

## A message from the Clergy

Thank you for your enquiry. We hope that this leaflet explains clearly what we can offer you within our church for the Thanksgiving or Baptism (Christening) of your child.

Please read it carefully and your Lay Pastor will be happy to help with any questions that you may have.

*The Reverend Canon Simon Everett (Team Rector)*  
*The Reverend Stuart Cocksedge (Team Vicar)*  
*The Reverend Jane Williams (Assistant Curate)*  
*The Reverend Michael Young (Associate Priest)*  
*The Reverend Brigid Barrett (Associate Priest)*



## CHURCH SERVICES

### Lady St Mary Church, Wareham

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Communion with Angel Voices  
(1st Sunday of the month only)

### Sandford St Martin's *Community Worship Centre*

9.00 am Breakfast@9  
(Informal Family Worship with food)

10.30 am Morning Worship or Communion

The above are listed on our Website or the notice board outside Lady St Mary Church.

There is also a Parent and Toddler group that meet on Thursday mornings in the Parish Hall - Sandford Toddler Group on Wednesday mornings at Sandford St Martin's Community Worship Centre.

Please contact the Parish Office Tel: 01929 550905 for further information.

### The Parish of Wareham

If you require more information you can contact  
The Parish Office  
Church Green  
Wareham BH20 4ND

01929 550905 Monday - Friday  
office hours 9.30am until 12.30 pm

Email  
parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk  
www.warehamchurches.org.uk



## You, Your child and the Church

A leaflet about Baptism (Christening) and Thanksgiving



**Love God,  
Become like Jesus,  
Grow in the Spirit  
Together**

# Baptism (Christening) and Thanksgiving Services

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## Thank you for your enquiry, so what happens next?

**A Lay Pastor, will be in touch to discuss this leaflet with you - The process of preparing for Baptism (Christening) or a Thanksgiving will normally take a few months from the date of the enquiry**

Meanwhile, we would like you to:

- Take some time to read this leaflet which explains Baptism (Christening) and a Thanksgiving.
- Come along to three of our services (please see list of times and type of services overleaf).
- Twice a year we hold an informal preparation lunch or supper, (which you will be invited to by our LPA), where you will meet up with other parents exploring Baptism (Christening) or Thanksgiving.
- Once you have been given your Application Form, please fill out and return to the Parish Office. We will then contact you to arrange the date and confirm the details in writing.
- You will be then invited to meet with your Godparents/Supporters to run through the service.

More information can be found on <http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals.aspx>

### **The Service of Baptism (Christening)**

“Baptism” is for children whose parents are committed Christians, intentionally accept the love of Jesus, follow him in a life of regular worship, prayer and Bible reading and want their child to grow up with them in the church family

#### ***For Whom?***

This service is for parents who

- Wish to express publicly their gratitude to God for the safe arrival of their new baby
- Want to declare their own Christian faith
- Wish their children to become members of the church
- Promise to pray for and with their baby/child to set a Christian example

#### ***Requirements***

It is necessary that

- Someone from the church talks with you about the service and what it means
- We would like you to make a commitment to your local church, and bring your family regularly and attend at least 3 services before the Baptism
- You are humbly but clearly able to declare yourselves as believing and practicing Christians
- Godparents (normally three) are themselves baptized members of the Church of England (or a member of another Church)

#### ***What happens?***

The service includes most elements of the Thanksgiving. In addition, it contains the parents and godparents declaration of their own Christian faith, their intent to keep away from evil and follow Christ. The child is baptised in water and receives a certificate marking the occasion.

#### ***When?***

Usually the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3.00 pm at Lady St Mary Church.

### **The Service of Thanksgiving**

A “Thanksgiving” is for those parents who believe in God and want the arrival of their new baby to be acknowledged and welcomed in the church but do not want to make the commitment necessary for Baptism.

#### ***For Whom?***

This service is for parents who

- Wish to express publicly their gratitude to God for the safe arrival of their new baby
- Want God to be involved in their joy and responsibilities
- Want to give their baby a good start and an introduction to the church
- Want to ask God’s blessing on their home.

#### ***Requirements***

It is necessary that

- Someone from the church talks with you about the service and what it means
- You do believe in God and want His blessing on your child and your home
- You attend at least three services

#### ***What Happens***

The Service includes

- Thanksgiving to God for the gift of a new child
- A public declaration of the child’s name by the clergy person
- Prayer over the child for God’s blessing
- Prayers for the parents home

#### ***When?***

Usually the 4th Sunday of each month at 3.00 pm at Lady St Mary Church.