

Holy Trinity and St Matthew's Church,  
Ronkswood, Worcester

# Baptisms



A Guide for Parents  
and Godparents



We are delighted that you are considering baptism, or christening, for your child and we have produced this simple guide to help you.

Baptisms for Holy Trinity & St Matthew happen on a Sunday afternoon at St Martin's Church, London Road, as we do not have a church building of our own.

Or, we would be delighted to welcome you to one of our main 10.00 a.m. services at Ronkswood Community Centre when the baptism can also take place.

If you would like to talk to someone about baptism or thanksgiving for the gift of a child, please contact in the first instance:

Rebecca Caskie, Team Administrator

Tel. 01905 358083

Email: [worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com](mailto:worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com)

Or

Revd Rob Farmer, Team Vicar

Tel. 01905 319157

Email: [revdrobfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:revdrobfarmer@gmail.com)



***"I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit."***

A Christening or Baptism is the first step of an amazing journey with God, parents, godparents, friends, family and the Church.

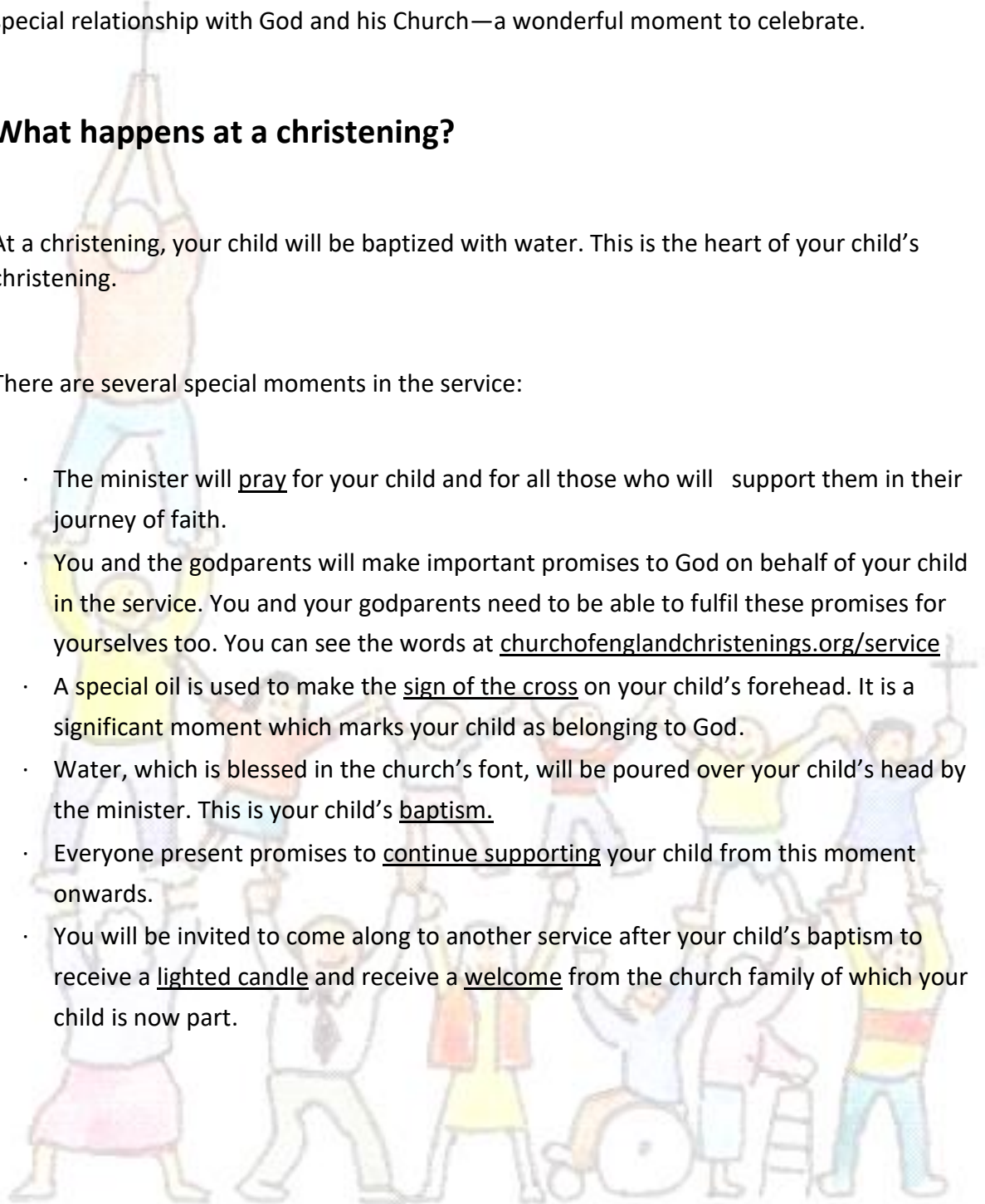
A lifetime of discovering more about love, faith and hope begins as you enter into this special relationship with God and his Church—a wonderful moment to celebrate.

## What happens at a christening?

At a christening, your child will be baptized with water. This is the heart of your child's christening.

There are several special moments in the service:

- The minister will pray for your child and for all those who will support them in their journey of faith.
- You and the godparents will make important promises to God on behalf of your child in the service. You and your godparents need to be able to fulfil these promises for yourselves too. You can see the words at [churchofenglandchristenings.org/service](http://churchofenglandchristenings.org/service)
- A special oil is used to make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead. It is a significant moment which marks your child as belonging to God.
- Water, which is blessed in the church's font, will be poured over your child's head by the minister. This is your child's baptism.
- Everyone present promises to continue supporting your child from this moment onwards.
- You will be invited to come along to another service after your child's baptism to receive a lighted candle and receive a welcome from the church family of which your child is now part.



## The role of Godparents

In the service, the godparents make solemn promises to share with your child the amazing journey of the Christian faith, to pray for and with your child, and to show them ways to grow in faith and love.

Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, godparents must be baptized themselves and already have an understanding of the Christian faith.

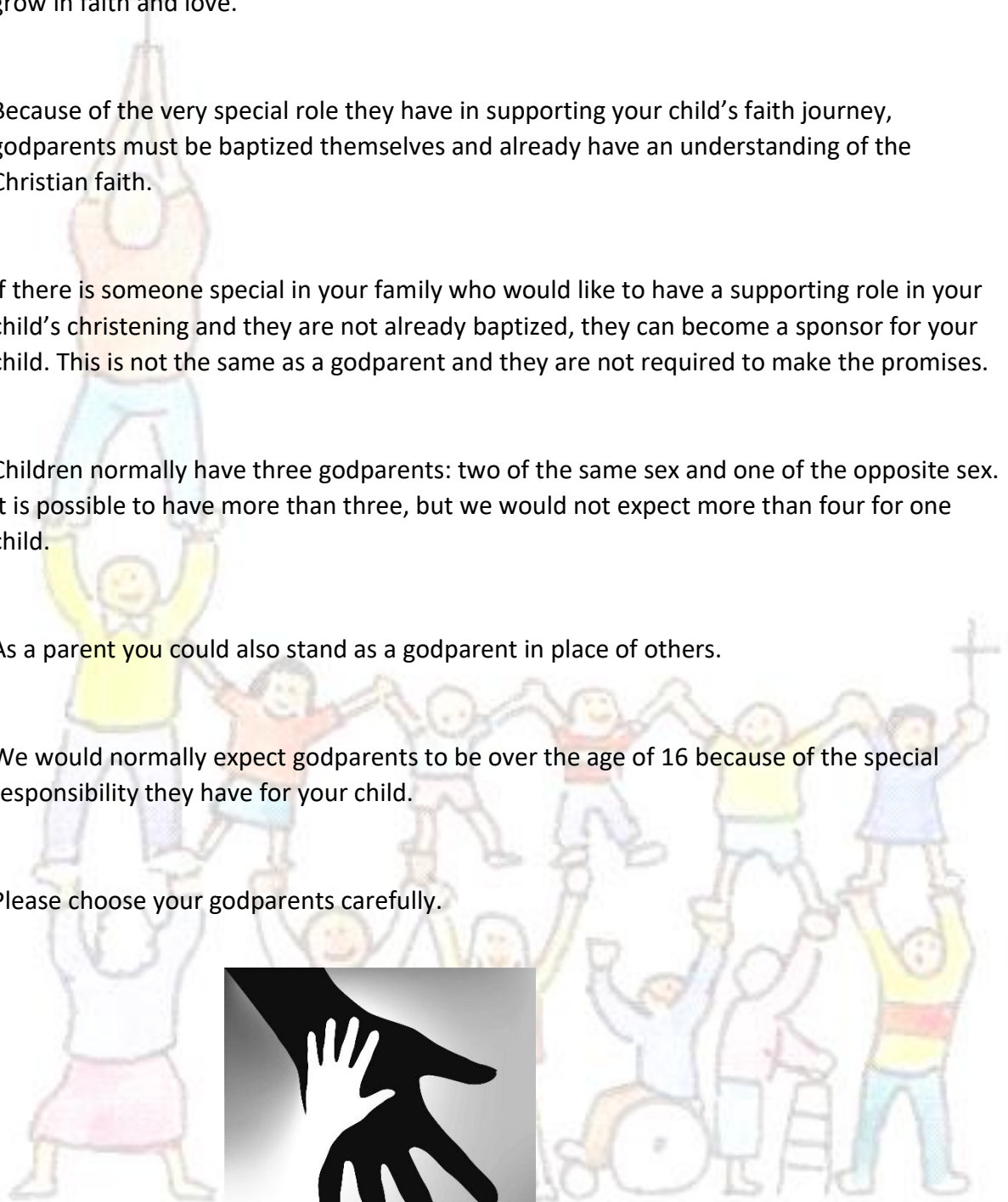
If there is someone special in your family who would like to have a supporting role in your child's christening and they are not already baptized, they can become a sponsor for your child. This is not the same as a godparent and they are not required to make the promises.

Children normally have three godparents: two of the same sex and one of the opposite sex. It is possible to have more than three, but we would not expect more than four for one child.

As a parent you could also stand as a godparent in place of others.

We would normally expect godparents to be over the age of 16 because of the special responsibility they have for your child.

Please choose your godparents carefully.



## What happens next?

Your child needs to know from the earliest possible time, about God's love as shown in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. It also means that your child needs to begin to learn that there is such a thing as a Christian way of living.

In addition, not only should you be regularly praying for your child, but you should be helping him or her to learn to pray too.

You love your child dearly and want them to grow up to be a healthy, caring, well balanced adult. Helping children on their Christian journey, helping to care for their spiritual as well as their physical needs is an important way to do just that.

A request for baptism pre-supposes that you will attend church regularly with your child both before and after the baptism service. This is the best way for you to support your child's faith development—and your own.

## Remember, the church is here to help!

The Church recognises its responsibility to support you as your child grows. Some people find it difficult to talk about matters of faith.

*We can help.*

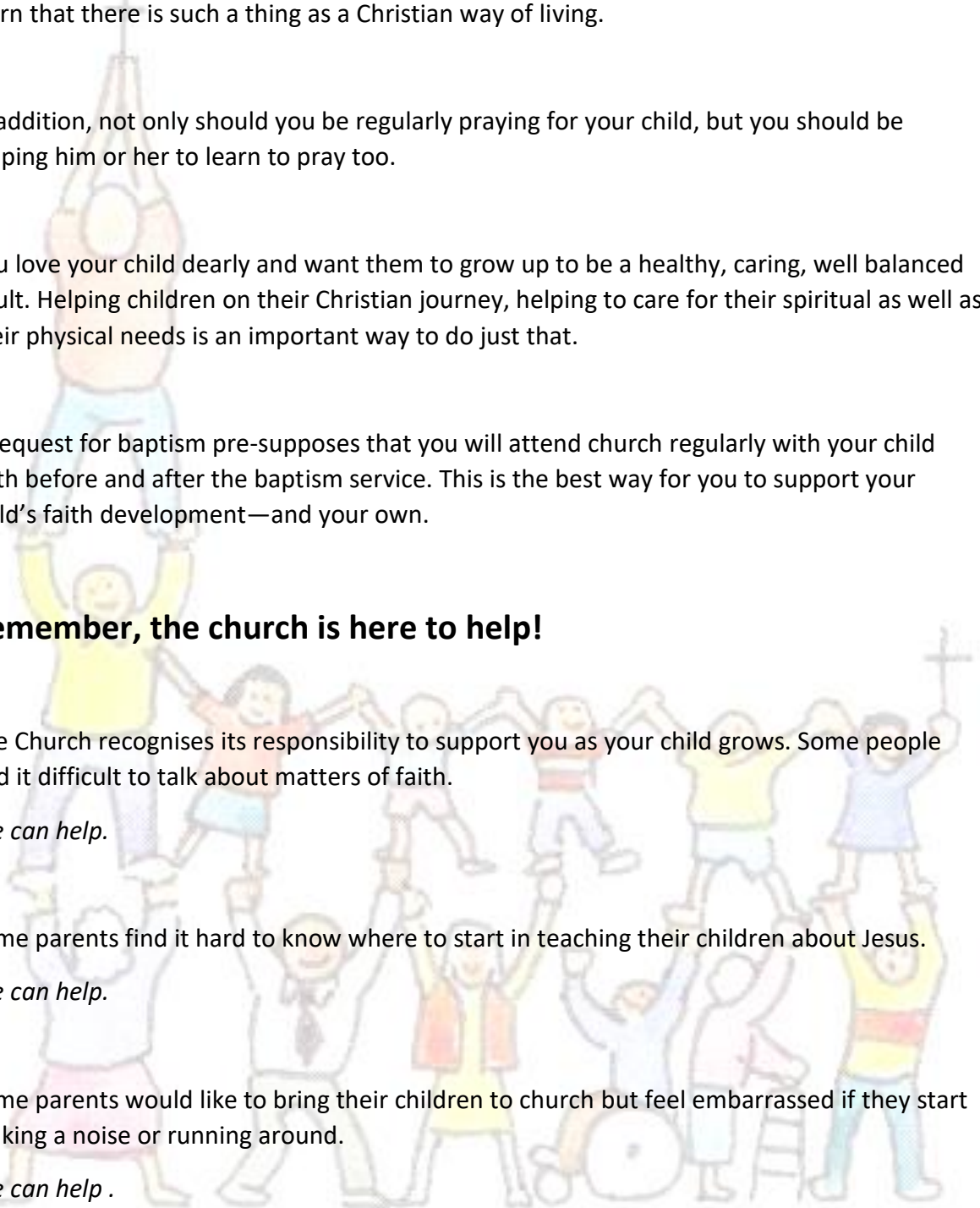
Some parents find it hard to know where to start in teaching their children about Jesus.

*We can help.*

Some parents would like to bring their children to church but feel embarrassed if they start making a noise or running around.

*We can help .*

We are used to having babies, toddlers and older children in worship and many of our services are family friendly—see the following page.



## How can we connect with the Church?

Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church, Ronkswood have an all-age family service on the 2nd Sunday of each month (and on a 5th Sunday when that occurs) at 10.00 am held at Ronkswood Community Centre off Canterbury Road. This is a great place to start. Our other services are slightly more formal but everyone is welcome to any service.

We understand that people feel nervous about coming the first time, but please be assured everyone is really friendly and you will get a great welcome. We also understand if you worry about kids making a noise or running around in services. This is not a problem and we LOVE to know they are there. We normally have a small amount of activities to occupy them, and we try to involve them in the service if they feel comfortable to do so.

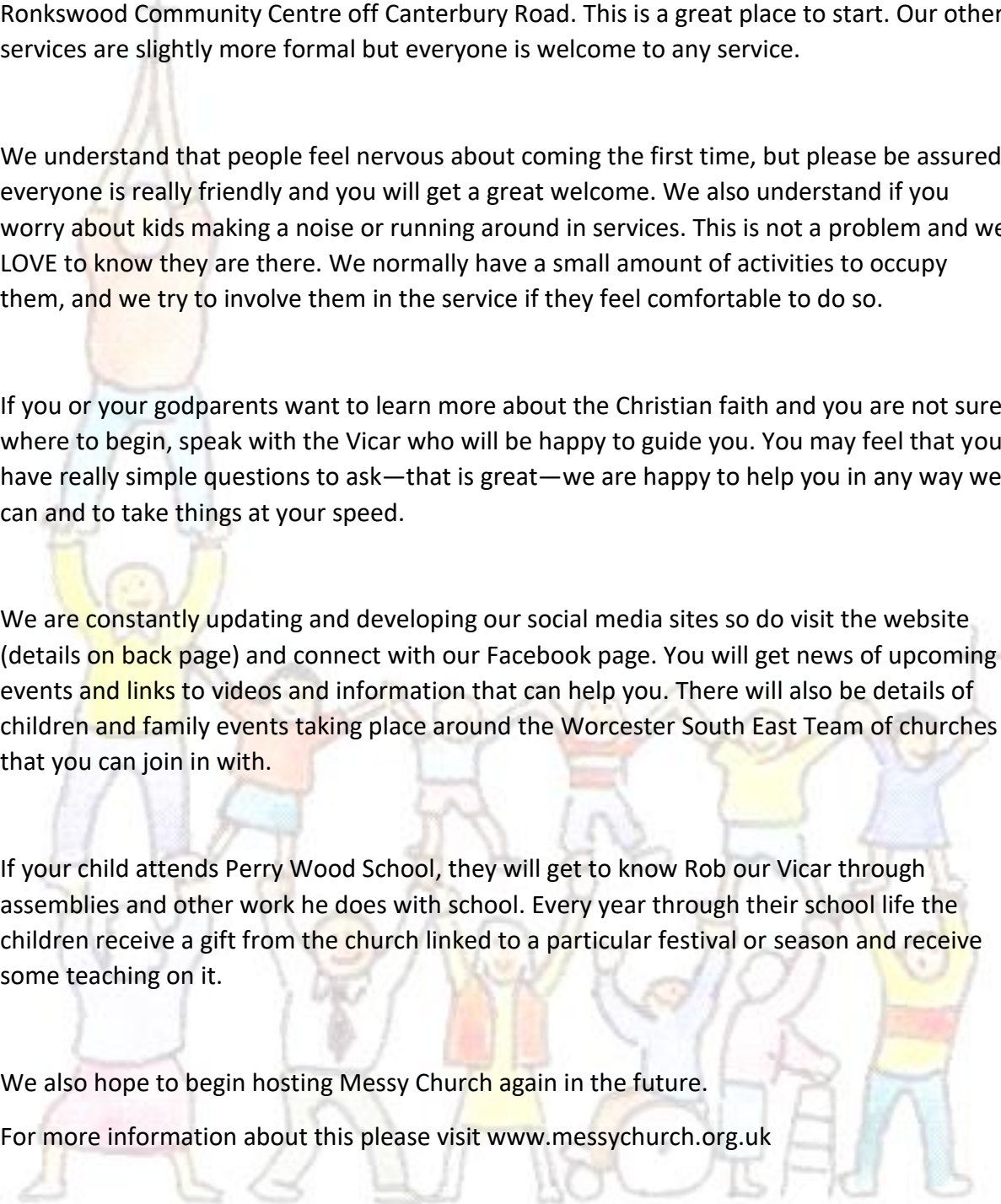
If you or your godparents want to learn more about the Christian faith and you are not sure where to begin, speak with the Vicar who will be happy to guide you. You may feel that you have really simple questions to ask—that is great—we are happy to help you in any way we can and to take things at your speed.

We are constantly updating and developing our social media sites so do visit the website (details on back page) and connect with our Facebook page. You will get news of upcoming events and links to videos and information that can help you. There will also be details of children and family events taking place around the Worcester South East Team of churches that you can join in with.

If your child attends Perry Wood School, they will get to know Rob our Vicar through assemblies and other work he does with school. Every year through their school life the children receive a gift from the church linked to a particular festival or season and receive some teaching on it.

We also hope to begin hosting Messy Church again in the future.

For more information about this please visit [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)



## Preparation

If you decide that you want to go ahead with a baptism or christening for your child, you and your godparents will be required to attend a baptism preparation evening at a date arranged with the Vicar. This may be attended by a number of families who have asked for a baptism.

## I live outside of the Parish of Holy Trinity & St Matthew

If you live outside our parish boundaries, you will be asked to provide a letter from your own parish priest giving his or her permission for us to baptize your child. This is a matter of courtesy between ministers.

## I am unsure about baptism or christening for my child

If you are unsure about the commitment that baptism brings and you do not feel that you can fulfil the promises you have to make at baptism, but still want to thank God for the gift of a child, the church offers a special service to do this.

This is called "Thanksgiving for the gift of a child".

The birth of a child is a 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, and this service does just that.

This service is not the same as a baptism or christening, (which is a sacrament of initiation into membership of the church), there are no promises to make, but it contains prayers and readings that help us to articulate our thanks to God for the gift of this child.

A baptism may come at a later date for your child. There is no age limit, you can be baptized at any age.

## Some frequently asked questions

*What is the difference between Christening and Baptism?*

There is no difference.

*Is baptism or christening the point at which my child is named?*

No, it is not a naming ceremony, you name your child when you register the birth with the local authority.

*If something happens to me and my partner do godparents become the legal guardians of my child?*

No, you need to name guardians in your will. The role of godparent is even more important than that. Godparents nurture your child's faith and spirituality.

*Is there a charge for baptism?*

No, baptism is free of charge. On the day of your child's baptism, a donations plate will be available at the rear of the church so that your family and friends can contribute to the work of the church in this parish.

*I have more questions, where can I get help?*

Speak to one of the contacts listed on page two of this booklet or visit our website and click on "Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals" on the right of our Home page or send a message through our "Contacts" page.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet.

Holy Trinity and St Matthew's Church, Ronkswood in the Worcester South East Team

Tel: 01905 319157

Email: [revdrobfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:revdrobfarmer@gmail.com)

Web: [www.holytrinityandstmatthewronkswood.co.uk](http://www.holytrinityandstmatthewronkswood.co.uk)

***"Today God has touched you with his love and given you a place among his people"***

Taken from the Common Worship Baptism Service