

## Prayer for a new-born child

Lord, in this newborn child,  
lying before us, you grant us  
a glimpse of your  
image and likeness,  
brought into this world through  
our love for each other.

Grant us the patience,  
kindness and love  
to be good parents.

Show us how to persuade,  
without dictating,  
to encourage and guide and not  
simply to direct,  
to comfort and support,  
without stifling.

Grant us the humility to learn  
from our child, and never let us  
believe that we have all the  
answers.

Amen.

So you want your child  
baptised?



A leaflet prepared to assist  
parents consider **Infant  
Baptism.**

The Methodist Church  
Minister: Rev John Palmer

There is much confusion, debate, and misunderstanding about baptism. Within Christian denominations, there are different attitudes towards infant baptism.

### **INFANT BAPTISM IS.....**

- An act of thanksgiving
- A welcome of the child into the congregation of the Church
- Truths of the Christian faith are proclaimed in worship trusting the child will grow up to discover a living faith
- A commitment of the child to the love and mercy of God
- Serious promises are made by the congregation, parents and sponsors/Godparents

### **INFANT BAPTISM IS NOT**

- Giving the child a name
- Doing something which makes the child a Christian

In the Methodist Service of Infant Baptism, the parents are asked questions like:

### **THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

The parents (and godparents) stand. The minister says to the parents:

Will you love these your children, committing yourselves to care for them in body, mind and spirit?

**Answer: With God's help we will.**

Will you, therefore, ensure that they are nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

**Answer: With God's help we will.**

Will you set before them a Christian example, that through your prayers, words and deeds, they may learn the way of Christ?

**Answer: With God's help we will.**

As well as the family making promises, the local Church has responsibilities too.

They are there to provide a setting in which children can grow in faith through worship and through other activities.

Parents are encouraged to help their child to:

- grow in faith and encourage attendance at Christian worship.
- provide for the child a Christian home of love and faithfulness and to uphold Christian values.
- help the child by their words, prayers, and example to follow Christ.

### **For Godparents (Sponsors)**

Someone who will support the parents in the Christian upbringing of the child.

Please contact the minister to arrange a date for the baptism.