

Baptism at St. Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth

We are very pleased to respond to your enquiry regarding baptism at St. Mary's, Rickmansworth.

Baptism is an important occasion within the life of both your family and the life of the church. We know that you will want to give thanks for the birth of your child, and the church joins you in wishing to celebrate new life and give thanks for new possibilities.

Baptism within the church is a Sacrament and, as such, is not to be undertaken lightly. It is a commitment that binds both you and your child to the church, and one that also needs careful prayer and preparation – on the part of both parents and Godparents. For this reason, we ask you to consider the following questions carefully before proceeding:

- *Will you bring your child up as a Christian, ensuring that they know they are part of the family of the worldwide Church by attending worship regularly with them?*
- *Are you willing to encourage your child to attend church regularly, and are you willing to do so yourself to enable them to be brought up within a Christian household?*

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey of faith for your child. Parents and Godparents have the primary duty of care to the newly baptised during their formative years – it is important that you are able to choose Godparents carefully. You may wish to ask:

- *Will the Godparents whom you choose for your child be committed in their Christian duty to pray for your child, as well as set an example of faith and prayer?*

Ideally, you will have **three** Godparents:

- for a boy – at least two men and one woman
- for a girl – at least two women and one man.

You may have more of either gender.

GODPARENTS		Surname	Address	Title	Baptised	Confirmed
Full Christian name(s)					YES / NO	YES / NO
					YES / NO	YES / NO
					YES / NO	YES / NO
					YES / NO	YES / NO

OTHER CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY		Date of Birth	Baptised	Where	When
Full Christian name(s)	Surname		YES / NO		

Godparents must be baptised (Christened) themselves – they cannot be Godparents if they are not baptised. If you are able to choose people who are practising Christians, this will provide for a firm foundation of prayer from the start. Godparents have the role of praying for and caring for your child – as well as for you. It is an important task.

Because your child, through baptism, joins the household of God – it is important that they begin to know and understand themselves to be members of the wider church family as soon as possible. St. Mary’s, as part of the world wide church seeks to pray for, and care for, all those who join us through baptism; your child will be included in these prayers and this care. We would like to encourage you to attend church regularly in preparation for your child’s baptism, as well as in the weeks and months – and years! – following. As stated before, baptism is the beginning of a journey.

Should you wish to proceed with applying for your child to be baptised, please complete the attached form and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

When a date has been confirmed for your child’s baptism, you will be contacted by a member of our Baptism Preparation Team who will visit you and talk with you in further detail about what Christian Baptism means.

Baptisms at St. Mary’s take place at 12 noon on the last Sunday of the month. Your child is welcomed into the wider family of the Church at the 10 o’clock Family Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month following.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into the life of our church.



The Reverend Deborah Snowball
Vicar of Rickmansworth

APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM AT ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, RICKMANSWORTH

CHILD TO BE BAPTISED

Full Christian name(s)	Surname	Date of Birth	Age at Baptism	Sex	Date and time of Baptism
				BOY GIRL	

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY IN CAPITAL LETTERS

PARENTS

Full Christian name(s)	Surname	Address and Telephone number	Occupation	Baptised	Confirmed
Father		Address: Tel: email:		YES NO	YES NO
Mother		Address: Tel: email:		YES NO	YES NO

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY IN CAPITAL LETTERS

This form must be completed as soon as possible and returned to:

St. Mary’s Parish Office, Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1JB

Form continues overleaf