

Infant Blessing at Bodmin Road Church

It's great that you've asked about having your child blessed at Bodmin Road Church and we would love to welcome you and your child. There are a few things that it's helpful to understand before we book a date with you:-

- There is no charge, and there are no hoops to jump through. You don't have to be Christened yourself, neither do you have to come to church beforehand. The Bible says that Jesus blessed the children that were brought to him; no strings attached! That's our model.
- This isn't a "baptism" and we won't use any water. Jesus didn't sprinkle children with water, he just placed his hands on them and blessed them. Like many churches, we only baptise people who are old enough to make up their own mind about Jesus.
- Our ceremony will not make your child a Christian. No ceremony, not even Christening, can do that. Only faith and friendship with Jesus can make a person a Christian. Please ask if you would like a little booklet that explains more about becoming a Christian.
- Whether you have God-parents or not is up you. If you do have them, we would encourage you to choose friends who will set a good example to your child.
- The Blessing will be included within our normal Sunday morning service. We do expect that you and your guests will stay for the whole service. The service starts at 10.30 but it would help if you could arrive for 10.20 at the latest. It will finish around 11.45.
- As part of the Blessing ceremony you will be asked two questions. These are printed below. The first set focus on your role as a parent and not on your faith. This is because some parents may not want to make Christian promises "on the spot". The second set includes promises to raise your child according to Christian principles and standards. You will need to tell us which set of promises you wish to have in the ceremony.
- You are very welcome in church anytime. We always have a crèche and children's groups running alongside the service, so your children are well catered for.

PROMISES – SET 1:

Do you acknowledge with gratitude the goodness of God who has blessed you with the wonderful gift of this *Son/Daughter*? And do you accept the serious and tender responsibility that comes to you with this gift, to give your time, effort and love in the task of parenthood. I/WE DO.

And do you also firmly resolve so to order your lives and your home that _____ may grow up in an atmosphere of security, love and acceptance, enjoying your faithful care as parents whatever *his/her* future may hold? I/WE DO.

PROMISES – SET 2

Do you acknowledge with gratitude the goodness of God who has blessed you with the wonderful gift of this *Son/Daughter*? And do you recognise the serious and tender responsibility that comes with this gift, to teach, help and encourage _____ towards *his/her* own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? I/WE DO

Do you then, strengthened and guided by the Spirit of God, firmly resolve so to order your lives and your home that _____ may grow up in an atmosphere of security, love and grace, surrounded at all times by holy living, pure thought and Christ-like example, and enjoying your faithful care as parents whatever *his/her* future may hold? I/WE DO

GODPARENTS' PROMISE [words in brackets go with SET 2 parents' promises]

Do you promise to be an encouragement and support to _____ in their task as parents, and to offer to _____ your [Christian] example and encouragement for *his/her* journey into adulthood [and towards faith in Jesus Christ]? WE DO.