

High-speed baby just couldn't wait



David, Sophie and Carla Wheatley with baby Reuben, who was born in the family car on the way to hospital

Father has to deliver Reuben in car during dash to hospital

A Staffordshire father ended up with an extra passenger on a journey to hospital with his heavily pregnant wife.

Carla Wheatley was in labour and told husband David she wasn't going to make it to the hospital in time for the birth.

Chartered accountant David, aged 44, suddenly found himself in the role of emergency midwife, delivering the 7lb baby in the passenger seat of the car.

The couple were on their way from their home in Huntington, near Cannock, to Stafford Hospital last month when things began happening more quickly than expected.

David drove to his parents' home in Baswich, Stafford, and his mother phoned the ambulance service.

Carla, aged 34, was in the passenger seat of the Isuzu car and the baby was

Report by Andy Richardson

well on the way. But everything happened so quickly that within minutes David was holding his new son Reuben in his arms.

David said: "It is the sort of thing you would say you could never do - but when you are left with no choice you have to do it.

Paramedic

"It was clear that Carla wasn't going to make it so I decided to head for my parents' house.

"I got into the drive and my parents called the ambulance service.

"They were talking me through what should be done and telling me to hold on.

"But it was too far gone and the baby was already well on the way. Next

minute I have my baby son in my arms," said David. "It was quite an incredible experience but one which I am not sure I want to go through again.

"When Sophie, our five-year-old, was born, we were in hospital overnight waiting for things to happen. But, all of a sudden, there I was standing in the street at the passenger door, supporting the baby's head, then his shoulders, and then all of him."

David added: "We wrapped him in towels and within a few minutes the paramedic arrived and took over."

Then an ambulance arrived to take Carla and the baby to hospital.

That same afternoon David was able to take Carla and baby Reuben home to Huntington where a delighted Sophie was waiting to welcome her new baby brother.