



# Welcoming New Life

## Welcoming babies

Welcoming a new baby is very special occasion. To celebrate, people often have parties, send cards or visit the family to meet the new baby. There are also special traditions that different religions follow to welcome babies into their faith.

### Welcoming babies in the Christian faith

Christians have a special ceremony in a church called a Christening. A Christening represents a new beginning in the church community. The **vicar** pours water on the baby's head over the **font** and makes the sign of the cross on their forehead. The baby wears a white gown, which is a symbol of purity and new life within the Christian faith. A candle is lit, which represents the baby shining like a light in the world like Jesus. Godparents are chosen to promise to help and guide baby to grow up as a Christian.



**vicar**

**font**

### Welcoming babies in the Muslim faith

The first thing a newborn Muslim baby should hear is the **adhaan**, which is whispered into the their ear. A paste made of dates is rubbed on the baby's gums. After 7 days, the baby's hair is shaved and weighed. The equivalent weight in silver is given to charity. An **aqiqah** is held, which celebrates the baby being welcomed into a Muslim family and gives thanks to Allah for the blessing of a healthy child. The baby is given a name, which is usually Islamic, with a positive meaning.



**adhaan**

**tahneek**

## Key vocabulary

<b>adhaan</b>	The Muslim call to prayer.
<b>aqiqah</b>	A special party held 7 days after a baby is born in the Muslim faith.
<b>font</b>	A special basin in a Church usually made of stone. It holds holy water for Christenings.
<b>tahneek</b>	The tradition of rubbing soft dates onto a baby's gums.
<b>vicar</b>	A representative of the church.

Have you ever welcomed a baby into your family? How did you celebrate?

