



**Baptism of Children**  
at St. Matthias' Church,  
Wellswood, Torquay

Thank you very much for enquiring about Baptism.  
We are delighted that you want your child to be baptised.

Please read this leaflet.

It offers guidance about the way we approach  
this special day with you.

If you have any questions about Baptism,  
please contact Revd John Beckett  
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or

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[RevPaulBarton@gmail.com](mailto:RevPaulBarton@gmail.com)

or

Revd Claire Reynolds

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## What does Baptism involve?

- For you as parents, it is deciding to start your child on the journey of faith in Jesus Christ that you are on, or beginning to go on yourselves.
- Your child becomes a member of the local and worldwide Christian family.
- Your local church community agrees to welcome, support and pray for you and your child.
- In Baptism, God, through his Holy Spirit, comes to live in your child in a special way.

Christians describe Baptism as a 'sacrament' – a visible sign of God's love for us. In Baptism we are thanking God for his gift of love. We are acknowledging that we are turning away from evil and sin (the things we do wrong that separate us from God, who is pure and holy), and turning towards Jesus Christ.

## What will I be asked to declare?

These are the declarations that form part of the Baptism service.

Do you turn away from sin? **I do.**

Do you reject evil? **I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord? **I do.**

You also promise to pray for your son or daughter, help them to follow Christ, and to live and grow within God's family.



## **What can I expect of the church?**

When you enquire about Baptism, our normal pattern is this:

- 1 We will ask you to watch a short 10-minute video called "First Steps" which we will lend or email a link to you.  
*This helpfully explains the basics about Baptism, and talks about the possibility of a Thanksgiving Service instead.*
- 2 We will invite you to start coming along to some of our services, if you do not already worship with us regularly.  
*This is important because Baptism is about you and your child joining in a local church family who can support you as your child is brought up in the Christian faith. We shall be glad to offer you help to find the most appropriate services for you.*
- 3 One of the clergy or a member of our ministry team will then be pleased to come to visit you in your home to talk further with you about the Baptism or Thanksgiving Service.
- 4 We can then begin to look at dates and times for the service and for our short Baptism Preparation session.
- 5 If you live too far away to make this church your regular place of worship, it is still important that you are beginning to feel at home at a church somewhere local to you. *Please would you arrange for your local parish priest to contact the clergy here, so that he or she might help in the preparation for your child's Baptism.*

## **Choosing a date and time**

We almost always have a Baptism as part of our normal morning service. Baptism is all about joining the church family, and it is important for that family to be there! We hope you'll understand that we may not always be able to offer your first choice of dates.

## **Choosing Godparents**

It is usual to have between 2 and 4 godparents. 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. Please ask the clergy for advice. Normally we will send them a leaflet that explains what being a godparent involves.

## **What happens after Baptism?**

Joining the church family only makes sense if you are going to carry on meeting the family! You are most welcome at all of our services.

We usually have 2 main services on a Sunday—one that is relaxed and informal with a number of families at 9.30am every week. We also have a more formal service at 11am, and on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, a very informal praise service at 5.30pm.

There's a weekly term-time Toddler group on Tuesday mornings and look out for 'Mummy and Me' for babies up to a year old every term-time Friday morning. We also run 'Messy Church', usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 3.30pm until 5.30pm, and this includes a meal together.

Do check the website for more details [www.st-matthias-church.org](http://www.st-matthias-church.org)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the difference between Baptism and Christening?**

There is no difference. Both refer to the same service.

### **What does it cost?**

Nothing. The Baptism service is free. Some families like to leave a voluntary thanksgiving gift in the collection taken at the service.

### **Will I be prepared for the Baptism?**

Yes! The preparation for Baptism can be a great opportunity for you to ask questions and gain confidence about your own faith. We normally run Baptism preparation over two short sessions at your home of about one hour each.

### **I am a single parent. Can I have my child baptised?**

Yes. God welcomes every child and every person who comes to him.

### **How can I explore my own faith more?**

We regularly run an Alpha course which explores the basics of the Christian faith in an atmosphere that makes it easy to ask lots of questions. We would love you to come along.

