



## CHAT TO US...

About anything in this leaflet.



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*"Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them."*

*- Jesus*

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## CONTACT US

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## YOUR DEDICATION SERVICE

at Thornhill Baptist Church





## WHY A DEDICATION?

There is nothing more wonderful than the arrival of a baby! It's an occasion that you will want to celebrate with your friends and family: a new start, a time of great hope and thanks-giving.

A dedication service is simply an opportunity to invite God into your celebration. We believe that every new life is a gift from God and that He loves children deeply, so it seems right to say "thank-you" to him in this way.

## So, not a baptism then?

We think baptism is really important (we're Baptists, after all!) But it's a step that someone takes when they are old enough to decide for themselves that they want to be a Christian. For that reason we don't baptise young children. A dedication is kind of the same thing, just minus the water.

## WHAT HAPPENS?

A dedication is normally part of a Sunday morning service or one of our "Messy Church" celebrations on a Saturday. There's no fixed pattern so the exact format of what we do varies (and we'll talk it all through with you beforehand, obviously) but usually we would:

- Ask you to make promises
- Ask any Godparent(s) to make promises
- Thank God for the life of your child and ask for his blessing on them
- Pray for you and your child



An occasion to thank God for...

The whole thing normally takes around ten minutes as part of a regular church service. It's a fun service not an ultra formal occasion so we encourage everyone to relax and enjoy it. If there are older children we love them to join in too and make it an occasion for the whole family.

## HOW DO I ARRANGE IT?

In the first instance arrange to have a chat with one of us. We'll talk through what the service means and what promises you might want to make and all the other details. Then, if you decide to go ahead, we can fix up a date for your dedication.

Not every Sunday is suitable for a dedication service so if you plan to invite lots of people and it might be tricky finding a date please speak to us sooner rather than later.

## DO I HAVE TO COME TO CHURCH BEFOREHAND?

Obviously, we'd be delighted if you wanted to join us at a Sunday service! But there's no obligation.. We believe that God has a very special place in his heart for children and a dedication service is a great opportunity to thank him for how much your children mean to you. No strings attached.

## Do you do other stuff for kids?

Lots! There's a club called BFG on Fridays for primary school age children and a youth club called Youthy later on a Friday evening for secondary school age young people. And that's just for starters... See our website or contact Paul for more details about children's and youth activities.