

## **The Malmesbury Abbey Children's Charter**

1. As a family we should take every opportunity to share Christian life together.
  - We should love the children in our church and not be afraid to show it.
  - There is a need for adults and children to know one another better as part of the family to truly live our message to non-Christians "see how these Christians love one another!"
  
2. There is a need for regular prayer for the whole family of the church.
  - We should teach children how to pray - not just give them the words
  - Children and adults need to pray together as often as possible
  
3. The discovery and developments of gifts in adults and children is a key function of the church.
  - Children need the church but the church also needs the enthusiasm and excitement inherent in children
  
4. Learning is for the whole church, adults and children
  - Everyone in the church is a teacher and a learner
  - Adults have a responsibility, as role models, to display the importance of Christ's teaching in their lives.
  
5. Children need to be taught why go to church.
  - I.e. to remember the big story, that God created the world and sent his Son, as well as to remember the little stories - our lives
  
6. Principles of communion and confirmation need to be taught from the early years.
  - This is fundamental to a living faith in Jesus Christ
  - Children are most receptive from 4 to 8 years
  
7. The full diet of Christian worship is for children as well as adults.
  - We all need someone to teach us the elementary truths of God's word all over again (Hebrews 5).
  
8. Fellowship is for all - each belonging meaningfully to the rest.
  - Children are sent to us by God to enrich us not to distract us

9. Service is for children to give, as well as adults.

- Children need to know and take part in all aspects of church life as part of their heritage
- They should not be marginalised by excluding them from service or responsibilities within the church

10. Children are equal partners with adults in the life of the church.

- There is no difference between a child's spirituality and an adult: spiritual development of an adult is just more mature
  - If young people are only taught 'outside' the church, they are another church
- Children need to experience church life if they are to stay in our church