

Revd Michael Burns
Christ Church West Wimbledon
Sermon : Easter 6 ~ 21 May 2017, 10:00am Parish Eucharist
Baptism of Lily

I was talking to a couple recently who have celebrated a long marriage together: 'We've had the best life together' they told me – though the husband added that there were in fact two words which had kept them really together: 'Yes dear'.

'We've had the best life together'. Everyone wants the best in this life – but it is something of a paradox that many often want the cheapest, the bargain. Yet these two – the best and the cheapest – don't easily sit side by side. The best is not always the cheapest and the cheapest is not always the best.

But of course if I asked you what you wanted for your family, you would all answer that you want the best – the best clothes, the best education, the best job, the best food – the best in all sorts of ways. But perhaps for those who profess the Christian faith, the best best is what we are doing here this morning for Lily.

The bringing up and guiding of children has to be the toughest job in the world and of course the work does not ease up as children grow older. But the place of the Christian faith is still, 21 centuries later, of fundamental importance for many families, especially those trying to bring up children. Following Jesus of Nazareth continues to be the ultimate goal for many and the one strand which keeps their life together as we want God to bless us and those for whom we love and care.

This morning you all have your part to play in the celebration for Lily. Family and friends have a special role and responsibility, not just to enjoy the hospitality of the party but to support and pray for Phil and Nicola as they continue to bring up Lily in the best way that they are able. And of course, Lily is also being welcomed into the family of the Church as she begins her journey today as the newest Christian – and that is what the regular members of Christ Church are doing this morning – praying for and supporting Lily's family, whether you know them or not, because we are all bound together by the invisible thread that links us into one, the link of love which comes from God and leads back to God through Jesus who wants us above all to be one united and loving family.