



## CHILDREN AT DBC:

### “INFANT DEDICATION”

Children are an important part of our church family. We remember how Jesus welcomed children and seek to follow his example.

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14*

In the bible children are regarded as both a gift and a blessing from God, having been created and fashioned by him.

*“For you created me in my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb” Psalm 139:13*

We believe the Lord lays a responsibility upon both parents and the church family to nurture children in a way that is honouring to him.

*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

In recognition of these things, our practice is to hold a service of infant dedication where we present a child to God, giving thanks and asking for the Lord’s help in bringing up the child.

We look to the example of Jesus, who as a child was presented to God at the Temple, and who blessed children that were brought to him.

*“Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord” Luke 2:22*

*“And he took children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them” Mark 10:16*

As a Baptist church, we do not baptise infants. We believe that baptism is a practice that should be reserved for the time when a person is old enough to make their own personal decision to follow Jesus. This, we believe, is consistent with the teaching and witness of the bible.

*“Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved” Mark 16:16*

*“Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” Acts 2:38*

Infant dedication takes place during our regular time of Sunday worship and usually takes the following pattern:

- The child and their parent or parents are welcomed and the purpose of the service is explained with reference to selected verses from the bible

- A prayer of thanksgiving for the child is offered
- Parents are asked to make promises concerning their responsibilities in bringing up the child in a Christian way. Wider members of the family (also any Godparents) are then invited to make a commitment to support the family
- The congregation, too, are asked to indicate their willingness to play a part in the child’s upbringing
- The minister blesses the child and welcomes them into the church family
- Prayers are said for the family, asking God to help the parent or parents to love and care for the child, and expressing hope that the child will one day come to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

We are sensitive to the varying situations in which families find themselves, and the content of the service can be modified to suit individual needs and circumstances.

Please see the Minister if you would like to discuss the possibility of your child being presented to God at a service of infant dedication

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[www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk)