

# BEING PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY



BAPTISM

THANKSGIVING FOR  
THE GIFT OF A CHILD

ALL-AGE WORSHIP

MESSY CHURCH

CONFIRMATION

## NORTH BELTISLOE GROUP OF PARISHES

Boothby Pagnell

Braceby

Humby

Ingoldsby

Lenton

Old Somerby

Ropsley

Sapperton

## *About this booklet.*

Welcome to the North Beltisloe Group of Parishes – Boothby Pagnell, Braceby, Humby, Ingoldsby, Lenton, Old Somerby, Ropsley and Sapperton.

We are a group of friendly, welcoming congregations, who would like to offer you opportunities to join us and to grow in your Christian faith.

This booklet is designed to introduce you to some of the ways that we can help you to begin and continue a journey of faith.

### Contents:

- 1 Baptism/Christening
- 2 Thanksgiving for the gift of a child
- 3 Worship for everyone
- 4 Messy Church!
- 5 Exploring Our Faith & Confirmation
- 6 Useful contacts



## *1 Baptism/Christening:*

Baptism or christening (they mean the same thing), is the beginning of the journey of a Christian. Baptism is one of the sacraments of the Church, that is, one of the sacred moments when something very special happens. God gives the power of the Holy Spirit to the person who is baptised – the power to follow Christ and live a life of faith. The person who is baptised celebrates that they are a child of God, loved by God. Their family and friends, and their church celebrate with them!

### *Who can be baptised?*

Anyone can be baptised. There is no lower or upper age limit.

### *How do I arrange a baptism?*

Just contact the Parish Priest or the Churchwarden of the church where you would like the baptism to take place. The contact details are on the final page of this booklet. You will meet with the Parish Priest, when the booking details can be agreed, and the appropriate preparation will be arranged.

### *What will it cost?*

Membership of the church through baptism is absolutely free. There will be a donation plate available in church on the day of the baptism, and we hope that you and your guests will give a donation to the church.

### *Do parents have to be baptised?*

If you would like your child to be baptised, you do not have to be baptised yourself, although if you wished to be baptised at the same time, that would be great!

### *What are Godparents?*

Godparents make the faith promises in the baptism service on behalf of a child who is not old enough to make the promises for themselves. Because Godparents are making the promises on behalf of someone else, they do have to be baptised themselves. It is usual to have three godparents. Godparents should be chosen because they are practising Christians and can share their faith with their Godchild. Older children and adults do not need Godparents, but may wish to choose a Sponsor to stand with them and support them.

### *What will happen in the baptism service?*

The baptism service will be explained fully as part of the preparation for the baptism. Each baptism is a special occasion, and families are encouraged to think about hymns and readings that they might like to include.

### *What will happen after the baptism?*

You/your child will receive a card on the first anniversary of the baptism, and the church congregation will be praying for you on the closest Sunday. We are respectful of GDPR legislation, but if you indicate during the preparation that you are happy to receive information from the church about events, you will also receive information about Messy Church, Christingle, the Crib Service and other events that you might like to attend. (See section 3 below).

**Everyone is welcome to all worship and events.**

### *What happens if I want to celebrate the birth of a child, without baptism?*

The next section of the booklet is all about that!

## *2 Thanksgiving for the gift of a Child*

There is a simple, but special, service of thanksgiving, which is a lovely time when you can be with friends and family, ask for God's blessing and pray for your baby. This service, different from a baptism/christening, can be used as a way to say thank you to God for your child.

It is called a Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child and it's possible to have this service instead of a christening if you decide that now isn't the right time to have your child baptised. Or, you could even have the Thanksgiving service as well as a christening. You might also choose this service when your baby is just born, or if you have adopted a child into your family and you simply want to celebrate this with special words in church. The service is special to each child, and you will be invited to include songs and readings which are important to you.

### *How do I arrange a Thanksgiving?*

Just contact the Parish Priest or the Churchwarden of the church where you would like the service to take place. The contact details are on the final page of this booklet. You will meet with the Parish Priest, when the booking details can be agreed.

### *What will it cost?*

There is no charge for a Thanksgiving. There will be a donation plate available in church on the day of the baptism, and we hope that you and your guests will give a donation to the church.

## *3 Worship for Everyone!*

Church congregations are a family – a church family. They are welcoming, and the worship and events in our churches are designed to be inclusive and accessible. Here is a brief explanation to help you choose.

*Community Worship* is designed to be enjoyed by different age groups worshipping together. It is informal, and will include a story, an activity, and a short time of prayer and praise.

*Morning Worship* is a little more formal, and usually follows a written order of service, with hymns, Bible readings, an address and prayer

*Holy Communion* offers the opportunity to share in the bread and wine. Communion is a very important part of Christian worship, as Jesus himself shared bread and wine with his friends, and told his followers down the centuries to do the same.

*Special Times*, including Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday are celebrated with special services, when the community comes together to celebrate and remember.

**Details of worship and other events across the parishes can be found in the Worship & Events newsletter, which is put into each home every three months; or on your parish page of the Church of England website –**



## **4** *Messy Church*

On the second Saturday of each month we meet at Ingoldsby Church for Messy Church.

Messy Church is a great opportunity for families to worship and have fun together. Each Messy Church session begins at 10 am and ends at 12 noon. The theme might be a Bible Story, or it may reflect the time of year – Christmas, Easter or Harvest.

The morning starts with a variety of activities – craft, cooking, painting and many other things. Parents are welcome to join in, or to have a cup of coffee and a chat. The activities are followed by a story, song and a prayer, which we all join in; and the morning finishes with a meal for the children.

Messy Church is suitable for all ages. For more information contact Diana Burrows whose contact details are in the final section.

## 5 *Exploring our Faith; Confirmation*

### *Learning about the Christian faith:*

We are always learning about our faith. At any time of year, you will find something going on – *The Bible Course; The Lent Course; Exploring our Faith; Bible Study*.

Visit your parish page on the website:  or contact Stephen - details below.

### *Confirmation:*

Confirmation is one of the special times that the Church describes as a ‘sacrament’ – a sacred moment, when God does something special in our lives. In Confirmation we confirm that the power of the Holy Spirit is at work, to guide us in our lives as Christian people, and we confirm the statements of faith that were made on our behalf at our Baptism. The lower age limit for Confirmation is 10 years old. There is no upper limit!

Those who wish to be confirmed are presented to the Bishop in a special service, and receive his special blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you wish to explore your faith or you wish to be confirmed, please contact your churchwarden. Contact details are in the next section.

## *6 Useful contacts:*

### **Parishes:**

|                        |                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Boothby Pagnell</b> | Emma Thomas    01476 585553<br><a href="mailto:ejt.thomas16@gmail.com">ejt.thomas16@gmail.com</a>                            |
| <b>Braceby</b>         | Tony Smith 07725 750530<br><a href="mailto:smatharm@hotmail.co.uk">smatharm@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                |
| <b>Ingoldsby</b>       | Diana Burrows    07931 947012 / 01476 585513<br><a href="mailto:diana_burrows@hotmail.co.uk">diana_burrows@hotmail.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Lenton</b>          | Tony Clayton    01476 585711<br><a href="mailto:tony@tonyclayton.org.uk">tony@tonyclayton.org.uk</a>                         |
| <b>Old Somerby</b>     | Len Watson    01476 568439<br><a href="mailto:dianeandlen@talktalk.net">dianeandlen@talktalk.net</a>                         |
| <b>Ropsley</b>         | Helen Sloss    01476 58543<br><a href="mailto:helen.sloss@btopenworld.com">helen.sloss@btopenworld.com</a>                   |
| <b>Sapperton</b>       | Jonathan Tresh    07970 700367<br><a href="mailto:jontesh@me.com">jontesh@me.com</a>                                         |

### **A NOTE ABOUT HUMBY CHAPEL:**

Humby Chapel is a privately-owned Chapel-of-Ease. Services take place there during the year, to which everyone is welcome.

The chapel is not licensed for weddings. However, it may be available for baptisms, wedding blessings and funerals.

The chapel is managed by a local committee. Please contact Fred Mann – details above.