

## Promises made at a Baptism service

### Promises made by the parents/guardians:

Do you believe and trust in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, giver of life, redeemer of the world?

**I/we do.**

Do you promise to teach (*child's name*) the love of God and bring him/her up in the life and worship of the church?

**I do/we do, with God's help.**

### To the godparents:

Do you promise to pray for (*child's name*) and his/her family, and to support them as you are able as a minister of God's love?

**I do, with God's help.**

### Promise by the congregation:

Do you, as members of Christ's Body, and trusting in God's grace, promise to pray for (*child's name*) to provide for the teaching of the gospel and to live a Christian life in the family of God?

**We do, with God's help.**

## Promises made at a Thanksgiving service

### Promises made by the parents/guardians:

Do you thank God for the gift of your child (*child's name*)

And do you accept the joy, privilege and responsibility of being a parents/parents?

**I/we do**

### Promises made by the sponsors (godparents):

Do you promise to support the family of (*child's name*) in any way you can so that (*child's name*) will flourish in life?

**I/we do**

Do you promise to pray for (*parents name*) and (*parent name*) as they parent (*child's name*)?

**I/we do**

### To the congregation:

Do you promise to offer all the support you can to the family, most importantly praying for them, that God will bless them in all that they do?

**We do.**

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If you have any further questions please contact Revd Richard Bradley and he will answer them or pass you onto the person who will conduct the service. Richard contact details are:

01706 369622 or richardbradley@cantab.net

## **Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church**

### **A Baptism or Thanksgiving Service?**

Information for you to consider



[www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)

## Introduction

Thank you for enquiring about the service you are thinking of for your son or daughter. At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC we offer two different services. We offer a baptism service (sometimes also called a Christening Service) and a thanksgiving service. This paper explains briefly the difference between the two, what promises are asked at each service, the expectations of parents and what the church promises too.

The usual process/timeline for arranging a baptism/thanksgiving service is as follows:

- 1) You contact the minister and ask for a meeting.
- 2) The minister will then send information to you (i.e this leaflet) for you to look at and decide which service is the one for you.
- 3) A date can be provisionally planned at this point.
- 4) A meeting is arranged with the minister. At this meeting the minister will talk you through what happens in the service and timings etc.

We ask that a maximum of 60 guests are invited to the service.

**Please note it may not be a minister but one of our members who conducts the service of Baptism or Thanksgiving for your child.**

## Baptism Service

You will no doubt have attended more baptism services than any other when it comes to services for children. A baptism service comprises of the parents making promises, godparents making promises and the child being sprinkled with water. Baptism is seen in the church as a “one off” event. It is seen as signifying a “new beginning” for the child in the life of the church. It is an act of God and in a special way God marks the child when the water is poured on them.



It is a service that should not be entered into lightly but with great thought. There are expectations with baptism. With the promises that are made comes expectation. As you will see from the promises in this paper the parents promise to bring the child up in the life of the church. This means, in church terms, that there will be church attendance both before and certainly after the day of the baptism service. The promises made by the parents, godparents and indeed the church congregation (as they make promises too) are made to God in the presence of the congregation.

If you are not a regular at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC then we cannot plan a date until you become part of the worshipping fellowship. We ask that you start attending and after four months we can discuss a baptism service. This is purely so you as parents and we as a church can fulfil promises made before God.

## Thanksgiving Service

This service is offered for those parents who want their child to make a decision about baptism his/herself when they are older. It is also for those parents who don't feel they can make the promise (before God) to bring the child up in the life of the church (church attendance). The parents opting for this service do so because they want to come into church and give thanks to God for the birth of their child.

Water is not sprinkled on the child but the minister will lay his/her hands on the child and offer a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing. Parents still make promises, godparents can still make promises and the church congregation also make promises. However it is not a baptism or christening service.

It is entirely possible that parents who are not sure which service to go for could have a thanksgiving service and then sometime in the future could return for a baptism service for their child.