

**Service of Thanksgiving
for XXX**

PHOTO

Date

**St Mary's Church,
Wavendon**

Welcome to St Mary's on this special day, as we give thanks for NNN and ask God to bless him/her. In the short service that follows, **words for everyone to say are in bold.** Words for the parents are underlined.

Welcome and introduction

We are here today to give thanks for NNN, with his/her family and friends, and to support NN and NN in their responsibilities with prayer and love. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where His love reigns supreme.

The minister prays an opening prayer: God our creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the privilege of parenthood. We thank you for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life. We thank you that we are known to you by name and loved by you from all eternity. We thank you for Jesus Christ, who has opened to us the way of life. We praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

The minister addresses the Parents:

Do you receive NNN as a gift from God?

Parents: We do

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek His blessing?

Parents: We do

The minister blesses NNN

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God's blessing on NNN:

Loving God, thank you that NNN is special to you, and to all of us gathered here today. Thank you that (s)he will continue to be special to many others as well throughout his/her life. We ask you to be with him/her and bless him/her; to guard and protect him/her; to nourish him/her and provide him/her with all the love and security (s)he needs to grow into the fulfilled person you would have him/her be. Fill him/her with your love, and enable him/her to know your goodness all his/her days. And in the future may (s)he come to a living faith in you. **Amen.**

NNN, may the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you His peace. **Amen.**

The parents say together:

God our Father, in giving us this child, you have shown us your love.

Help us to be trustworthy parents. Make us patient and understanding, that our child may always be sure of our love, and grow up to be happy and responsible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister prays for the parents

May God, the Father of all, bless NN and NN, and give them grace to love and care for NNN. May God give them wisdom, patience and faith, help them to provide for his/her needs, and, by their example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE GIFT OF THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE

Receive this book. It is the good news of God's love. Take it as your guide.

The minister addresses the congregation:

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

With the help of God, we will.

The minister welcomes NNN

Bible reading – Mark chapter 10, verses 13-16

A famous story where Jesus meets and blesses a group of children

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

