

*Do you promise to bring him/her up within the Christian Community and to share your own faith with him/her?*  
**We do.**

### **When do Dedications take place?**

As this service also expresses a commitment to the Christian community it would normally take place within the context of the regular Sunday morning worship. Again a bible is presented to the child.

### **What next?**

The first thing to do is to think through all that you've just read. There may be things with which you agree, some things with which you disagree and some things that puzzle you. We would be delighted to get to know you and to help you make the decision which is right for you in your own journey of faith at this time. If you would like to take things further then please come and join us on a Sunday morning and chat with the vicar, the Revd Jonathan Hearn, after the service. (The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Cafe Church is a good time to come as it is very informal and much shorter). Revd Hearn is also available to talk things over with you on a Friday morning. Please give the office a call on 499533 to let him know you will be coming.

### **In the Future**

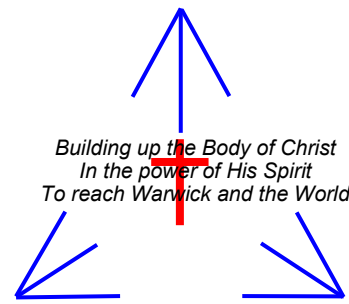
Children of all ages are warmly welcome at St Paul's as we recognise they are an integral part of the worshipping community and value the contribution they make. There is usually a crèche for young children and Sunday Club for school aged children. On the second Sunday - Cafe Church - we are normally all in together.

### **And finally**

Whatever you decide, please be assured of our care and concern for you and your child. If there is any way in which we can be of help, please do not hesitate to ask.



**We look forward to hearing from you again.**

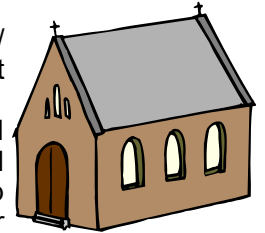


**The Warwick Team Ministry**  
**St Paul's Church**  
*by the Racecourse*  
**Warwick**  
[www.stpaulswarwick.co.uk](http://www.stpaulswarwick.co.uk)

## **Baptisms, Dedications & Thanksgivings**

### **Welcome**

Thank you for your enquiry about Christening/ Baptism for your child here at St Paul's. We want to assure you of our prayers and support. The Church of England recognises that we are all at different stages on our spiritual journeys and offers a wider choice of services designed to help you consider what is appropriate for you and your child at this special time.

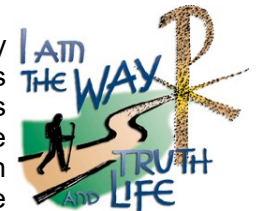


### **What Services are Available?**

Along with Baptism (or Christening as it is sometimes called), we offer services of Dedication or Thanksgiving. There are different implications behind each of these services and it is important that you consider carefully which one is right for you and your child. This leaflet seeks to explain some of the differences to help you make your choice.

### **What is Baptism?**

Baptism marks the first steps in a person's journey of faith within the Christian Church. This journey is a process of discovery and belonging which is designed to take place within the community of the Church. In Baptism the Church, together with parents and Godparents, are partners within the common adventure of faith and this sense of partnership underlies the solemn vows and promises that are made on behalf of the child during the service. It is important that parents and Godparents have made these vows and promises themselves (ideally at Confirmation) before making them on behalf of someone else. In Baptism the church receives children with joy trusting God for their growth in faith. However the parents and Godparents who speak for the child on the day will affirm their commitment to help the child come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to take his/her place within the community of faith.



So the minister asks these questions:

*Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?  
Will you care for them and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?*

The response is **"with the help of God, we will"**.

In Baptism therefore parents and Godparents are committing themselves to be a regular part of the worshipping community.

Parents and Godparents are then asked further questions to affirm their own Christian faith:

*Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?*

**I reject them.**

*Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?*

**I renounce them.**

*Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?*

**I reject them.**

*Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?*

**I turn to Christ.**

*Do you submit to Christ as Lord?*

**I submit to Christ.**

*Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?*

**I come to Christ.**



Baptism has always been a sign of membership of the Church which is why it is important that this service relates to the ongoing life of the local Church. As parents and Godparents will make promises before God to live out the Christian faith in their own lives and to bring their child to Church as an expression of that faith, we believe that it is important that they are themselves part of the regular worshipping community.

***This is why we will expect parents to come to the Church on a regular basis before bringing their child for baptism.***

### **When do Baptisms take place?**

As Baptism is about membership of the Church and because the whole Church is being asked to pray for the child and to welcome that child into the community of faith ideally it should take place within the context of our normal Sunday worship. The main service is at 10am on Sundays. We hold Baptisms on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at the shorter, more informal service. (The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays are communion and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is our Cafe Church). In exceptional circumstances it might be possible to arrange a service at another time but we would ask the family to come on another Sunday so that their child can be welcomed into the family of the Church.

### **What is a Service of Thanksgiving?**

In the service of Baptism parents and godparents are affirming their own Christian faith and promising that they will bring a child up within that faith and within the family of the Church. Understandably some people feel that this commitment is not something they can undertake, nor can they make the promises in all integrity. However the birth (or adoption) of a child is a cause for celebration and many parents still want to mark this special moment in the life of their family in a special way. This service provides an opportunity for parents and families to give thanks and to pray for their life together.

This service does not involve the same solemn promises as a service of Baptism; neither does it involve water. Parents and special friends are not therefore asked to make a declaration of the Christian faith. Instead they are asked:

*Do you receive this child as a gift from God?*

**We do.**

*Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?*

**We do.**

The service includes special prayers for the child and for his or her parents. And just as a child is dependent on the food provided by others, so we all need to feed on the Word of God and in this service the child is presented with a special Bible, which will be a source of spiritual nourishment in their journey of faith.



### **When do Thanksgivings take place?**

As the Service of Thanksgiving does not include the same commitment to growing within the family of the Church, there is not the same need to link it with the wider congregation. It is therefore well-suited to the traditional, quiet service for close family and friends and would normally take place at 12noon on Sunday. We would however be delighted to welcome the family at one of the main services and present the Bible on that occasion.

### **What is a Service of Dedication?**

A growing number of parents want to express their commitment to the Christian faith and their dedication to bring up their child within the family of the Church. However they also wish to allow their child the opportunity to make the decision to follow Christ and be baptised when they themselves feel ready to do so.

So the parents are asked:

*Do you thank God for his gift of your child, and do you accept the joys and duties of parenthood, promising to give love and care to your child?*

**We do.**