

Sadly, as sometimes happens, this fell into abuse and many children were christened even when their parents did not practice their faith or even, in some cases, believe in God.

We believe this is not honouring to God, or faithful to the teachings of Jesus, and would want to ensure that the good things that God wants to give His children are not abused or misused in any way. We therefore, offer several options for those enquiring about the baptism of their children.

**Thanksgiving**—For those who do not want to commit themselves to becoming a follower of Jesus Christ and be a part of His church, we suggest a Service of Thanksgiving in which appropriate readings and prayers are offered thanking God for His love and praying for the child and his or her parents as they bring them up and accompany them through life.

This can be arranged after the main morning service on a Sunday around 12.00. There are no promises to make, no commitment required and no water involved.

**Baptism**—For those who are really serious about wanting to become Christians and followers of Jesus, and want to bring their children up in the Christian faith, we ask that, as a sign of that intention, those enquiring join us on Sunday morning worship and become part of the church family.

Alongside this, there will be preparation classes where the Christian faith is simply explained. Finally when the Vicar is satisfied that the commitment is a serious one he will make arrangements for the baptism, which will take place during the 10.30 Sunday morning service with the Church family.

We regret that we cannot book any dates until after the preparation has concluded. We are also unable to offer baptisms outside the morning service.

If you are interested please email the Vicar at:

[stjamesuplands@googlemail.com](mailto:stjamesuplands@googlemail.com)

He will send you an application form and arrange a meeting. There is no cost involved.



## BAPTISM at ST. JAMES

**Introduction**—Baptism is the rite by which a person becomes a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of the people of God which is His Church. Historically in the Anglican Church, when applied to babies or young children, this is also known

as 'christening'.

Although we welcome every enquiry with regards to baptism, there are a number of requirements which we set out in order to ensure that those applying fully understand what is involved, and that Jesus' teaching is clearly applied.

**Why baptise?** - In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus gives this final instruction to His followers:

*"Go into all the world and make disciples (apprentices) of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19ff)*

Clearly in these words we can see that some kind of personal decision and promise was expected of those being baptised. This is what Jesus means about becoming his disciple or apprentice, learning to live like Him and serve Him in the world. When such disciples gather together this is known as 'Church'. Not a building but a congregation of people who meet together to worship, encourage one another and learn about the Christian faith. Baptism brings an individual into that experience.

**Who can be baptised?** - In the first place, this obviously was intended for seeking adults. Who else could freely and intelligently decide whether this was something they wanted or not.

In later centuries the church gave permission for believing parents and practising Christians to have their children baptised **on the understanding** that together they would worship with the family of God, the Church.