

# Congratulations!



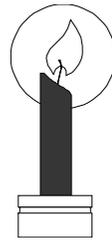
You've had a baby and want to celebrate and thank God. Your child is precious to you, and to God.

The arrival of a new baby is a wonderful event. We all want the best for our children; for them to grow up with love, care and security. Many of us want to express our feelings of joy by saying thank-you to God for the new life that has been given to us.

This leaflet is designed to give you information about having your child Christened and to tell you about your local church, The Good Shepherd, Cox Green.

## **What is a Christening?**

Christening (or Baptism, as it is sometimes known) marks the beginning of being a Christian. It is a service of initiation and welcome for new members of the Church. During the christening service, your baby/child will be baptised with water. Those who are baptised are asked to make declarations about their beliefs and a commitment to the Christian faith. When the new Christian is a baby or young child, it is the parents and godparents who are asked to make promises on behalf of the child.



Think of christening as the first step of a journey. You want to help your child to go further on this journey by encouraging him/her to pray, enjoying stories from the Bible together, coming to Church as a family, and helping him/her to grow in faith.

Christenings normally take place during our 10.00am service when we can welcome those who have been baptised into our Church Family.

## **Thanksgiving Service.**

You may feel that having your child christened is not appropriate at the moment - that you would prefer to wait until your child can make up their own mind, or that you are uncomfortable with making the promises required by parents and godparents at the service. However, you may like to consider, instead, a Service of Thanksgiving to thank God for the gift of your son/daughter and to have him/her blessed.

Like a christening, this would normally take place during the morning service. You could still have your child baptised later on if you change your mind.

Whatever you decide, we hope you and your family will feel welcome and at home at your local church.

## **The Church of the Good Shepherd in the Community Centre**

There is a **Parish Eucharist** every Sunday at 10.00am in the Victory Hall, at the Community Centre. ("Holy Communion" and "Mass" are other names given in some churches to the same kind of service). We offer facilities for parents and small children including 'happy bags' and a room adjoining the church with toys and books. 'Sunday am!' (our Sunday School) for children from about 3 years old, takes place in the Highfield Hall alongside our 10am service. The children come into church for the last part of the service. You are welcome to stay with your child/ren in Sunday am! or join us for the service in church.

On the first Sunday of the month at 10am there is an **All Age Service**. This is a simpler, shorter service that is suitable for worshippers of all ages.

Every Wednesday, during term time, we hold '**Little Fishes**' at 9.30am. This is a very relaxed and informal service for babies and pre-school children, their parents and carers. You are welcome to arrive anytime from 9.30 am onwards for coffee, tea and biscuits and chat while the children play. We end with a short and lively time of worship with action songs and rhymes, a Bible story and prayer lasting about 15-20 minutes. There are colouring sheets for the older children linked to the theme for the day.

During the year, the Church of the Good Shepherd also organises children's **Fun Mornings/Afternoons** (with craft activities, games, stories, drama and singing) around Harvest and Mothering Sunday.

If you would like to know more about Baptism, Thanksgiving or your local church, please contact the Church Office (Tel. 632567) at the Community Centre (open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings) or

ask after any of our Sunday or weekday services. Messages may be left on our answerphone.

You can also contact us by email: [goodshepherd.coxgreen@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherd.coxgreen@gmail.com)  
visit our website: [www.chogs.org.uk](http://www.chogs.org.uk)  
or our Facebook Page: [goodshepherd.coxgreen](https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherd.coxgreen)

There are several useful leaflets about our church, children in our church and Sunday a.m! Please ask for one.

You can also find out more about christenings on the Church of England website: [churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://churchofenglandchristenings.org) or on our diocesan website: [www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org)



### SERVICES AT THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*We welcome worshippers of all ages to any of our services.  
(All services are held at the Community Centre, Highfield Lane)*

#### Sunday

10am Parish Eucharist & 'Sunday am' (Sunday School)  
(10am All Age Service, usually first Sunday of each month) \*  
3pm Maidenhead Deaf Church, 4th Sunday in month  
6pm Shared services with All Saints and St. Luke's \*

#### Wednesday

9.30am Little Fishes service (term time)

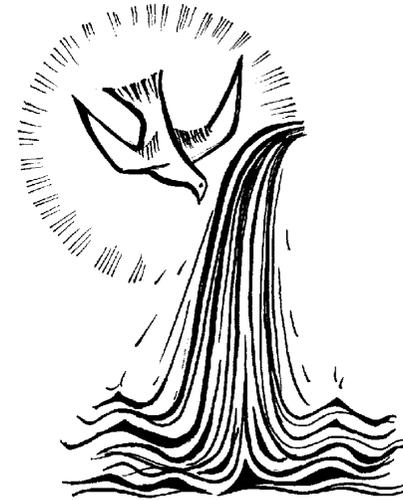
#### Thursday

10am Holy Communion, usually at The Vicarage

*For \* and other events, look on our website, Facebook page,  
or our notice board*

*For all enquiries please telephone the Revd. Joan Hicks  
at the Church Office on 01628 632567  
or call in at the Church Office in the Community Centre*

# Thinking about a Christening?



## The Church of the Good Shepherd

The local Parish Church serving Cox Green  
at Cox Green Community Centre