

### **And afterwards?**

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives. This first step is a response to God's love. In baptism we give your child a Bible and encourage you to enjoy reading Bible stories together. On the anniversary of your child's baptism we recommend you light the baptism candle and prayerfully remember the promises made on your child's behalf.

We would like to help your child and wider family to find ways of continuing that journey. You are all always welcome to join us on Sundays and we will, from time to time, send invitations to other events to which you would be warmly welcomed.

### **Godparents**

Congratulations on being asked to be a Godparent

Godparents are some of the most important people at the christening. They should be people who will be there for your child and help them think about the bigger questions in life - questions of love, hope and faith. They will support your child in their journey of faith in Jesus and in their life as part of the local church.

Usually there will be at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex. Godparents must be baptized themselves and old enough to make serious promises on behalf of the child.

<http://www.ebpbristol.org.uk/>

# Welcome

Congratulations on your decision to have your child baptised



This leaflet contains information for parents and Godparents which may be useful in thinking about the day and what comes after

You are warmly invited to join us at our next baptism preparation session. This session will give you space to get to know some of the team and to consider what baptism will mean for your child through the whole of their lifetime and yours.

Our next session is .....

at .....

### **About baptism**

In this service parents thank God for his gift of life, make a decision to start their child on a journey of faith and Godparents promise help and support. The church also promises to welcome the child and to pray for the family. For your child, being baptised at a christening marks the start of a lifelong journey of faith as part of the local and worldwide Christian family.

### **Promises made in the service**

As part of the service, you and your child's Godparents will make public declarations that you believe in God and that you will bring your child up as a follower of Jesus. You will confirm on behalf of both yourselves and your child that you commit to turning away from everything evil or sinful, and that you turn to Christ. These are public declarations, and the church congregation will promise to support you and pray for you as you raise your child.

### **Practicalities of the service**

Usually baptisms form part of one of our main worship services. This is because in baptism your child is joining the Church family.

On the day you will be helped and guided by staff and members of the church; at the parts of the service where you participate the promises you make will be clearly written in a service booklet.

Children: Children are very welcome at our services. There will be craft activities available for children to enjoy. There may be a Sunday School which children are welcome to join in with.

Photographs: We want you and your child to have fond memories of the baptism. As the baptism is part of a worship service we would ask that you nominate one person to discreetly take any photographs around the font at the time of the baptism. At other times in the service we would be grateful if you would refrain.

Communion: The baptism will likely be a service of communion, where the congregation receive bread and wine. This is when we remember all Jesus has done for us and seek to meet with God in a deeper way. If you usually receive communion at your own church you are very welcome to do so at the service. If you have come wishing to meet with God you are welcome to receive bread and wine. If you prefer to receive a prayer of blessing come forward and say, so we know which gift to bestow, and the Priest will pray for you.