

Arranging a Baptism at St Barnabas' Church



St Barnabas: the Parish church for
Emmer Green and Caversham Park



Welcome to St Barnabas' church

We are delighted that you have chosen to have your child baptised (or christened, as it is also known) with us. We believe that, as your church, we have an important role to play in welcoming members of our community into church to mark the important events of life and encouraging them in a life of faith in Jesus Christ. The service of baptism gives us an opportunity to share in the joy of the gift of children and to thank God at the start of their lives.

Baptisms range from large celebrations involving lots of family and friends to small intimate occasions. Whatever the size of the baptism, we will work with you to make it something special to remember as God's love for your child is made known. The baptism will be arranged with you as a family. Baptisms usually take place on Sunday, either in the main Sunday service at 9:30am, or else later on in the day.

About St Barnabas' church community

We are part of the Church of England in the Diocese of Oxford. We are called by God to serve this community, and every week several hundred people come through our doors. We offer welcoming spaces to keep body and soul together: through fellowship or learning, to keep fit, to celebrate, or just have a cup of coffee – and to meet God in worship.

Arranging a Baptism

In the first place, please get in touch with the Vicar, Revd Kevin Lovell (contact details at the back of this brochure). We will arrange a meeting to confirm the date and time of the baptism and explain the various choices and options available to you. We'll talk about the significance of baptism for your child, about the service itself and answer any questions you have about godparents or any other part of the ceremony.

We typically arrange a follow-up meeting, nearer the time, to finalise the arrangements and answer any questions.

At the Baptism

At the baptism, your child is given a certificate and a baptismal candle to remind them that Christ's light is always with them. Godparents also receive certificates to remind them of the promises they have made on your child's behalf.



Explaining some of the choices and options

Time of the service

We often hold baptisms at our main 9:30am Sunday service and you and your family and friends join with the whole congregation. There may be another Sunday service (most likely at 11:30am) at which the baptism may be held, alternatively we may hold the baptism at a separate service (usually at 11:30am or 12:30pm).

Hymns, songs and readings

At our main services we have singing with organ or piano and bible readings set for the day. With a separate service, you can choose the readings together with songs or hymns if you wish to sing. Some families know just what they would like but many do not: we can help with the choices. If you would like to sing, we will need to provide an organist or pianist and ensure one is available for the date you have chosen.

Choice of godparents

This is an important decision as you prepare to have your child baptised. The usual pattern is to have three godparents for the child, but this is not a fixed rule. Because of the nature of the promises godparents make on behalf of your child, the people you choose need to be baptised themselves. When we meet, we can discuss the choices in detail.

Children at St Barnabas

We welcome young children at St Barnabas. We have a children's area in church, plus toilets and baby-changing facilities are in the adjoining Parish Centre. At the baptism itself, we like to encourage little people forward so they can see (and even take part in) what's going on at the front.

Our **All Age Service** takes place on the first Sunday of the month (currently) at 11:30am and is particularly designed to cater for families. We also have **Busy Bees** for young children at 2-3pm on Monday afternoons (term time) in our Parish Centre. To check times for these and all of our services and activities, see our website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk and go to the 'What's On' page.

Hall bookings

Our church hall is available for hire, for parties and events as well as regular bookings (details on the back page of this leaflet).

Finances

There is no charge for baptism itself, however for separate services we do ask families to cover certain costs, where incurred:

Musician (organist or pianist subject to availability)	£90
Contribution towards heating (October to March)	£67
Verger	£50

Donations

Operating costs for our parish are around £90k per year. We are entirely self-funding, reliant on voluntary donations to continue our work. We are thankful for any donations received and invite families, if they are able, to make a donation. £100 can make a significant difference to our ability to continue our work.

Contact details

St Barnabas church and hall

The Parish Centre, Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8RA

Vicar: The Revd Kevin Lovell
Tel: 01189 475214 or 01189 478239
Email: vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk

Hall bookings: Jon Barclay
Email: hall@saintbarnabas.org.uk

Online:
Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/StBarnabasEmmerGreen

Payments can be made online, direct to our account:
Account Name: St Barnabas Church
Sort code: 20-71-03
Account number: 10089206

Please add a suitable reference so we can identify your payment.

Donations can also be made online (including Gift Aid if appropriate) via our secure Parish Giving site: either scan this QR code or go to www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for Emmer Green.

