

The Sunday Morning Plan :

🌻 Church

All together, with the youngest to the oldest,
for around an hour

🌻 Coffee

Coffee, tea and treats

🌻 Teaching

Teaching in age groups: C3 Tots (pre-school),
C3 kids (primary school age) and C3 Youth and
adults together. Sunday school for everyone!

C3 tots

C3 KIDS

C3 YOUTH

C3 adults



We think this is going to be good for our Church family and our children and parents. Hard? Yes. But so worth it! Don't forget:

Parents, there may be times your children don't appear to 'get anything' from the service, or you miss parts of the sermon but remember:

- 🌻 foundations are being laid.
- 🌻 your children are getting to hear God speak in a special way.
- 🌻 God blesses all his people through the preaching of the word. It's not first about me and what I'm getting but what God is doing and giving. On the hardest morning - God is at work!
- 🌻 there's always something they're learning, children hear and remember more than we might expect.
- 🌻 you get to teach and model to them what's most important in life.
- 🌻 it's ok if it's over their heads, they are beginners, learning over time, just like in other areas of life.
- 🌻 remember we're in a culture war, the world is against the family, the church, listening and concentration and doing hard things. This is an opportunity to take a step forward in that battle.

More Information will be on our website:

www.churchbythebay.org.uk

CHURCH BY THE BAY

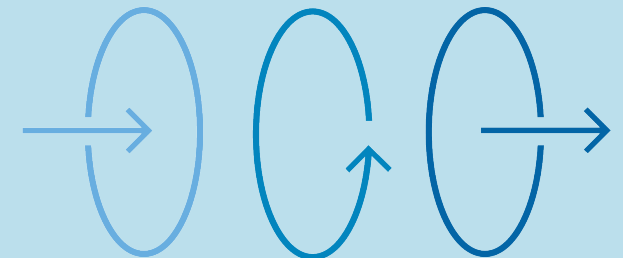
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Sunday Mornings for Families

CHURCH
BY THE
BAY

We love to welcome children
and have them stay in Church
with us. But why is this?
And what are we doing to
help?



Help for Parents:

Some ideas for what parents/carers can do to help your children on Sunday mornings.

Pray - Always the first thing to do! Model to your kids the importance of church by praying for it in the week, on a Saturday evening, Sunday over breakfast, on the way to church.

Prepare - Plan beforehand, change things that aren't working, spend time getting excited for church on a Saturday (e.g. pack your bag, read the passage).

Persevere - Keep going encouraging your kids to listen and be involved, quietly explaining parts of the service and why it's important. Be consistent in your expectations and desires for them during the service. Don't underestimate what they will be taking in.

Don't panic - Keep trusting God and what He is doing. Remember we love having your kids with us, it's normal for them to fidget, we don't mind a bit of noise. If you need to leave to help your child calm down or to discipline them there is an area where you can still hear what's going on, but we'd love you to come back and show them that staying is better!

Make the most of the helps:

We're working hard to help you and your children listen, for example:

• **Sermon sheets:** sermon specific and age appropriate to help your children follow. Children will also sometimes be addressed in the sermon so they know it is for them too.

• **Sermon saks:** For preschool children - with a few quiet things, not to distract but to help engage them with what they're hearing.

• **Church family:** Why not ask someone to sit with you to help you and your children during church?

Why are we welcoming children into Church?

What Church is: We worship God with all of our lives, and we *especially* worship when we gather to receive from him (in the Word and the Lord's Supper), and give him our praise and prayer on Sunday mornings. We join the heavenly worshippers (Hebrews 12:22) to do what we were created for as humans, what we were saved for by Christ, and will enjoy in eternity: gathering round the throne of God to worship Him.

Church

Preaching

What Preaching is: The preaching is the centre of our time together on Sundays and preaching is a 'means of grace' – God is at work among his people in a special way and we don't want children to miss out on this!

Where children stand: Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me.' The children of a believer are to be treated as in the people of God, and because children are to be treated as among God's people, we want them to receive all the blessings of gathering together, and most of all to hear the Word of God with the rest of God's people.

Children

What Church is, what preaching is and where children stand, mean that we think this is a really good thing – not just for children, not just for families, but for the whole Church.

With this will come, we pray, a host of blessings and privileges including:

- Little children get the truth revealed to them by God at the same special time as the rest of the Church family.
- *Together* the whole Church hears God speak to us and *together* we grow.
- It is a joyful statement to each other and the world of who we are in Christ together as His body. It teaches the children and the adults that children belong, and the importance of hearing God speak.
- We get to serve one another and encourage one another in lots of new ways, for example: the encouragement of seeing parents teaching their children (including the difficult mornings!); and seeing and hearing children engage more and more over time.
- Children get to watch their parents and the Church listen to the Word, as well as seeing them engage with the rest of the meeting.
- Children can enjoy the follow-up teaching on the same Bible passage and time together at C3 Tots and C3 Kids.
- Families can continue the same teaching at home over Sunday lunch and during the week.