



## Congratulations on the birth of your child.



**Thank you for considering one of our churches for your celebration**

We want to make the day as memorable as possible for you.

So the first step is to get in touch with the vicar, who will want to meet you and your child, and come and talk to you about the service to help you to get the most out of your special day and make the service as personal as possible.

***'A beautiful Service – thank you!'***

**We offer two kinds of service, a traditional Christening or a service of Thanksgiving and Blessing.**

**The choice is yours.**

**Here's some information to help you make the right decision for yourselves and your child.**



## **A service of thanksgiving and blessing – what is it?**

A thanksgiving service is a lovely way to celebrate with friends and family, if you feel that a Christening is not right for you at this time. This special service allows us to say thank you to God as you name your child, to ask for God's blessing, and to pray for you and your family. There are no obligations to make vows and promises during this service.

It's also a lovely way to give thanks to God if you have adopted a child into your family.

Did you know? You can have a thanksgiving service followed by a Christening at a later stage in your family's journey of faith.

Whatever the reason, we will be delighted to talk to you about this service.

## **A Christening – what does it involve?**

During a christening your child will be baptised with water and welcomed into God's big family, the church. We will pray a prayer of blessing for you and your child as you start your life together. But a Christening is so much more. As well as being a special day for all your friends and family to celebrate together the gift of your child, it's also the start of an amazing adventure of faith for you and your child.

During a Christening you and the godparents will promise to

**Be there for your child when they want to** talk about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.

**Pray for your child** through the ups and downs of their faith journey.

**Show them practically** how to make those good choices in life.

**Help them to learn more about their Christian faith.** You can do this through your example, and through bringing them regularly to church.

Whichever service you choose, you can celebrate it in a main service, or after our morning services at 12.30pm on a Sunday that is convenient to you, and fits in with our service pattern. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

CHRISTENINGS

You can find out much more information at [churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://churchofenglandchristenings.org)

You can contact the vicar via the website