

# Confirmation 2008

*The Bishop of Willesden, The Right Reverend Pete Broadbent, will be at Holy Cross on Sunday 22nd June, 2008 to Confirm the candidates who are to be presented to him.*

Would you like to consider being one of the candidates?

The preparation will take the form of group activity and it is anticipated that there will be a group for adults and a group for young people of about 11 years of age.



The sessions will try to cover the basics of being a Christian today and will attempt to answer questions as well as give information. We will encourage the group to develop a sense of togetherness and trust. We will learn about what it means to be the Church today, where the Church of England comes from in the many variations of the Christian Church, The Bible, Holy Communion, Praying and Christian responsibility etc. We will come to the church to look more carefully at what the building can teach us about our faith.

Confirmation is a part of the Christian rite of Initiation and linked to Baptism. For many years, the Church of England has had a policy of baptising infants and then delaying Confirmation until the individual had reached an age at which they might make a personal expression of accepting the Christian faith, taking responsibility off their Godparents who would have been preparing them for this moment as part of their Godparent duties.

Other Churches do it differently. For example, the Orthodox churches of the east baptise and confirm infants. The Roman Catholic Church baptises in infancy and then prepares children to receive Holy Communion at 7 before bringing them for Confirmation at 11. Because of trends in the last half of the last century, many adults have not been confirmed and also many not baptised. So there are usually a number of adults to be baptised as part of the Confirmation service.

This year, candidates will also be encouraged to experience the National Pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint Alban which takes place on the day before the Confirmation.

So, if you feel that you would like to consider the prospect of Confirmation, please write your name, address, and other contact details on paper and give it to Neil soon so that plans can be formed to make progress for the preparation groups.

Neil Richardson



The scene in St. Alban's Abbey