*The United Benefice of
St Matthew's Haslington with St Michael and All Angels, Crewe Green*

**Application for Baptism/Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child**

**Are you applying for Baptism Thanksgiving (Please tick)**

**Place of Service: St Matthew's Haslington St Michael's Crewe Green**

**Agreed Date of Service: Time of Service-**

**Child's Surname: Date of Birth:**

**Child's Forename(s):**

**Father's Full Name: Occupation: …………**

**Mother's Full Name: ………………………………………………………….. Occupation: ………….**

**Address:**

 **Telephone:**

**e-mail:**

**Approximately how many people will be attending the Service with you? …………………..**

**Approximately how many children will be attending the Service with you?**

**If you choose to have a Baptism Service for your child, you will need to have a minimum of 3 Godparents** (2 men and 1 woman for a boy, 2 women and a man for a girl). Church law says that *all* the Godparents must be both Baptised and Confirmed. We recognise that you may struggle to find 3 Godparents who have been both Baptised and Confirmed. **However, we do ask that *at least 1 Godparent has been Confirmed.***

**For a Thanksgiving** you can choose anyone as a Godparent. They do not need to be Baptised or Confirmed.

**Godparent:** Are they Baptised? Y/N Confirmed? Y/N

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When you have decided which Service you would like, **please return this form to**

**Rev Jane *,* either in person at church, or to The Vicarage, 163 Crewe Road, Haslington,**

**CW1 5RL, or by email at vicarjanelloyd@gmail.com**

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***Celebrations of New Life***

New life is always something to celebrate. We want to help you celebrate the new life of your child. There are two kinds of Service which you can choose from.

**Thanksgiving for the gift of a child** helps you to give thanks to God for your child. We will give your child their name in the sight of God and ask for God's blessing on you as parents and on your child as he or she grows up. The Godparents will promise to support you as you bring your child up.

**Baptism or Christening** is the service at which your child is welcomed into membership of the Church. You and the Godparents will make promises to help your child, by example, to take an active part in the public life and worship of the Church and to pray privately at home.

We hope the notes which follow help you decide which Service is right for you and your child.

**Which Service you choose is up to you. We are happy to help you celebrate it**
**the way most appropriate to you**

***Baptism or Christening***

*"Christening"* is an old English word which means *"making like Christ".* Nowadays a Christening is more usually called a Baptism. Baptism is the word which the Bible uses for events when water is poured over people to symbolise a new start in life.

**Baptism is the Service of welcome into membership of the Church.** If you choose to have a Baptism Service you, and the Godparents you choose will be making promises that, as your child grows up:

* you will pray for your child and set them an example of what it means to live the Christian faith.
* you and your child will take an *active* part in the life and worship of the Church.
* you will set your child an example of private prayer in the home and by taking part in public worship in the Church.

The Church will be promising to support your child by:

* praying for them
* giving them an example of Christian living
* teaching them the Christian faith.

***Thanksgiving Service***

This is a celebration Service which is quite different to Baptism. The emphasis is on your child, not on the church.

At a Thanksgiving Service we:

* give thanks for your child (which we do not do in the Baptism Service)
* formally give your child their name in the sight of God
* ask God's blessing, care and protection on your child and on you as parents as you bring your child up.

*There is no long term commitment to bringing your child to Church, although you may find this is a time when you decide to start doing that, in which case you and your child will be made very welcome.*

**Most importantly:**

* **You still have Godparents** for your child. They promise to support you as you bring your child up. They do not need to be either Baptised or Confirmed themselves.
* **A Thanksgiving Service does not exclude Baptism** at a later date. It is possible for people to be baptised at any age. Increasingly people are being baptised well into adulthood.

***We will be delighted to celebrate the birth of your child with you at
the Service which is most appropriate for you and your child.***

***WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU***