



## Thank you for your interest in having your child baptised in the Cathedral!

What follows is some information you may find helpful before deciding to go ahead.

At the heart of the sacrament of baptism are two promises which the parent(s) take in front of the congregation at the start of the ceremony:

### THE PROMISES

***Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you confess Jesus Christ as your saviour and Lord?***

***In presenting your child for baptism, do you promise, God helping you, to teach him/her the truths and duties of the Christian faith, and by prayer and example to bring him/her up in the life and worship of the church?***

You will see that a considerable commitment is asked of one or both of the parents. The parent(s) are important because baptism is a solemn demonstration that their child is already involved with the church because they, the parents, are involved – or, at least, are about to be.

Even though the ceremony finishes with a blessing, it should be noted that, before that, nothing is actually given to the child by the minister. We baptise children for the same reason people put on a wedding ring: it is to show that something important has taken place in our life, in this case, it is that our current place in the church family has been added to by the young person we have brought into the world.

The Church takes this teaching from the bible. There we find that often the first Christians came to faith and were then baptised “with their household”, i.e., they took on responsibility for the Christian upbringing of those under their roof. Without that responsibility, baptising infants would make little sense.

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### IF YOU HAVE NO CHURCH CONNECTION:

Not to worry! If you are a new parent, many find that it is also a good time to think about associating with a church. If this applies to you, then do

know that no one will harass you into becoming a member. Simply coming to Sunday worship when you can makes you one of the family!

### CAN SOMEONE ELSE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY CHILD'S CHRISTIAN UPBRINGING?

Yes, a close relative who is actively attached to the Cathedral can take the vows at the ceremony.

### WHAT IF I LIVE TOO FAR FROM THE CATHEDRAL TO ATTEND?

Provided you undertake to associate with a local church, the minister may, with the local minister's permission, still be able to baptise your child.

### WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE CATHEDRAL, BUT WOULD LIKE A CEREMONY TO RECOGNISE MY CHILD'S ARRIVAL?

Not to worry! The minister would be glad to have a ceremony of blessing for your child. This is still part of the morning service, and is similar to the baptismal ceremony except we do not use water and the promise asked of the parent(s) is only that they be faithful in their parental duties.

### WHAT DO I DO NOW?

You can make an initial contact by sending an email to Dr. Robin Stevenson at [robstevenson@doctors.org.uk](mailto:robstevenson@doctors.org.uk) or by phoning him at 01360 770308 saying whether you'd like to discuss a blessing or baptism. Or, feel free to put a note in collection plate asking the minister to call.