

Baptism Dates for 2012

10.40am Service

22 January 2012

26 February 2012

25 March 2012

22 April 2012

27 May 2012

24 June 2012

22 July 2012

26 August 2012

23 September 2012

28 October 2012

25 November 2012

12.30pm Service

29 January 2012

29 April 2012

29 July 2012

30 September 2012

[Please note that whilst these are the dates set a particular Sunday may be fully booked. Full availability will be given at the *Thinking About Baptism* evening]

Frequently Asked Questions

Q| What's the difference between a baptism and a christening?

A| None, they are just different words for the same thing. We tend to use the word Baptism.

Q| What if I don't live in the Parish?

A| You will need to obtain permission, usually by a letter from the Church of England Parish in which you live

Q| What is the right age for baptism?

A| Baptism can happen at any age. What matters is that those concerned believe it is right to ask for baptism.

Q| I'm not a regular churchgoer. Can I still have my child baptized?

A| Yes. The Church believes that God's love is available to all, regardless of their background.

Q| What does it cost?

A| The Baptism service is free although there is the opportunity to make a donation if you wish

Q| Is it possible to have a Thanksgiving Service rather than a Baptism?

A| Yes, please speak to one of the contacts on the front of this leaflet about this.

Q| What is a godparent?

A| Godparents make the same promises on behalf of the child being baptized as parents. Godparents promise to pray and support the child and to help the parents to bring up the child in the Christian faith. It is an important and responsible role.

Q| How many godparents should I have?

A| You should have at least three: two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex. Parents can also be godparents.

Q| Who should I choose to be a godparent?

A| Godparents can be family members or friends. However, it is important that you choose people who will take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and who will pray for you and your child. They should be baptized themselves.

For more information please visit

www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/baptismconfirm/

Your child's **Baptism** at St Mary's, Wistaston



contact info...

To enquire about a Baptism please contact the Church Office Mon-Fri 9.30am to 12.30pm

Church Office

**The Church Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston,
Crewe. CW2 8HA**

01270 567119

office@stmaryswistaston.org.uk

Rector: Revd Mike Turnbull

Tel: 01270 665742

revd.mike@stmaryswistaston.org.uk

Pastoral Worker: Ann Stubbs

01270 650583

Curate: Revd Ken Sambrook

01270 662455

revd.ken@stmaryswistaston.org.uk

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Baptisms at St Mary's

What is baptism?

In baptism, you as parents are: thanking God for his gift of life, deciding to start your child on the journey of faith and asking for the Church's support.

For your child, baptism: marks the start of a journey of faith, which involves turning away from the darkness of self-centeredness, turning towards Christ and becoming a member of the local and worldwide Christian family.

Baptism is a 'sacrament': a visible sign of God's love. In baptism, we are thanking God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledging his love. We are acknowledging that we all need to turn away from the darkness of evil and to make a new start with God.

Making decisions and promises

When you bring your child for baptism, you will be asked to declare publicly on behalf of your child that you believe in God and that you will bring your child up to follow Jesus.

You will be asked to answer, on your child's behalf, that you have decided to turn away from everything which is evil or sinful and to turn instead towards Christ.

A Thanksgiving Service

If you do not feel that you are ready to commit to baptism on behalf of your child please ask us about a Thanksgiving Service. In this service, you thank God for the gift of your child and the child is blessed. You do not make the same promises as in the Baptism service. If you choose to have a Thanksgiving, you may also have a Baptism service for your child at a later date.

Baptism at St. Mary's

Baptisms are generally conducted at the 10:40am service which is a Family Service and lasts for approximately an hour. The maximum number of Baptisms for this service is two families. There is also the opportunity for a Sunday afternoon Baptism and this is at 12.30pm and will be a dedicated Baptism Service lasting for 30 minutes. The maximum number of Baptisms for this service is four families. All the dates can be found on the back cover of this leaflet.



What should I do next?

If you have already booked onto a *Thinking About Baptism* evening then we will meet that evening and discuss which dates are available.

If you have not booked onto a *Thinking About Baptism* evening please ring Sue in the Church Office to do so, contact details are on the front of this leaflet. We run them on the first Tuesday of each month.

Please note: *your child's Baptism is not finally booked until we receive the completed application form from you and we agree on a date at the Thinking About Baptism Evening.*

Thinking About Baptism Evenings

We usually run these on the first Tuesday of every month in the Howe Room within the Church Hall (**entrance through the Church Office door - to the right of the building as you look from the road**). They usually begin at 8pm and last for an hour.

At a *Thinking About Baptism* evening we will look at the Baptism service, the meaning behind it, the challenges of the promises you and the godparents will make on behalf of your child, we will think about the practicalities of the service (when and where to stand!!) and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

They are usually run by Ann Stubbs our Pastoral Worker at St Mary's and the Rector. The evening is hopefully (please let us know if it's not!!) an informative and relaxed evening and an opportunity for us to meet together and start planning what is very important day in the life of your child.