

### ***What is the Parents' Responsibility?***

When children are baptised, their parents are asked to declare their own Christian faith and to raise the child with a clear understanding of the Christian message. They should also encourage them to become an active member of the church family.

### ***What is the Function of Godparents?***

To be a Godparent is a privilege, a responsibility and a challenge. Godparents make the same promises as do the child's parents. They declare their own belief and trust in God and in Jesus Christ and promise that, by prayer and example, they will lead their Godchild into the same faith. As such we ask that all Godparents can say their oaths during the baptism service with integrity. We are not in the habit at St. Peter's of making hypocrites of people so a careful choice needs to be made.

The Church of England requires that all Godparents are themselves baptised. It also stipulates that there needs to be at least two Godparents of the same sex as your child plus at least one of the opposite sex. There is no limit to the number of Godparents your child can have. It should be a minimum of three. Thus a girl would usually have two Godmothers and one Godfather and a boy one Godmother and two Godfathers.

### ***What will we be asked to say & do in the baptism service?***

The wording of the baptism service most commonly used at St. Peter's can be found here: [http://www.churchsociety.org/publications/englishprayerbook/EPB\\_InfantBaptismSecond.asp](http://www.churchsociety.org/publications/englishprayerbook/EPB_InfantBaptismSecond.asp)

### ***Does Everyone Need to do Christianity Explored?***

For the reasons given above it is our standard practice at St. Peter's to ask you to do this as a couple.

### ***What if only one of the Child's Parents is a Christian?***

Many parents in this situation worry that they are somehow not able to have a baptism or that their child's baptism will be second class in some way. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that baptism is to take place in the context of faith and that one believing parent is certainly enough for their upbringing to be distinctively Christian. However, it may be that on the day of the baptism it's right for the unbelieving spouse to stay silent during the oaths as a matter of integrity. There will be plenty of time in the baptism preparation sessions to discuss this further and to look at the key Biblical texts.

### ***Can we have our child baptised in a different venue?***

Because biblically children are baptised into a church family we are unable to perform baptisms anywhere but St. Peter's. Your child will be raised in the St. Peter's family and we want to ensure the church family are the ones who commit themselves and pledge themselves publically to supporting and nurturing your child's faith as he or she grows up.

### ***What if we're not regular members at church?***

Again, because the child is to be baptised into the church family, any children baptised at St. Peter's need their parents to be regular members.

### ***What if as parents of the child we're not married?***

At St. Peter's we welcome everyone on Sundays without discrimination. The Bible does say, though, that one of the marks of following Jesus sincerely is a desire to live the kind of life He commands. This would show itself, amongst other things, in a couple being married if

they are living together and have children together. Our policy is therefore not to baptise the children of unmarried parents.

***What are my other options beyond St. Peter's?***

While we'd love to baptise your child, we do recognise that you may want to explore other options as well. Legally in the Church of England people are entitled to have a child baptised in the church of the parish in which they live. You can find the parish church for your area at: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/>