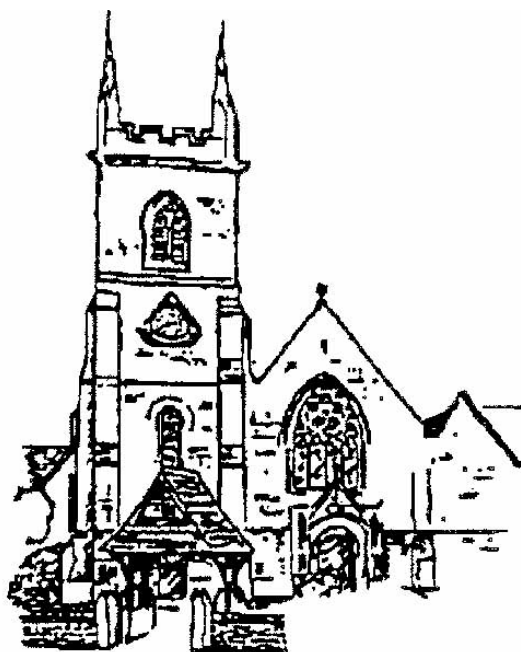


# St Mary the Virgin Ewell



[www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)

## Your child's baptism

Dear Parents,

We are delighted that you would like to have your child baptized at St Mary's. We will be very glad to welcome

into the Church family.

At St Mary's, baptism (also called Christening) usually takes place on certain Sundays at one of our two main morning services:-

9.30 am Sung Eucharist

11.00 am Morning Prayer (also called Mattins)

The 9.30 service is usually larger and includes Holy Communion. The 11 o'clock service is a little simpler.

Whichever service you opt for, it will be a great joy and a privilege for us to celebrate the baptism with you.

Please feel free to invite as many family members and friends as you like to the service. The regular congregation will also be there.

Once you have chosen your date and service,

one of our baptism visitors will visit you in your home to explain the baptism service. The baptism visitor will be able to answer your questions, but please do also feel free to be in touch with me, as your Vicar, about any matter should you wish to do so.

You and your child will be in my prayers as the day of the baptism draws near,

All best wishes

Russell Dewhurst

Vicar of Ewell

email: [vicar@stmarysewell.com](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com)

phone: 020 8393 2643

# What is baptism?

Your child is precious to you, and precious to God. At baptism you promise to raise your child to know that God loves them, and to help them to follow Jesus as a member of the Church.

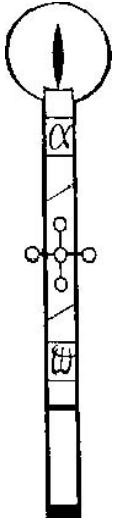
Baptism is what we call a 'sacrament', a visible sign of God's love for us. In baptism, we thank God for the gift of new life, and we mark a new beginning in the family of the Church.

There are various elements to the service. There will be hymns, readings, and a short sermon. There are some declarations and prayers at the



OUR 15th CENTURY FONT

front of the church involving you and the godparents. The most important part of the service- the baptism itself - involves the priest pouring water on your child's head. This is a sign of being washed free from sin and beginning a life with God. The baptism takes place at the font at the back of the church - our font dates from the 15th century.



At the end of the service I will give a lighted candle to a parent or to an older brother or sister to carry. The candle symbolises the love of Christ, and can be lit on every anniversary of your child's baptism as a reminder of this great day.

Your baptism visitor will be able to answer any questions you have about the service when they visit, and they will also be there on the day to guide you through the service.

Your child is a valued addition to the Church and your family will be made very welcome at the baptism service and in the future.

# CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S

One of the promises you make at baptism is to help your child take their place in the life and worship of the Church. We realise that this can sometimes be a challenge in the modern world, and so to help you, here is a list of the activities currently on offer for children and families at St Mary's.

**Toddler Groups.** Fun for the very young with their parent or carer - Monday, Thursday and Friday at the church hall. Get in touch with the parish office for time and more details.

Creche Available during the 9.30am Eucharist, as and when parents feel the need for it.

**Children's Hour.** Each Sunday morning during term time, the children learn about the Christian faith in a fun and creative way. They join the worshippers in church for the last part of the 9.30am Eucharist. For children aged between 3-9.

**Wayfarers.** For ages approx. 9 upwards. Children start and finish in the Eucharist but in between receive teaching which will take them to their first communion and confirmation.

**Parish Choir.** Boys and girls from the age of about seven can join our choir of children, teenagers and adults and benefit from a free musical training.

**Choir Club** For boys and girls from the age of about eleven. Games and individual choir training.

For all these activities please contact the Parish Administrator, email [parishoffice@stmarysewell.com](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysewell.com) or telephone 020 8393 2643. The Parish Office is generally open Mon, Tue, Wed, and Fri, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm.

And of course, there are our church services and other activities, at which you are always welcome. You can find out about more about what's going on on our noticeboards or on our website, [www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com).

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How much does it cost?** There is no fee for baptism, though a collection is taken at each service.

**Will ours be the only baptism on the day?** There are likely to be other children being baptized at the same service.

**What if the children aren't used to being quiet?** It doesn't matter if accompanying children make a little noise during the service, but there are toys available in the Parish Room (to the left of the choir stalls) for young children who need a break during the service.

**How should I choose the Godparents?** Godparents make the same promises you do about helping to raise your child in the Christian faith, so as you can see it's an important and responsible role. It is usual to have two or three godparents. Godparents must have been baptized themselves, and at least one should also have been confirmed.

**Will we be given a certificate?** There is a baptism certificate for your child and a card for each godparent listing their responsibilities, which we will give you at the end of the service.

**Can we take photographs?** Photographs are another important record of the occasion. There will be an opportunity after the baptism to take photographs in the church, beside the font. We ask you not to do so during the service.

**What about videos?** Unfortunately it is not possible for baptism services to be videoed at St Mary's. In common with most schools, we require all children present, and their parents, to give consent before there can be photography, and this is impractical at a public church service.

