

What is Dedication?

As a Baptist Church we don't carry out baptisms for babies or very young children (often called Christenings). Along with many other Christian denominations we believe that baptism should follow an individual's own decision to follow Jesus Christ (often termed believer's baptism).

However, we do like to acknowledge and celebrate a new baby or child in the church and we call this ceremony Dedication.

Dedication includes several parts: saying thank you to God for the child; making promises to God about bringing the child up; and praying for God's blessing on child and family.

The name Dedication comes from the idea that children are a gift from God, and the thought that God has a plan for their lives. Therefore we dedicate the child to God's purposes and dedicate ourselves to helping the child discover God's love and plans for themselves.

Dedication also involves the church family as they acknowledge their role in supporting other Christians and maintaining a community of faith where God's love is shown and his teachings explained.

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Charity No. 1148704

Sunday Morning Services, 10.30am

- * After the first part of the service the children have their own activities in Sunday Club, and there is a crèche.
- * Communion is part of the service on the 3rd Sunday in the month.
- * Once a month there is a more informal "All-Age" service.
- * *At around 11.45 refreshments are served.*

*Welcoming little
ones...*



Dedication of Infants



Quorn Baptist Church
Proclaiming Jesus

Dedication

What happens in a Dedication service?

Usually we hold a Dedication as part of our regular morning service. We feel that it is important to involve the whole church family in the service.

We start with a brief time of worship. If they would like to, families bringing children for Dedication are invited to suggest a song which will be used as part of our worship.

Then the Dedication itself: After a brief introduction from the minister, the family and any supporters come to the front of church.

Promises are made by the parents to look after the child and bring them up in God's love. After that the Godparents/ Supporters (if any); friends and family; and wider church are invited to make promises to support the family and to maintain a faithful Christian community.

The minister then prays for the child and family. If the baby is young he will hold him/her, otherwise he may place a hand on the child's head (if they are happy with that).

Following this ceremony we continue with the rest of the morning service, which may include age related activities for the children whilst the

adults hear a message from the Bible, or there may be an informal "all age" look at a Bible theme.



Do we need Godparents?

No, this isn't necessary. However, often people do want to ask a relative or close friend to take a special interest in the upbringing of the child and that is fine.

The term "Godparent" indicates that such a role should involve an interest in the child's spiritual development as well as physical and emotional. However, it may be that the family may wish to ask others to be involved in a more general sense of Supporter. The promises that Godparents / Supporters make will be appropriate to their own faith journey. We don't expect them to make unrealistic promises.

What about older children?

Most commonly the children brought to dedications are under a year old, but sometimes,

parents of older children seek a dedication service for their children. This is particularly common where they have started coming to church some time after the birth of their children.

Where the child is old enough to appreciate something of what's going on, it's a good idea for us to talk it through with them, so they can enter the experience positively.

Celebrate

You are welcome to use the church hall (and kitchen) to continue the celebration with family and friends after the service.

What do we do next?

If you would like a Dedication for your child please speak to the minister.

We can then discuss the details and think about suitable dates.

You may just wish to know a bit more at this stage. You would be very welcome at any of our services or can chat to any of the leaders at our activities.

