

# Child Dedication

A wonderful way  
to start a new life.



christian  
life  
church

Evangeline



So you want your baby dedicated? That's great! But have you stopped to think what this means? This leaflet is designed to help you. Please read it carefully before filling in the form.

## **Dedication means saying “thank you” to God.**

Your baby is God's gift. The Bible says that all life comes from God (Acts 17:25). So your wonderful baby is alive because God has given him (or her) life. “Children are a heritage (gift) of the Lord” says Psalm 127:3 so in our Dedication Service we give God thanks for His gift.

## **Dedication means making God a promise.**

Your baby is important to God's eyes as well as in yours! You may think that he is the “living image” of his father or that she has her mother's eyes, but do realise that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

Though the sinfulness of the human race has greatly spoiled that likeness, our power to think, love and choose makes us special in God's sight, because it is the reflection of His own nature in us.

This means that your baby needs special care. They are not simply a body to be fed or a brain to be educated. They are a person in their own right, with tremendous powers for good and evil locked up inside them. They will form habits and opinions, make decisions, enter into relationships, that will bring joy or sorrow to themselves, to others, to you, and most important of all, to God. Their early years – the years you are responsible for – will largely decide what kind of person they will be. The Bible says; “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). This is a great responsibility.

In the Dedication Service we acknowledge this before God and promise Him that we will try to train our children to walk in His ways, asking Him for faith and wisdom to do this properly.

We can do this only by God's help. The New Testament tells parents to bring their children up in "the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4 R.S.V) but we can only do this when we ourselves seek to know and serve God. "What you are shouts more loudly than what you say", says an old proverb, and we need to remember that personal example will carry much more influence than words. We need to yield our lives to Him and to seek to follow Him as our Lord and Saviour, We cannot pass on to our children faith we do not possess ourselves – and "without faith, it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6).

## **Dedication means asking God for His Blessing.**

When the disciples tried to prevent mothers bringing their children to Jesus, He "was indignant" and said to them; "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). Because God loves all children, you can bring your baby to Him and ask for His special blessing.

Your baby is important to God because he is made in God's image and likeness, but your baby also needs God's blessing because only God can save him from the power of sin. Babies are not turned into little Christians merely by being "christened" or "dedicated". As God directs and guides them, they can later personally repent of sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, for "except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). In the Dedication Service, however, you can bring your baby to God, giving them into God's loving care, pray that you may be given wisdom and grace to bring them up in the right way and that God will surround them with His love and bring them to a saving knowledge of Himself at the earliest moment.

What a wonderful way to start a life!



# Request for Dedication

Please fill in this application form and return it to the church office.

1. Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. We have carefully read this leaflet and understand what is involved in infant dedication

3. We would like our child to be dedicated on:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

**9.00 am / 11.15 am / 6.30 pm** (Please circle)

4. Child's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

5. Child's names are as follows:

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Boy / Girl** (Please circle)

6. We promise to the best of our ability to fulfil our responsibilities

\_\_\_\_\_ Father (sign)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother (sign)

7. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Date: \_\_\_\_\_





