

How to contact us:

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Opening hours:
Monday-Friday 10am - 12noon
Wednesday 7 - 8pm

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Website: www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Other leaflets in this series:

- Welcome to St. Mary's
- Children Welcome!
- Getting Married
- The Healing Ministry at St. Mary's
- Death and Bereavement

Your Child's Baptism at St Mary's



Your Child's Baptism

We are delighted that you are considering having your child baptised. Your child's baptism is a very important occasion both for the Church and for your family, and one that we, at St. Mary's, take very seriously.

Baptisms at St. Mary's take place either within the main service at 10am or at a special baptism service at 12 noon.

We hope that it will be a happy and memorable time for all concerned and, like everything else important in life, your child's baptism will require careful planning and preparation.

Your first step is to visit or telephone the Parish Office to let us know that you are considering a baptism.

We will take your contact details and arrange for one of the baptism team to meet with you. They will explain what our church offers for children and young people and also let you know the next steps in the process of preparing for the baptism.

This will include attending a regular Sunday service and also a preparation meeting with one of the clergy team.

Questions that are often asked

Who can be a Godparent?

You should have at least two Godparents: one of each gender. Traditionally, there are at least two Godparents of the same gender as the child and one of the opposite gender. 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 baptised themselves and mature enough to act as a Godparent.

What happens if one of the Godparents can't come to the Baptism?

Of course, they will make every effort to come if they possibly can but sometimes this is impossible. This doesn't stop them from being a Godparent.

We're not married – can our child still be baptised?

Yes. If you would like to discuss the possibility of getting married, the Rector would be delighted to talk to you.

Can older children or adults be baptised?

Yes. If you are considering this, please have a word with a member of the clergy.

We don't live in Saffron Walden—can we have our baby baptised here?

It is usual to have your baby baptised in the parish where you live so that your child can be welcomed and grow in your local church family. However, if there are particular reasons why you would like to have the baptism here (e.g. family links), it may be possible to arrange with the agreement of your own local minister.

What does it cost?

Baptism is a symbol of God's love for us which is freely given. We make no charge.

Baptisms in the Village Churches

If you live in Littlebury, Wendens Ambo, Little Walden, Swards End, Ashdon or Hadstock your baby can be baptised in the village church. We have the same procedures for booking your baptism and you should call the Parish Office or talk to your local minister in the first instance.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Parish Office (01799 506024) if you have any questions or if you need any more information.