

## What to do next

If you would like to explore Thanksgiving or Baptism more fully or would like to start attending Church, please contact us by email; or phone

## Contacting Us

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## Parish of Knebworth



**Baptisms &  
Thanksgivings  
in our Parish**

## Welcome

We are glad that you are thinking about recognizing your child as God's gift and considering Baptism or Thanksgiving. When it comes to your child's journey of faith, there are decisions to be made. We hope this leaflet will help you make the right choices for your family.

At the birth or adoption of a child, many parents feel that they would like to say 'thank you' to God for a new life and a new addition to the family.

The Service of 'Thanksgiving for the birth of a child' offers an opportunity to do just that. You may feel that this is the right thing for you to do. A Thanksgiving Service usually forms part of the main All Age Sunday Service where you and your child will be prayed for: when we ask God to bless you all and for him to help you as parents and there is a naming of the child.

To have a child Baptised (Christened) is saying that you and your family are wishing to follow Jesus, be part of the Church family here and that you desire to bring your child up within the family of the Church.

Your child would be beginning a life-long journey of faith, with Jesus as their guide and with you and their godparents to help them on their way.

You should normally approach the church of the parish that you live in for Baptism ( see <http://www.achurchnearyou.com> ), or a church that you have a strong connection with.

## Considering Baptism

We take the Christian faith seriously, and encourage those who come for Baptism to take it just as seriously.

In view of the nature of the promises that are made in the service, there are a number of questions for you to think about. Considered carefully, these will help you decide whether Baptism would be right for you and your child or whether a service of Thanksgiving would be more appropriate at least for now.



## Considering Baptism

- Am I prepared to give my child a Christian upbringing by being actively involved within the family of the Church?
- Will I help my child to attend Sunday worship regularly and learn to pray, not just through my teaching, but by my own example?
- Will I pray regularly for my child?
- Will I encourage my child in due time to come to Confirmation and Communion?

- Can I make the promises that will be required of me in the Baptism Service with integrity?

## Your Options

If you think carefully about all the above questions, you will realise that having a child baptised involves you in a commitment to the Christian faith as much as it does the child. Because of this it is essential that a period of preparation precede the Baptism, especially for those who have had little contact with the Church.

It is also an opportunity for parents to reflect on their own Christian faith. We run groups for those wanting to grow in their faith.

If you opt for Baptism the process begins by getting to know each other when you come along to Church. We like people to attend Church regularly over a period of, say, two or three months. The 10 am service at St Martin's is most suitable for families. Towards the end of this period you should then make contact with The Rector, who will talk with you in order to decide what would be best for you and your child and to book a service. These tend to be held at the 10 am service at St Martin's, as the only suitable service at St Mary's is at 6 pm.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you.