

The Thanksgiving Service

1. The minister says:

Let us thank God that in his goodness he has given you *this son/daughter*.
God our Father, maker of all that is living,
we praise you for the wonder and joy of creation.
We thank you from our hearts for the life of *this child*,
for a safe delivery, and for the privilege of parenthood.
Accept our thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. The parents may say together:

Lord God, in giving us *this child* you have shown us your love.
Help us to be trustworthy parents.
Make us patient and understanding,
that our *child* may always be sure of our love
and grow up to be happy and responsible;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. The congregation may say a psalm.

4. Mark 10.13-16 may be read:

'People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.'

5. The minister gives the parents a copy of one of the gospels, saying:

This book contains the Good News of God's love. Read it, for it tells you how you and your family can share in eternal life, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

6. The minister says this prayer:

Almighty God, you give us all we need for life and godliness. Look with favour on this child; grant that, being nourished with all your goodness, *he* may grow in grace and Christian commitment until *he* comes to know you for himself through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7. The congregation say this prayer together:

Father in heaven, bless these parents, that they may cherish *their child*, make them wise and understanding, to help *him* as *he* grows, and surround this family with the light of your truth and the warmth of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Toddler Groups

Toddler groups are run at both churches in termtime - check for holiday opening. You and your child will be most welcome - come and

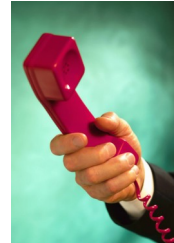


enjoy the company!
Both groups are open from 10-11.30am.

On Wednesdays, **Tots and Tinies** runs at St John's. On Fridays, **Tots and Co** runs at Christ Church (the church in Greenbank Railway Station).

Getting in Touch

For enquiries relating to **St John's** (Hartford Parish Church), please contact the vicar, Rev Mike Smith:
home: 01606 77557
office: 01606 783063
email: mike@stjohnshartford.org



For enquiries relating to **Christ Church**, Greenbank, please contact the minister, Rev James Hughes:
home: 01606 77740
office: 01606 77277
email: james@christchurchgreenbank.org

www.stjohnshartford.org
www.christchurchgreenbank.org

Can
we
have
our
child
christened?



Services to
welcome you
and your child



at St John's, Hartford
and Christ Church, Greenbank

Welcome

Thank you for your enquiry concerning a service for your child at St John's or Christ Church.



Congratulations if you have had a recent addition to your family, but don't worry if the child is older. We hope that you and your family will find a warm welcome here.

The birth of a child is always a special time and many parents, like yourselves, want to mark the occasion with a service in church. We want to help you to do this.

Giving Thanks

When we are given a gift, it is right to say 'thank you'. The Bible says, 'children are a gift from the Lord' - and so we should thank him for them.



Traditionally, parents brought their children to give thanks to God in a special church service.

Although it has fallen out of use in many churches, the first thing we will arrange with you is this opportunity to say 'thank you' to the Lord.

The Thanksgiving Service

The **Thanksgiving Service** is included within the main morning service at either St John's or Christ Church.

The Bible says that on one occasion, Jesus 'took ... children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.'



In the Thanksgiving Service, we follow Jesus' example. We will thank God for your child and ask for his blessing for him or her. An outline of the service is printed overleaf.

You may have sponsors, and we will give you a certificate to mark the occasion. This service does not require you or the sponsors to make any promises. The service is free, and an application form is enclosed.

What about Christening?

Most parents come to us asking 'can I have my child christened?' (or 'baptised', which is the same thing).

In the **Baptism Service**, parents and godparents make important promises before God.



These include a commitment to regular church-going as an example to your child, and a declaration that you are a committed follower of Jesus Christ yourself. For this reason, you may decide that the Thanksgiving Service by itself is right for you.

If however, after the Thanksgiving, you want to explore the possibility of baptism for your child, we will gladly help you to do this - please have a word with one of the ministers.

Your Move

To arrange a Thanksgiving Service, please fill in the application form and return it to the minister at the appropriate church. Contact details are over the page.



On the date the minister agrees with you for the service, please arrive 10 minutes early.

In the meantime, why not start coming to church if you don't already? On Sundays you and your family will find a warm welcome at the 10am service at St John's, or the 10.30am service at Christ Church. We also run toddler groups in both churches - see details on back.

Application for Thanksgiving

Today's date: _____

Child's full name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Address:
*(including
postcode)*

Phone: _____

Father's full name: _____

Mother's full name: _____

Sponsors: 1. _____
(optional) 2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Date requested: _____
(The date must be confirmed with the minister)

Please return the completed form to a minister, or post to: Hartford Parish Office, School Lane, Hartford, Northwich CW8 1NP.

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