



### **The birth or adoption of a child is a cause for celebration!**

Throughout the years, new parents have marked the arrival of a baby with celebrations and a 'rite of passage'.

There was a time when there was an expectation that most of us would be baptised and as part of our 'normal' everyday lives, would take our place within the life and worship of the local church.

Sadly, some would say, that is no longer the case.

Society has changed and people have to make a decision and an effort to become part of the 'church'.

Not everyone wants to do this – but they do want to recognise the amazing thing that has taken place in the safe delivery of their new baby; their sense of awe at the creation of new life, and want to express their thanks to God.

Some time ago the Church of England recognised the need for a service to enable this:

### **A service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child.**

This service provides an opportunity for parents and families to give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and to pray for family life.

During the service, we anoint the baby with oil as a symbol of healing and strengthening, and finally we bless him/her,

It's a great occasion for family and friends to come together to celebrate the new baby, as well as to show their support to the parents in their new responsibilities.

There is no charge for the service, you do not need to state your faith, and you do not commit yourselves to the church in the way Baptism requires.

The Service is normally held on a Saturday morning and last for approx. 25 minutes. If you'd like to hold such a service or find out more about it, then please contact the Rector:

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