

# Thank God for my Child

## Baptisms and Dedications at

# Dorking United Reformed Church



- **We would like to get to know you...**  
So someone from the church is here to talk with you. We are glad to share your joy in the birth of your child and in giving thanks to God.
- **We would like you to get to know us...**  
That's why we would love for you to join us for worship on a Sunday to see God's family, the Church, together in worship.

***We would like you to think carefully  
about what you will be doing and saying.  
We will try and help you to do so.***

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## *What God says about your child:*

- Known them since conception (Jeremiah 1:5)
- Knit them together in their mothers womb (Psalm 139:13)
- Fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14)
- The miracle of birth, of a new life (Psalm 139:15,16)

## *What God says to parents:*

- No higher calling than to shape a new life (2 Timothy 1:5)
- He wants to help you in this crucial task (Philippians 4:13)
- He provides the Body of Christ, His family, to help you too (Psalm 66:8)

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## *The Choice: Baptism or Dedication?*

### *Which is right for you?*

It depends where you are in your relationship with God.

*Baptism* is for parents who are committed Christians, regularly worshipping in a local Church. They are required to make a 'profession of faith' in Christ.

*Dedication* requires no such commitment: it asks you to be thankful to God for the gift of your child, open to God's help to be good parents, and involves the laying on of hands to confirm God's blessing on your child.

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## *On the Sunday*

You and your family and friends will be welcome and seats reserved for you. A certificate with your child's photo on it will be produced and your child will receive a candle as a gift from the West Street congregation.

## *So what's the next step?*

Speak to Pastor David and he will come to visit you and answer your questions. A date can then be fixed and, subject to you providing a digital photo, the certificate will be produced by the Church Office.

## *And then.....*

Our care does not stop after that special Sunday. Your child will be placed on our 'First Steps Roll' until such time as he or she is old enough to come to Young Church.

We will continue to pray for you all and keep in touch over the next few years.

You will always be welcome and we would encourage you to join us as a family at regular Sunday worship and a crèche operates every Sunday.

West Street is your Church and we would like you to be part of its future.

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# *Practical Points:*

## *Not convenient?*

If the dates we are offering you will not work then please speak to us again.

## *Godparents/Sponsors?*

You don't need to have these but, if you do, make sure they are people who love God and can make the promises asked of them.

## *Photographs?*

We prefer that you do not take photographs during the service, but you may take them afterwards in the Church or outside in the garden or the Oasis Courtyard

## *A fretful baby?*

Don't worry! If it helps please feel free to use our crèche and the baby changing facilities.

## *Young Church?*

This runs alongside our Morning Worship service and is for children aged 3 and over. Visiting children are welcome. Please let us know if any young people may like to participate in Young Church.

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