

### ***Welcome:***

Thank you for asking to have your baby baptised. We are sure that you have many questions and we hope that the leaflet about Baptism, and what is written here will answer some of them.

Baptisms take place in St John's, during worship at 10.00 a.m. Since provisional dates have to be arranged well in advance to fit in with other church activities, we regret that it may not be possible for you to have exactly the date you would like.

### ***How we look after you:***

We will arrange with you:

- ◆ The date and time, of those available, you would prefer.
- ◆ Inevitably there is a form to fill in! Please fill in and return it as soon as possible.
- ◆ Please read the literature about Baptism, which you are given.
- ◆ A member of the Church will get in touch with you by telephone to make the arrangements for a meeting when they will discuss the baptism of your child, and its meaning.
- ◆ You will be invited to come to a couple of services in the month before the Baptism so that you can have a feel for what will happen on the Baptism day, and can be relaxed so that both you and your child will have a happy day.
- ◆ In the week before the Baptism you are invited to gather with any other parents who are having children baptised at the same time as yours. This will provide an opportunity to run through the service; to meet the person who is going to conduct the Baptism; and to get to know the other couples.

### ***Godparents:***

It is usual to have three godparents, two of the same gender as the child and one of the opposite gender, but to have one godfather and one godmother is sufficient. Parents may be godparents to their own children, provided that the child has at least one other godparent.

Being a Godparent is an important commitment and, for this reason, and to preserve their own integrity, ***it is necessary that they be Baptised and normally that they be Confirmed, or of communicant standing*** in another Christian denomination.

### ***Important time in your life:***

We are aware that this is a very important time in your own lives - a child in the family brings many questions about the meaning of life, and the values by which we choose to live. The fact that you are asking for baptism for your child may be making you think about your own relationship with God, and especially as we know him in Jesus Christ.

As a local church we offer regular opportunities to ***take a fresh look at Christianity***, as a way of life, not just something for Sundays. Often Christianity is badly presented - it appears to be boring, remote and theoretical - in other words, pretty useless! Christian belief and living gives meaning to life. It is lively, challenging and worthwhile, and is the best way to live. It is often a lack of direction in life that leads to so many of people's problems.

Please think whether you would like to take up this sort of offer, and you can discuss it with the people who visit you.

Most of all we want you to feel free and able to bring your children to worship with the Christian family in this place, which by Baptism they are joining.

*In short, what we are trying to say is: Praise God for your Baby;  
Praise God for the fresh opportunities and challenges the birth brings;  
Praise God for the possibility of new life for **both** you and your baby.*

### ***Children from another parish:***

Since one facet of baptism is about joining the church family, it is right that children should normally be baptised where they live, or where they will belong to the local Christian family. We therefore do not normally baptise children from outside the parish. If you live outside the parish you should approach your local parish priest about the baptism of your child.

# The Parish of West Byfleet.

## From another Parish:

It is the Church of England practice to give to the local vicar the privilege of baptising babies. We therefore need the written permission of the vicar before we could baptise your baby.



## Baptism.

Some notes to help you understand  
the way we care for you, and to answer  
some of your questions.

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