

# THINKING ABOUT BAPTISM



We are glad to baptise people of all ages who wish to be Christians and so a member of the church.

Baptism is a very important step.

It needs careful thought and good preparation.

These notes will help you understand what baptism means and how we help parents and godparents prepare for it.



## **Why do you want your child baptised?**

In our experience parents have many reasons.

Here are some:



### **To name the baby properly**

This actually takes place when you register the baby's birth.

### **My mum says it's the right thing to do**

It's only the right thing to do if you, the baby's parents, are sure about it. You must be clear what you are doing because your child depends on you to fulfil the promises you have made on his/her behalf.

### **To make sure your child will go to heaven**

God loves your child regardless of whether they have been baptised or not. God doesn't judge children differently simply because they have been through a baptism ceremony.

### **To thank God for the birth of our baby**

That's a great reason for a celebration. But there are many ways of doing this (e.g. a service of thanksgiving, which does not involve the promises that baptism does). Baptism has other meanings.

### **To give our baby a good start in life**

Starting a journey is pointless if we don't continue towards our destination. Baptism is a good start, but it needs to be followed up by a faithful Christian upbringing. That's why the

