

## **Welcome to All Saints**

You and your family are very welcome here, where we aim to help people of all ages and backgrounds to worship God and grow as Christians. The information in this leaflet is particularly for you if you are bringing young children to church, and we hope it will be informative and helpful.

### **Sunday mornings**

Our main service is at 10am on Sunday mornings. We would really encourage you to sit in the main part of the church with your children. However, we do provide an area with books and colouring, where young children can sit with their parents if preferred. On most Sundays during the service we have Junior Church which meets downstairs in the crypt area. If your baby is upset or restless please feel free to walk about with them during the service if this helps. There is also a 'Baby Room' at the back of the church that you can use. We understand that small children cannot be expected to sit still or be quiet for a whole service so please don't be anxious about this. We serve refreshments in church after the service. Please supervise your children during this time as we don't want them to get hurt or leave the building without you. Candles, automatic doors, and stairs are all potential hazards.

### **Nappy changing facilities**

There is a nappy changing table in the disabled toilet next to the coffee bar. There is also one in the disabled toilet downstairs in the crypt area.

### **Breastfeeding**

You are welcome to breastfeed your child in church during the services and at other times. If you would prefer some privacy then please use the Baby Room (also called the Hilda Room) at the rear of the church.

### **Snacks in church**

We understand that sometimes children need to eat something during the service. Please consider others when thinking about what to bring and when to give it to your child. Please make sure that they have finished eating before you come up for communion.

## **Things to help you and your child get the most out of coming to Church.**

- Point out what is going on; the processions, the colours, what the clergy are wearing and the actions that are taking place. If your child can't see what's going on please feel free to bring them closer; during baptisms for example or during other special parts during a service. Point out the different parts of the church and what they are for; do ask someone if you are not sure.
- Show them how to pray and talk to God.
- Help older children follow the order of service, and encourage them to join in with the hymns and responses. Even if your child can't read yet, hold them as you follow the service and point out easy words that are often repeated, eg Amen, Alleluia, God etc.
- Talk at home about what might happen in church - 'I wonder what colours we'll see today?' 'I wonder what words we'll hear?' Then quietly point these out during the service and see who guessed right.
- When you go up for communion, say 'Amen' with your child when they are blessed.
- Help your child to take an active part in the service by shaking hands at the Peace, and taking them for a blessing.
- Above all remember that we were all children once and don't worry if they get restless! However, if you and your child need a break during the service, do wander into the Welcome Hall, or visit the Infant Junior Church Group downstairs.
- Try to relax! Our children are a gift from God - our role in parenting and modelling the Christian way is in itself part of our worship.

## **Junior Church**

Our Junior Church meets in the crypt most weeks during the 10am service. It is led by a team of (DBS checked) volunteers who take it in turns to lead age appropriate worship and activities. We subscribe to some dynamic and creative resource materials based on the weekly readings, to help us prepare meaningful and fun sessions for our children. The children leave for Junior Church after the Opening Prayer (Gathering), and a child will lead the way with a Bible collected from the Priest when it's time to go. You can either bring your child downstairs to settle them in if it's their first time, or they can just follow the other children if they are happy to do so. Our leaders will look out for anyone new, and make sure they feel welcome and are in the right group. The children return to church during The Peace, or the following hymn.

### **Infant Group up to age 6**

The Infant Group meets in the Cafe area at the bottom of the Welcome Hall stairs. We have songs, games, stories and a craft activity. You are very welcome to stay with your child. If they are over 3 and are happy to be left then they will be well looked after, and brought back up to you in church at the appropriate time.

### **Junior Group age 6-10**

The Junior Group meets downstairs in the Crypt Hall to enjoy a short session of games, Bible stories, worship and crafts. Children can stay on their own in this group, or you are welcome to join us if you want to see what we do! We are always pleased for any help during the session and require at least one other adult other than the leader to be present during the session.

### **Senior Group age 10-14**

The Seniors also meet in the Crypt Hall where they share the Bible readings together, and discuss and respond to them in a creative way, maybe through prayer, craft or drama.

### **SmAll Saints - Baby and Toddler Service**

smAll Saints is our special Friday morning service for babies and toddlers - and their carers. We meet in the church from 10.15 to 11.30. First we ring the bell! Then we gather for some songs, a Bible story and prayers. Then we enjoy a craft activity, playing with toys, and some refreshments. Everything is very informal and friendly.

## Children and Holy Communion

At All Saints, children can receive Holy Communion from 7 years old. Children will need to be regularly attending church, and will also attend a short series of preparation classes.

## Baptism at All Saints

Baptism is also known as christening. Everyone is welcome to have their child baptised in their parish church. About 10,000 babies and children are baptised in the Church of England every month and each newly baptised person joins a family of two billion baptised people around the world. In bringing their child for baptism, parents make a decision to start their child on a lifelong journey of faith. Parents and godparents thank God for the gift of new life and promise to help and support the child in their growth in faith. The church also promises to welcome the newly baptised and to pray for them. We also welcome adults who wish to be baptised. All baptisms take place during our 10am Sunday service, usually on the third Sunday of the month. We try to make sure we find a date that suits you and your family. If you would like to consider baptism for yourself or for your child, come to one of our services and speak to one of the clergy team. We will then meet with you to help you to prepare for this special celebration.

## Confirmation

Confirmation is an opportunity to explore your faith and make a commitment to the church as a mature person. We prepare adults and children of secondary school age for confirmation.

## Pathways for Pilgrims course

We often suggest that people preparing for confirmation, or for adult baptism, take the introductory Pathways for Pilgrims course, which we run every year.

## Junior Choir

Music plays a central part in the life and worship of All saints and the choir is an important source of fellowship and involvement. Children may join the Junior Choir from the age of around 5 years or as soon as the can read.



## Activities for Children & Young People at All Saints

- **Junior Church during the 10am service:**  
Infants: up to age 6 years  
Juniors: 6-10 years  
Seniors: 10-14 year years
- smAll Saints parent, baby and toddler service is on Fridays at 10.15-11.30am
- Junior Choir practice is on Friday evenings at 6.30pm

All Saints West Dulwich  
Lovelace Road  
London SE21 8JY  
T: 020 8676 4550  
W: [www.all-saints.org.uk](http://www.all-saints.org.uk)  
E: [parish-administrator@all-saints.org.uk](mailto:parish-administrator@all-saints.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 1137041



All Saints  
West Dulwich

One in worship  
Open in faith  
Outward in community



Children  
at All Saints

