

Revd Michael Burns
Christ Church West Wimbledon
Sermon :
September 2, 2018 ~ “Fourteenth Sunday of Trinity”
Baptism

‘Ours is the best’... ‘Ours is the cheapest...’ – two frequently used phrases used by firms to grab out attention. But usually these two – the best and the cheapest – do not sit comfortably side by side. The best is often not the cheapest and the cheapest is not always the best. So we quickly discover that some things that really are worthwhile do have to be paid for.

Of course if I did a quick survey amongst you of what you wanted for your families for your children, you would all answer – we want the best; the best clothes, the best education, the best jobs, the best food; the best in all sorts of ways; and of course for Christians the best best is what we are doing here this morning.

Today is a lovely occasion – the christening of Harry. 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 thanks to God. This service provides an opportunity to give thanks for Harry and to pray for family life, for children are a real blessing and a gift from God – yes, they really are, even when they are not at their best....

What we quickly discover too is that belonging to a family of some description is of the vital. Earthly family – Church family – School family – all give us a sense of belonging and support.

Everyone has their part to play in today – family and friends are very important today: you have a special role and responsibility, not just to enjoy the party afterwards, but to support and pray for Paul and Jenny as they try to bring up Harry in the best way that they are able.

And then, of course, Harry is being welcomed into the family of the local Church to which he will belong – and that is what the rest of the regular members of Christ Church are doing today – praying for and supporting the Grafton family, whether you know them or not – because we are all bound together by the invisible thread that links us all into one and which comes from God – and that is the best bit of all.