

FAQs | Christenings at St Mary's

Q: I'd like to have my child Christened, can I book one over the phone?

A: No. Here at St Mary's, planning a Christening involves a process of preparation. Bookings are taken at the end of this 'preparation process'.

Q: What do I need to do to have my child Christened?

A: Before children are Christened, we ask parents to participate in a 'preparation process'.

Q: What does the Preparation Process involve?

A: This process covers two areas:

1. We ask parents to get into the habit of bringing their children to church; so you can join in with the church family and learn more about God's love.
2. We also ask parents to attend two preparation classes. (These classes usually occur every few months; check our website calendar for details of forthcoming classes.)

Q: Why do I have to bring my children to church?

A: At your Christening service, you will make promises both to God and to the local church about helping your children take their place within the life of the church. Our preparation process and our invitation to join in with the life of the church is simply to help you in developing a routine which will enable you to keep these promises.

Q: Do you expect me to attend church every week?

A: No. Many of our young families come once or twice a month. The important thing is to develop a routine which works for you and your family.

Q: I work on Sundays; will that be a problem?

A: No. We realise that Sundays may not always be the best time for you and, with this in mind, we offer a range of services, groups and events throughout the week. Have a look at the calendar on our website for more information about our range of activities.

Q: I'm worried that my children will make noise and disturb the service; will my children be welcome?

A: Here at St Mary's, we understand that children often make noises, and we welcome children as children (in fact, we welcome everyone as they are). You and your family are always welcome – although you might find some of our activities are more child-friendly than others (particularly our informal 11am Sunday services). If you're concerned about noise, you might want to try our short Seen & Heard service on the first Sunday of each month. Seen & Heard is often noisy, frequently chaotic, but always fun! (Check out our website for details about our other child-focussed and family-friendly activities.)

Q: How long does the Preparation Process take?

A: It all depends on you! Some families come along to lots of activities and settle in to church life quickly, while others take more time. You will need to choose the right level of involvement for your family – and we are happy to help you along the way.

Q: How do I find out more?

A: Call the church office on 02380 448 337, visit www.sholingchurch.com or come along and have a chat with one of the vicars after an informal 11am Sunday service.