

## **A Christening at St Mary's**

**St Mary's Church Battersea**  
*open church, open heart, open mind*



**Application form**  
*for a Christening at St. Mary's*

**2009**

## **Baptism: A turning point in life**

You have recently had a baby and you are thinking of having him or her christened. Congratulations! The birth of a baby is a good reason to think about the mystery of life.

Perhaps your children are a little older and you are only now thinking about what faith is all about. Perhaps you are thinking of being baptised yourself and making a commitment to Christ and the Church.

Whatever your reason for thinking about baptism you are welcome at St Mary's.

(**Baptism** and **Christening** are the same thing! Christening is an old English word and reminds us that by being christened we become Christians, Baptism is the Greek word used in the New Testament and reminds us that in baptism we are washed to begin a new life.)

## **Baptism: A turning point in the Community**

The decision for baptism is never just a private relationship between God and you, it is a decision about joining the world-wide Christian family. When you are baptized you will be declaring your intention to grow as a member of the Church. You cannot be a baptized Christian and not belong to a Church and we hope that you will feel welcome and able to grow within our church community here at St Mary's..

But Christian community is not simply another club. There are lots of other associations which provide a social life and support. The church offers something else, something which you cannot find elsewhere.

We are a diverse and varied local community which believes that life should be centred on God and we come together to learn and feed our souls. We are a community committed to praying for those who are its members and those who are not and the church is open for prayer most days of the week as well as on Sundays!

Christianity is a religion that demands that our faith be put into action to create a better world. Not only should we love others as individuals, but we should work together to change society so that it is a better place in which to live. We have a desire to change the world and make it more like the one they believe God intended. You are welcome to join us in this task.

## **Who can be baptized at St Mary's?**

We are always delighted to carry out baptisms for regular members of our congregation and for people who live within our parish boundaries. If you live outside the parish boundaries, we will either direct you to your local parish church where the baptism can take place, or we will explain the degree of commitment involved in becoming a regular member of our congregation and actively supporting our work and mission in the area. This commitment will involve your time, your talents and your financial support, and we look forward to you joining us!

The vicar is usually available in Church on the third Monday of every month between 6.30 pm and 8pm for any further enquiries and initial contact. Please telephone the parish office (020 7228 9648) for more details.

## 1. When do baptisms happen?

Baptisms nearly always happen at the main Sunday morning service at 11am. This is for two reasons. First to emphasise that becoming a Christian is never just a private arrangement but always involves the wider community and the new Christian family. Secondly it gives your family, friends and other guests an opportunity to experience normal Sunday worship at St Mary's.

Because having a Baptism significantly changes the shape of the Sunday service for the whole congregation we tend to have Baptisms only once a month and we try to limit the numbers so that no more than three people are ever baptised at one service.

In 2009 we will be having baptisms on the following Sundays:

Sunday January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday August 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Sunday February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday October 25 <sup>th</sup>
Sunday April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday November 22 <sup>nd</sup>

### **Important notes:**

1. We advise you to check the date with the parish office as soon as possible to make sure that there are still places available on your chosen date. The baptism is only arranged when we receive the completed application form.
2. If you have special reasons for wanting a particular date or time please speak directly with one of the clergy and we will try to help.
3. We cannot guarantee which member of the clergy team will actually do the baptism. Generally, however, we will try to make sure that the person doing the preparation will be the one doing the baptism.

## 2. What about Godparents?

All children who are being baptised will need to have at least one godfather and one godmother. Traditionally in England a boy has two godfathers and one godmother and a girl has two godmothers and one godfather. You can, however, have as many godparents as you want!

All godparents must themselves have been baptised and it is recommended that godparents should also be confirmed. They can belong to any mainstream Christian church (Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Greek Orthodox etc.) but they have to be happy to support the child being brought up as a member of the Church of England.

Please encourage the godparents to look at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/lifeevents/baptismconfirm/baptism1.html#godparents> for more general information about being a godparent in the Church of England.

## 3. What about preparation?

A member of the clergy will arrange to visit you during the couple of months before the Baptism. We will talk about the promises that you will make and the meaning of different parts of the service. We will also try to answer any more general questions you may have about Christianity, faith or the church.

Please look at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/baptismconfirm/sectionb.html> for more general information about the meaning of baptism in the Church of England, and take time to look at the promises you will be asked to make.

## 4. How much does a baptism cost?

There is no charge for a baptism. However we hope that as you join our community you will feel able to support us financially as well becoming more regular attenders. There is a financial support form attached to this application form.

## ***The Words of the Service:***

### **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE (at the beginning of the service)**

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome N and N and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

**All: With the help of God, we will.**

The Church receives N and N with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. As their parents and godparents, will you pray for them and draw them by your example into the community of faith? Will you walk with them in the way of Christ and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

### **THE BAPTISM (after the sermon)**

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?:	<b>I turn to Christ</b>
Do you repent of your sins?	<b>I repent of my sins</b>
Do you renounce evil?	<b>I renounce evil</b>

### ***Signing with the Cross***

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.  
Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All: Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. Amen

### ***Profession of Faith***

Let us affirm, together with Oliver and Bertie who are being baptized this morning, our common faith in Jesus Christ. Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**All: I believe and trust in him**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All: I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All: I believe and trust in him**

This is the faith of the Church

**All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

### ***Baptism, Anointing and Giving of a Lighted Candle***

Priest: (Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

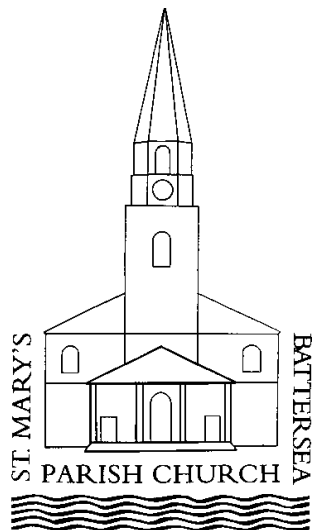
*Prayers for them to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, anointing them with oil blessed by the Bishop.*

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. Amen

*The Priest then gives them a lighted candle, lit from the Paschal Candle and says:*

God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.  
Today you have received the light of Christ: walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All: Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father**



# Application for the baptism of a child

<b>Date and time of proposed Baptism</b>	
<b>Full Name</b> <i>of the person to be baptized</i>	
<b>Age and date of birth</b>	

<b>Father's full name</b>		
<b>Father's occupation</b>		
<i>Has the father been baptized?</i>		<i>Has the father been confirmed?</i>
<b>Mother's full name</b>		
<b>Mother's occupation</b>		
<i>Has the mother been baptized?</i>		<i>Has the mother been confirmed?</i>
<b>Address</b>		
<b>Telephone numbers</b>	<i>Home</i> <i>Work</i> <i>Mobile</i>	
<b>Email Address</b>		
<b>Godparents (full names)</b>		
1.		
2.	<i>Have they been baptized?</i>	<i>Have they been confirmed?</i>
3.	<i>Have they been baptized?</i>	<i>Have they been confirmed?</i>
	<i>Have they been baptized?</i>	<i>Have they been confirmed?</i>
<b>Signed</b>	1. 2.	<b>Data Protection:</b> <i>We would like to be able to contact you about what is going on at St. Mary's, such as special services or family events. If you do not want your name and address to be used in this way will you please mark a cross in this box.</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/>