

Dedication



"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. In return, I am giving him to the LORD. He will be dedicated to the LORD for his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there.

The BIBLE (1 Samuel 1v27-28 GW)



Often with the birth of a baby, parents seek to have their child christened (infant baptism) or have a baby naming ceremony. At Waypoint Church we do something similar, called dedication.

So what is dedication?

In 1 Samuel 1:27-28 we read from the story of Hannah: "I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted my request. In return, I am giving him to the Lord. He will be dedicated to the Lord for his whole life." And they worshiped the Lord there. (GW)

Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple and dedicated Him to the Lord (Luke 2:22-24). Jesus also laid His hands on children to bless them (Mark 10:13-16, Matt 19:13-15, Luke 18:15-17).

Dedication is an opportunity to celebrate, to give thanks to God for the gift of the life of a child. Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. (Psalm 127:3, NLT)

Parent(s) bring their children, recognising that they are the Lord's, on loan to them for a time. As Christians, we understand that all we have has been given us from God. One day we will answer to Him for how we have managed what He's entrusted to our care, including our children. Dedication is an act of declaring Jesus' Lordship over our family.

Through dedication parents accept their responsibility to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 22:6). As part of the dedication, the church community will be given the opportunity to pray for and prophecy over the child and family (Luke 2:25-40).

Dedication is a two way covenant. The parent(s) promise to invest in the life of the church, the church promises to invest in the life of the family. This covenant will enable both church and family to provide a secure base where the child can spiritually thrive.

As you prepare for your child's dedication, it is important to consider how you are investing in the life of the church; so that together we can provide the best support for your child and family, both now and into the future.

What dedication is not

Through dedicating a child, parents are making a commitment to raise that child according to God's Word and His ways. It is important to understand that dedication is **not about the child's salvation**; instead, it is about the parent's decision to raise that child in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 22:6) so they can later make a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ.

A dedication service is also **not a substitute for Baptism**. Baptism is a step of obedience that believers are to take when they are old enough to understand, and are ready to make their own personal commitment to Jesus Christ. Dedication is intended for any child from birth up to the age where the child is old enough to make the choice to be baptised for themselves.

What will happen?

During a Sunday gathering, the child with their parent(s) and any Godparents will be invited forward. Dedication will be introduced and parents will be led through said promises and prayers. The child will then be prayed for in the act of dedication. There will then be prayers and promises by any Godparents and the rest of the congregation. Finally, there will be a time of prayers, encouragement and prophecy.

Can my child have Godparents?

Yes! You can have as many Godparents as you want. We would also encourage you to invite family and friends to come and share in the celebration.

What is the next step to dedicate my child?

First chat to one of the Leadership Team to find out more. We will then arrange to meet you to discuss both the practicalities but also the spiritual promises which will be made before God.



waypoint church.uk

info@waypointchurch.uk www.waypointchurch.uk

Registered Charity Number 1176707