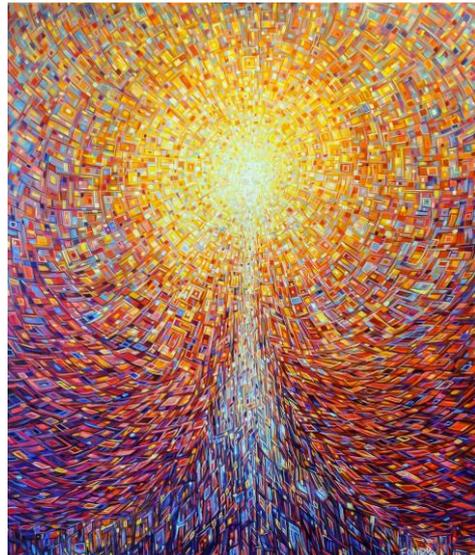


## **Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child at Holy Trinity, Hampton**

The birth or adoption of a child is a real cause for celebration. Many people are overcome by a sense of awe at the creation of new life and want to express their thanks to God. This service provides a wonderful opportunity for parents and families to give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and to pray for God's blessing upon every aspect of family life. It may be a private celebration at someone's home or in a hospital, or it may be part of a public celebration in church.

This service is not the same as Baptism (which people often confusingly call a 'christening') and is, technically, closest to what a christening is actually about. In popular culture to christen is closely connected with the idea of naming (we still say we 'christen' something when we use it for the first time, or give it its name). In the service of Thanksgiving for a Child, the child's name is publically used and proclaimed. Supporting friends and family can also be closely involved in this service, taking part in readings or presenting things.



*Who is this service for?*

There are many ways this service could be part of your family's life. Firstly, it could be a service that is held as a preliminary to the deep commitment of a baptism. Secondly, it could be a service for those who do not wish to have their children baptised immediately and would rather wait for a while. Thirdly, this service can be for those who do not wish to have their child baptised, perhaps letting the child make their mind up later in life or simply just wishing to surround their child with God's love, peace, joy and blessing.

### **For Further Information**

Please contact the Vicar on our 'Contact Us' page for further information.