

# Application for Baptism



*Growing People, Transforming Communities*

We are delighted that you have enquired about baptism. For adults and children baptism is a celebration of knowing Jesus and joining God's people. This form helps you give us the information we need to take your request further. Please fill in the parts that are applicable for your circumstances and return it to the church office, or a member of the clergy.

## Baptism at St Mary's

At St Mary's Baptism is a great time for celebration as someone is welcomed into the church family. For children and adults it is an important public step and so baptism services take place in our 10.30 services on the second Sunday of each month (sometimes it may be possible to change the week, but not the time). We prepare with some relaxed meetings where we consider issues of faith and life together and look at what baptism is all about. We expect both parents to attend all preparation and fulfill the steps below, and we also strongly encourage Godparents and other supporters to do the same as possible and appropriate.

## The steps you take

Baptism is all about living the Christian life, of which the service is a small (but important) starting place. Those serious about baptism will prepare for it by seeking to live the Christian life before, and most importantly after the service in church. At St Mary's we expect those seeking baptism to:

1. **Be regular** in attending worship: St Mary's has services at 8am, 10.30am and 7pm on Sundays, at 9.30 am on Wednesdays, and gives the whole of each Wednesday to praying in different ways (see Prayer Focus information in Notice Sheet).
2. **Be exploring** and growing in their faith. In the first instance this will be by both parents (and others if possible) attending the baptism preparation, but importantly by being part of a Mid Week group or other course/group as they are offered.
3. **Be active** in living the faith, through participating in worship and witness throughout our lives at work, home and in being part of church life and activities.

In all these things we are not expecting perfection, but progress. We all start in different places, and that is fine. But we need to be making clear moves forward.

If you are uncertain about any of this please do not hesitate to ask or contact us.

## The commitment we give

To support you and your family in this we commit to:

- Being available to answer questions and encourage you
- Praying for you regularly (if you have specific requests/needs please let us know)
- Welcoming you to our groups and activities for people of all ages. In particular midweek groups are great places for adults to find support and help, and for younger children SMUFF is a great place for under5's and their carers to find support and community.

## What do I do next?

If, having read the above (and FAQ's overleaf) and talked to the clergy, you still wish to go ahead, please complete the attached form and return to the Parish Office. Please complete it as clearly and fully as you wish (we can email you an electronic copy if that would be preferable).

If you decide that Baptism is not appropriate for you, there are other ways to think about and celebrate life and faith. Please contact Simon Heathfield and we would be delighted to talk further with you.

We will acknowledge your form by letter and then start the process of agreeing the appropriate date and form for the service, including the dates of preparation evenings. Please do not book anything until we have agreed and confirmed in writing (or email) the date of the baptism.

In the meantime please continue to be fully part of church life.

## 10 Frequently Asked Questions

### **Is there a problem if my partner is not a Christian or does not come to church?**

No. We can baptise you, or your children, based on your own faith or the faith of one parent. But all people are very welcome to St Mary's and we want those who do not share our Christian faith to find a place within this celebration and our church community.

### **Can my child be baptised if one of us is from another denomination or faith?**

There is not normally a problem. We encourage you to talk to your other denomination or faith community and understand their feelings about the baptism. We do not want to be divisive in our multi-cultural community and where possible would hope to act in ways that build relationships and understanding. We would also encourage partners to talk together about the implications of their differences for parenting and life, especially in relation to the promises made at baptism.

### **Can I have the baptism on a specific date?**

If there are particular reasons why the baptism should be on a Sunday other than our normal pattern, then please talk to the clergy and we may have some flexibility.

### **Can the baptism take place at a service other than 10.30 in the morning?**

No, unless there are very significant reasons why that should be the case.

### **How many people can come as friends and relatives?**

As many as you like, we encourage you to make it a true celebration!

### **Do we have to dress smartly?**

St Mary's is very relaxed, flexible and welcoming. If you want to dress up, that's great, but if you want to be more informal, that's fine. The important thing is the meaning, not the clothing.

### **What happens in the service?**

This will be covered in the preparation, but you are not required to perform or have any specialist skills! – just to be yourself.

### **Will this cost anything?**

No. There is no charge for this (although you are always welcome to make a donation to the church's ministry).

### **Will someone be checking up on our church attendance or beliefs?**

We are not a police force! We want all to be welcome and appropriately relaxed when we gather together. However, as outlined above baptism has significant expectations on parents and others about their own beliefs and practice. We do not take a register on Sundays or judge individuals. However the promises that are made are in public and in front of the church community and so it is important that serious consideration is given to our integrity and honesty. Where parents or others are not wholehearted in their answers the baptism will never become what it is fully meant to be. For some a Thanksgiving services is a much more appropriate and meaningful occasions for welcoming their children into the world.

### **Where can I find out more about the Christian faith?**

- At the back of church is a bookstall with quite a bit of free literature, do take some.
- Talk to one of the clergy or another Christian you know
- Try one of the following websites:  
[www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk)  
[www.invitationtoprayer.org](http://www.invitationtoprayer.org)  
[www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)

### **How can I contact St Mary's?**

**Ruth Edwards (Administrator)**, The Parish Office, 8 Church End, Walthamstow, E17 9RJ  
020 8420 1430, [enquiries@walthamstowchurch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@walthamstowchurch.org.uk)

### **Rev Simon Heathfield (Rector)**

020 8520 4281, [simonh@walthamstowchurch.org.uk](mailto:simonh@walthamstowchurch.org.uk)

[www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk](http://www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk)

# BAPTISM INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the sections appropriate to this application, sign and return as directed.

## 1. Details of person to be baptised:

Forenames: .....	Surname: .....
Age and Date of Birth: .....	
Address: .....	
..... Postcode.....	
Telephone no.....	
Email.....	
<b>If this application is for an adult baptism please go to sections 3 &amp; 4</b>	

## 2. Where the above is a child, please also complete the following:

### 2.1 Mother's Details

Forenames: .....	Surname: .....
Address: .....	
Tel No.: .....	Occupation: .....
Email.....	
Are you Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>

### 2.2 Father's Details

Forenames: .....	Surname:.....
Address: .....	
Tel No.: .....	Occupation: .....
Email.....	
Are you Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>

### 2.3 Please tell us the relationship between the parents:

Married <input type="checkbox"/>	Living together <input type="checkbox"/>	Apart <input type="checkbox"/>
Other: .....		

### 2.4 Who is making this application?

Mother <input type="checkbox"/>	Father <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/> .....
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### 3. Godparents and Supporters

*Where the baptism is for a child or infant it is normal to have up to 4 Godparents. Please ask the clergy for advice on how to choose. Where the baptism is for an adult, it is normal for the person to nominate 2 or more supporters which will be with them at the service and beyond into their Christian life. In both cases it is important that Godparents or Supporters are baptised and active Christian people.*

1.	Forenames:.....	Surname : .....	
	Address: .....		
	Email.....		
	Telephone.....		
	Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	Forenames:.....	Surname : .....	
	Address: .....		
	Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Email.....		
	Telephone.....		
3.	Forenames:.....	Surname : .....	
	Address: .....		
	Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Email.....		
	Telephone.....		
4.	Forenames:.....	Surname : .....	
	Address: .....		
	Baptised <input type="checkbox"/>		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Email.....		
	Telephone.....		

### 4. Confirmation and Signature

**I/We confirm the details above and agree to participate in the steps towards baptism as outlined above.**

Signed ..... Date .....

Signed ..... Date .....

**Please return this form to the Church Office, 8 Church End, Walthamstow, E17 9RJ**