

Our pre-school ministry

A warm welcome is extended to you to come along to...



Our weekly worship and craft time aimed exclusively for

parents/grandparents/carers with children aged from 0 to pre-school. Child-centred worship and craft making, based on the Bible story. This takes place every Wednesday in Church Centre from 10.00am – 11.30am.



Every first Sunday of the month, we have our 10.30am Family Service – a 45 minute service for the whole family. Come early to find a place! The service either takes place in the Church or opposite, in the Kippington Centre.

St Mary's Sunday Club

During our 10.30am Services (apart from Family Service), we run Sunday Club for all primary aged children. A lovely way for the children to come together for their own special time of worship, learning and fun.

More information is available on our website: www.stmarysseveoaks.org

Our Baptism (Christening) Sundays

We offer a service of Baptism – Christening on a Sunday which normally takes place here. It is a service which is entirely tailored for the family concerned and is a service that is accessible for your family and friends. The service length is 35 minutes.

As part of the service, there will be a mid-week preparation evening for you as parents of the child, only, (in case you need to organise a baby-sitter or child minder). Details of this will be given to you on booking.

For Godparents, we follow the standard Church of England ruling that a Godparent needs to be christened (baptised) themselves.

To help with an adult being christened to enable them to be a Godparent, we run a two evening “Back to Basics” course which is presented in a very accessible and relevant way, exploring what the Christian faith is all about. At the end of the two evening course, spread over two weeks, the adult concerned decides whether they want to be baptised themselves. (The baptism of the adult takes place at a separate time from the child’s service at which they are acting as Godparent). Again, information about this and dates will be given to you, if you have a Godparent who is not christened. Please do note that we do take all relevant details of all Godparents which includes date and place of their christening at booking.

St Mary Church, Kippington

Your Child's Baptism



Congratulations on the birth of your child and we are delighted you are thinking of baptism.

Team Rector
Rev Mark Bridgen
59 Kippington Road
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 2LL
(01732) 452112, mob: 073 75 299 944 or by email:
Mark.bridgen@btinternet.com

How to arrange your child's baptism (christening):

Please contact the Church office on (01732) 451117 or by email office@stmaryssevenoaks.org. The office is open on Tuesday afternoons as well as Thursday and Saturday mornings.

Your baby's christening is their first step on an amazing journey with God!

At a christening, your child will be baptised.

It is the first step of an amazing journey with God, parents, Godparents, friends, family and the Church.

A lifetime of discovering more about love, faith and hope begins – a wonderful moment to celebrate.



What happens at a Christening?

At a christening, your child will be baptised with water. This is the heart of your child's christening.

There are several special moments in the service:

The Rector will pray for your child and for all those who will support them in their path of faith. You and the Godparents will make some important promises to your child in the service.

Water that is blessed will be used to make the sign on the cross on your child's forehead. It is a significant moment, which marks your child as belonging to God.

More water, which is blessed in the church's font, will be poured over your child's head by the Rector. This is your child's baptism.

A candle will be given to you during the service when the Rector says: "Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God".



The Role of the Godparents

In the service, the Godparents make promises to share the amazing journey of the Christian faith, to pray for your child and to show them ways to grow in faith and love. Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, Godparents must be christened themselves.

The Day of the Christening

Whatever date you have arranged to have the christening, it will be a very special day, where your family and friends will be present, joining you and your guests in prayer and support for the amazing journey of you and your child ahead.

(The service for baptism can be viewed and downloaded from our website).

