to be cleansed from sin (a falling short of God's glorious standard for our life).

DEATH & LIFE - Jesus' life, death and resurrection invites us to die and live too. To die to an old way of life and receive in exchange a new life, the life of Christ, the gift of a new way of living which makes a positive difference to us, our families and our world. This is not an automatic formula, but comes to us as a gift from God inviting us to open our hearts to Him, believe and put our trust in our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.

BAPTISM is about making a decision to follow Jesus. Adults make this choice for themselves and are baptised as an outward sign of an inner faith.

CHILDREN are baptised or christened on the understanding that their parents have a living faith in Jesus Christ and seek themselves to know and follow Him.

At the baptism of children, the parents and godparents are asked if they will set an example and encourage the children to come to know and follow Jesus for themselves and to have a connection with the church.

THE THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Some people do not want to make the commitment and promises involved in baptism / christening, but they do want to celebrate the birth of a new baby and pray for God's blessing.

(Psalm 139)



THE THANKSGIVING

is a lovely opportunity to gather with family and friends, celebrate and give thanks to God for a precious new life.

Whichever you decide is appropriate for you, we would love to welcome you, your family and your little one.

ALPHA - Questions of Life & Faith

A series of 8 Sessions which can help parents understand the promises made at the baptism service. It is a great way to explore the Christian faith and meet new friends in a relaxed, non-pressured and non-religious environment.

We explore questions such as:

Who is Jesus and Why Did He Die?

How Can We Have Faith?

Why and How Do I Pray?

Why and How Should I Read the Bible?

How Does God Guide Us?

What about suffering?

How Can I Make the Most of My Life?



Evenings & Daytime

Food, presentation, questions and conversation, all relaxed and informal.

We don't assume any prior knowledge or faith and all comments, questions and opinions are valued. There is no pressure to participate, you can just listen if you wish.

You do not have to attend the full 8 sessions, just come along to the first few and see what you think.

ALPHA runs twice a year and details and dates are published on our website:

www.sandyparishchurch.org

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.