



Week beginning January 11th

## Baptism of Christ: Hope refreshed

### Opening Questions

- Is there someone in your life (now or in the past) who has affirmed and encouraged you? What impact did that have on you?
- When you attend a baptism or a confirmation are there any words in the service which stand out for you? Why are they significant for you?

### Getting in to the text

#### Read Matthew 3:13-17

- Why might John have been reluctant to baptise Jesus?
- Why did Jesus insist that John should baptise him?
- Why do you think heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending are significant moments in Jesus' baptism?

- What impact do you think God the Father's words in verse 17 had on John and his followers and on Jesus himself?

## Applying the Bible to your life

- 'You are my son/daughter whom I love; with you I am well pleased' are words which God speaks over each of his followers. How does that make you feel?
- Are there any other verses which you turn to when you need reassurance of God's love for you?
- How might God's words of encouragement help you when life is a struggle or you feel that you are in a wilderness time?

## Something to pray about

In his letter John writes, '**This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.**' (1 John 4:9)

- Thank God for his love for you.
- Ask God to show you who you could encourage or affirm this week.
- Pray for those you know who need to hear about and respond to God's love for them.