



*The churches of* **E**ast **D**ean, **F**riston and **J**evington  
**E**very **D**ay **F**ollowing **J**esus



**Welcome aboard!** Thank you for inquiring about baptism (sometimes called christening) or thanksgiving! We're really pleased that you are recognising the spiritual dimension to life and wanting to make sure your child develops in this vital area.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our church. In common with many other churches, we offer both **baptisms (christenings)** and **thanksgivings**. These are slightly different ceremonies, both involving the making of promises, and both including godparents / sponsors (if you choose to have them - it is optional). The main difference between them is in the sort of promises that are made, and the level of commitment that the promises involve.

We explain more about these different ceremonies in the **preparation sessions** we run for parents. These are a bit like ante-natal classes, except that they deal with the spiritual rather than the physical! It's a good investment of time and energy with the aim that you as parents can feel fully informed and understanding of the promises you are making, and so that you are equipped to help your child grow in their faith in the future.

**✉** If you live too far away to attend one of our churches regularly, then we would encourage you to arrange a baptism (if that is what you are seeking) in a local church where you live, since this is the church you will be able to attend regularly and in which it is appropriate for you to bring up your children. It

may, however, be possible for a thanksgiving to take place here - for example for family reasons.

 **If you live in our parish, or are (or now become) a regular member of one of our churches**, then we will be pleased to talk with you and offer either a baptism or thanksgiving. The first thing to do, therefore, is to start coming along regularly if you are not already doing so, making sure you feel at home, and giving you a chance to get to know us and everyone else. Our main morning services are at 9.30am, and you'll find we are a relaxed and friendly bunch. There's a regular crèche in the Cornerstone Room at East Dean along with a toilet and baby-changing facilities. After you've got to know us a bit better, and are settling into our services, we will be delighted to sort out dates for the preparation classes.

When these sessions are completed, it is then possible to think about booking in a firm date for the ceremony. (Please do not book a date with relatives before then!) Both baptism and thanksgiving take place in one of our All Age Services as by their very nature they are events not just for a family (though they certainly are that as well) but for a whole church.

We look forward to seeing you soon and to welcoming you into our church community and family!

Do phone or e-mail if you have any queries in the meantime.

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