

IDEAS TO HELP

- Prepare as much as possible for Sunday on Saturday night.
- Make Sundays exciting with a special breakfast, special toys or special clothes.
- Read through the passage beforehand and give children something to listen out for.
- Let them have a Bible and service sheet, and help them follow along.
- Whisper during songs, sermons, sacraments and prayers to help children understand what is happening.
- Help yourself to crayons and paper so that the children can make notes or draw pictures.
- Snacks and books can be helpful too.

WHAT IF THEY ARE NOISY?

Please don't be embarrassed if your children make some noise. This is entirely normal!

But if they start significantly disturbing people around you please take them either to the Playroom or the Ward Gallery where the service is relayed. The Playroom is open to all ages. There are toys to play with and most Sundays you may leave your child there if you wish. The Ward Gallery is a useful place to take your child to calm them down with the hope of bringing them back in.

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WHAT ABOUT YOUNG CHILDREN?

We are delighted when young children join us for the whole service. However, we are aware that they can find sitting still and engaging with what is going on particularly hard. Please feel free to make regular use of the Playroom during these early years. It is open for the whole service and there are carers to look after your children during the prayers and sermon.

PARENTING IN FAITH NOT FEAR

We live the Christian life by putting our faith in Jesus rather than fearing what may go wrong. Lots can seem to go wrong as we bring our children to worship with us. For parents, it can feel like a long time since we listened to a whole sermon. But we can trust that Jesus knows what is best for our children, and for us, as we let them come to him.

*“Assemble the people, men,
women, and little ones... that
they may hear and learn to fear
the Lord our God”
Deuteronomy 31:12*

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LET THE CHILDREN WORSHIP

Children and Worship
at Trinity Church York

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“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”

Matthew 19:14

CHILDREN WELCOME

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me.” And then he took the children on his knees and blessed them.

At Trinity Church York we are delighted when children join us for the whole service as the risen Lord Jesus meets with us and blesses us. You and your children are most welcome.

This little booklet contains some information to help your family worship together.

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WHY?

Having the children join might seem noisy and is often hard work. But we believe it is a wonderful thing for these reasons:

Christ’s worship

The chief end of children, just as much as adults, is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. We gather on Sunday not first and foremost to meet our needs or educate our minds but to glorify God because of who he is and what he has done for us. Children are called to this too!

Christ’s body

Children who trust Jesus are members of his body and bride, just as much as adults. They belong with us as we gather in his presence.

Christ’s blessing

Jesus promises to meet and bless his people, Sunday by Sunday, by his word and sacrament. We trust him to keep his promise and bless our children along with the whole church.

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HOW?

Love worship

The most important thing that we can do to help our children love worship is to love worshipping God ourselves. When parents love something, that love is so often infectious for their children (e.g. support of a football team). Hypocrisy, however, stinks and our children quickly spot it. Let us sing heartily, pray earnestly, listen as attentively as we can, as this will help our children love worship more than anything else we do.

Encourage worship

We don’t want our children to be quiet in church and count bricks. We want them to worship God with us. Encourage your children to join in listening, singing, and saying loud Amens.

Teach worship

Sitting and listening, praying and singing are skills that have to be learnt by practice. For worship at home is a wonderful time in its own right and will help our children learn to worship God on Sundays too.

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