

Dedicating your child – what's that all about?!

Here are some questions that you might be asking about child dedication. After reading this, we hope you will have a better understanding of what it means to dedicate your child.

What is dedication?

The dedication of a child is something rooted in the Bible. It celebrates the gift of a child/children, gives thanks to God for them, and offers the hope that the child may one day choose to follow God day-by-day. It normally happens within a Church service and includes prayer, promises and some words of response.

Why doesn't Chelwood Baptist Church baptise babies?

Baptist churches do not baptise babies because they believe that the decision to be a disciple of Jesus is one that can only properly be made at a later stage of spiritual development. Baptism is a public declaration of a personal belief in Jesus Christ. However, they do welcome children into the community by means of 'dedication'.

Do I have to be a Christian to have my child dedicated?

The most important thing about dedication is the child and so we will dedicate any child regardless of the parents' faith. Chelwood is more than willing to adapt the dedication so that it fits people's situations in the belief that the child's welfare and blessing is the most important thing. They will also be concerned that no-one is asked to make promises that they are unable or unwilling to fulfil.

What happens in the time of dedication?

Dedications differ but generally the parents and child/children are asked to come to the front and make some promises as to how the child will be raised. We ask the parents to help us choose the promises as it is they that must keep them. There is opportunity for grandparents or godparents to make promises too, and any friends and family who are present along with the church family at Chelwood. There may be other things included such as prayers, a presentation of a gift, a slideshow of pictures and songs.

Who is involved?

A dedication service involves the child, parents and the Minister. We also talk to the parents about who else they want involved – this could include other siblings, grandparents, godparents, or other family and friends. The wider church family are also asked to promise to pray for the child being dedicated.

If after reading this, you decide that dedicating your child is something you would like to do then please do get in contact with the Minister of Chelwood for more details.