

# BAPTISM, DEDICATION OR THANKSGIVING

## Which is for you?

You have probably heard of Baptisms, Christenings, Dedications & Thanksgiving, otherwise you wouldn't be picking up this leaflet. But the one which is right for you depends upon your views, we hope that this sheet will help you decide.

## Baptism and Christening

Baptism is a Christian ceremony when a baby [or adult] is welcomed by the minister into the Church and is blessed with water; in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus himself was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

Christening, really is the naming part of the ceremony.

## Adult Baptism

If you were not baptised as a child, in any Christian denomination, you may wish to seek Adult Baptism as you follow Christ.

## Thanksgiving & Dedication:

A service of thanksgiving is where thanks are given for the gift of a child and God's blessing is given to the parents and family.



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# BAPTISMS

## Goring United Reformed Church



## SERVICE OF BAPTISM

### *Infant Baptism*

Baptism is a Christian ceremony where a baby or child is welcomed into God's Church by the minister and is blessed with water; in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself was Baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

Christening, really is when a baby is given a Christian name - ie when being Baptised. It was a term used more frequently some years ago - babies were Christened and Baptised.

As parents you will be asked to make promises: 'Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit? And do you promise, trusting in God's grace, that by prayer and example you will teach him/her the faith of the Gospel and bring your child up in the worship and life of the Church?'

### *Other leaflets in the series: -*

1. About,
2. What's On,
4. Membership,
5. Marriage,
6. Funerals and
7. Hall Hiring

## SERVICE OF BAPTISM

### *Adult or Believer's Baptism*

People who were not Baptised as a child and come later to the faith and wish to follow Jesus Christ may ask to be Baptised as an adult - this is known as Believers Baptism.

Some Christian denominations, like the Baptist Church, offer adult Baptism by full immersion, but the Church here in Goring does not have the facilities to offer this type of Baptism.

At the Baptismal service you will be asked to make promises of faith and commitment, just as those asked by the parents of children in infant Baptism. Maybe you will be seeking Church Membership as well.

### *WHO TO SPEAK TO NOW?*

You will need to speak to the minister  
Rev. Andrew Sellwood 01903 248259  
- or after a Sunday service:

Andrew is not with us every Sunday as he shares his ministry with another church, but you can see when he is preaching here at Goring by visiting our website

10:30am and 6:00pm

## SERVICE OF DEDICATION

### *Thanksgiving and Dedication*

Maybe you think that Baptism is not for your baby and you decide to let your children grow up and decide for themselves whether to be Baptised.

Some parents may feel that they cannot honestly make promises in a service of Infant Baptism.

Some may not share in the Church's life Sunday by Sunday, but still wish to thank God for the birth, dedicate the baby and celebrate the event with their family and friends.

Thanksgiving services take part during our normal 10.30am worship time. This is a service where thanks are given for the gift of a child and God's blessing is given to the parents.

The parents make promises to love and care for their child and God's blessing is sought for other family members. All those present are asked to share in the thanksgiving with the parents, and to promise to pray for God's blessing on the child.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

What about Godparents or Sponsors

It is not essential to have Godparents or Sponsors, but if you wish to have them then we suggest that you should choose those friends you respect for their love of Jesus Christ.