

The United Reformed Church  
In the UK

# Baptism



# Thanksgiving

*A practical guide to  
Baptism and  
Thanksgiving for babies  
& young children*

The United Reformed Church in Cheltenham, is made up of Prestbury URC, St. Andrew's URC and The Church in Warden Hill (URC/Anglican), follows the teaching and practices of the wider denomination.

When parents contact the church to enquire about baptism, the minister or church elder will visit you to talk through your understanding of baptism, your commitment to their faith and the promises you will be asked to make.

If you are not church-goers and cannot, in all truthfulness, promise to bring the child up in the life of the church, then there is an alternative service you might like to consider. This is a Thanksgiving & Blessing, where thanks are given for the gift of the child and God's blessing given to the child and parents. The child can, when she/he is older, make his/her own decision to be baptised.

**Baptism can only be received once.**

The promises (see below) should be given serious thought before a decision is made regarding the type of service required.

### **BAPTISM**

The promises asked of parents are:

**Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?**

**Do you promise, trusting in God's grace, that by prayer and example you will teach A.... the faith of the gospel and bring *him/her* up in the worship and life of the Church?**

Godparents are asked:

**Do you promise, trusting in God's grace, to pray and care for A..... and support *his/her* family as you are able?**

### **THANKSGIVING & BLESSING**

The promise asked of parents is:  
**Do you promise, by God's grace, so to live that your child will be surrounded by love and goodness?**

Please contact the minister,

Revd. Maz Allen

Tel. 01242 238273

to arrange a meeting to discuss your decision.

You are always welcome at any of our church services including

- Jump4Joy,  
a half-hour family service  
on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday,  
9.30am at St. Andrew's,  
Montpellier Street,  
or
- 10am at Prestbury URC,  
Deep Street on 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday