

Christenings, weddings and funerals – why church?

Most people who come to St Lawrence for either a christening, wedding or funeral aren't regular churchgoers. Today there are lots of choices available for these occasions: naming ceremonies, glamorous wedding venues, humanist funerals – and yet many people still choose to come to church. They come because they recognise that the church has something important to say at these really crucial moments in their lives. So what has the church got to offer?



Christening

Your child is precious to you and precious to God. You want the very best for them, and so does God. You want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others. At a christening service we welcome them into God's family and ask for his help as you make some big promises about

bringing them up to reject what is wrong and seek what is right. It is a time to celebrate the wonder of a new life and recognise that we need God's love and support to nurture our children towards adulthood.

Weddings

Getting married is the single most important decision we make and we want to get it right. Marriage in church adds a spiritual dimension: we acknowledge that all love comes ultimately from God and that he can help us to reflect his divine love in our human love for each other. You get to

make some amazing vows in a beautiful setting where marriages have taken place for hundreds of years. And you make a connection with the church which will always be there for you. Today more than a quarter of all marriages in England between a man and a woman take place in the traditional setting of a Church of England church. You're welcome to marry in church whatever your beliefs, whether or not you are baptised and whether or not you go to church.



Funerals

A funeral is used to mark the end of a person's life here on earth. Family and friends come together to express grief, give thanks for the life lived and commend the person into God's keeping. This can be a small, quiet ceremony or a large occasion in a packed church. It is often a rich mixture of tears and laughter as we remember all that was good in someone's life as well as feeling the pain of separation. It can often be a time of healing as we put aside memories of hurt or failure and resolve to bring a touch of heaven into our earthly lives. And as we commend our loved one into God's arms we know that they can now rest in peace.

If you would like to discuss how the church can help you with a baptism, wedding or funeral please contact the Vicar, Revd Charles Burch

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