

# Infant Dedication



A downloadable resource  
from

Melton Mowbray  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**

## Believer's baptism & infant baptism

*Unlike some churches, Melton Mowbray Baptist Church does not baptise infants or perform 'christenings'. This is because we believe that an individual must be able to make promises for themselves – we therefore seek to baptise 'believers'.*

*The main differences between believer's baptism and infant baptism are as follows:*

***Infant Baptism,***  
*is involuntary,*  
*precedes faith,*  
*involves a sprinkling,*  
*anticipates new birth, and*  
*promises are made on behalf of a child.*

*Whereas*

***Believers' Baptism,***  
*is voluntary,*  
*follows faith,*  
*involves complete immersion,*  
*celebrates new birth, and*  
*the believer makes promises.*

*However, we do believe that the birth of a child is a very special occasion and is something that should be marked in worship before God. Therefore, as a church, we perform what is usually referred to as a 'dedication' (sometimes also called 'infant presentation').*

*The biblical basis for this rite is centred on the fact Jesus himself was dedicated as a child before God (REF) and that as part of his ministry Jesus blessed children and encouraged them to come to him (Mark 10:13-16).*

*So, a dedication service is an opportunity for parents, and any wider family, to join together with the local church community, to give thanks for the birth of the child, to commit together to bring the child up in a loving home, and to be blessed by God.*

*Above all, it is a time of great celebration and joy as we reflect together on the great wonder of life itself.*

## What is the practice for dedication at MMBC?

*So, how do we practice 'dedication' at MMBC?*

*There are two broad patterns that we use here at MMBC (although both patterns can be changed and adapted to suit a particular situation).*

*The first pattern is overtly Christian, where parents make promises to bring the child up in a Christian home, with Christian values, and within the Christian community*

*The second pattern is less overtly Christian, and focuses more on giving thanks for the birth of child, and where parents promise to be the best parents that they can be.*

*One pattern maybe more appropriate in your given situation – the Minister would be more than happy to talk through the options and patterns.*

*As a church we also believe that the act of dedication should take place within a worship context, so the rite is performed as part of our Sunday morning worship service, as a result, usually a dedication can take place during any given Sunday if required.*

### What to do next...

*If you feel that you might like to have you child dedicated then the first thing to do is to speak to the Minister – details on the back page. He would be more than willing to chat and explore the issue of dedication with you.*

*There is no obligation if you decide not to have your child dedicated. You may also be interested to know that that there is no limited to the age of the child being dedicated.*

*If you want to proceed, then some decisions will need to be made about which pattern to use and what date to choose. Again the Minister would be willing to assist in the discussion.*

*All you then need to do is invite your family and friends, and celebrate the day.*

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**MELTON MOWBRAY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

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