

**THE BOYS'**  
**BRIGADE**  
>the adventure begins here



# **Annual Service of Dedication and Enrolment of New Members**

Produced by  
The Boys' Brigade

**This booklet has been prepared by The Boys' Brigade Churches liaison Committee in England & Wales.**

It seeks to offer guidance to Company Captains and Chaplains in planning for their services of Dedication and Enrolment of new members. It is recognised that such Services differ from Church to Church in that they might be for Boys' Brigade Companies only, in conjunction with The Girls' Brigade or with other uniformed or non-uniformed organisations. This booklet therefore takes the form of a compendium of three suggested services covering each of these possibilities. The services are in different styles and from various traditions. These services are intended to be used as guidelines, and they may be freely adapted for use in different circumstances.

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## **Introduction**

An important part of the life of any Boys' Brigade Company and of the local Church of which it is a part is the Annual Service of Dedication and Enrolment of New Members. This is a time at which the Company and Church unite in reminding each other of their objectives and of their obligations to one another. It is important that this is seen not just as a 'BB' occasion, but as one in which the Brigade and any other youth organisations – whether uniformed or not – within the ministry of the local Church might be seen as visible strands of the children's and young people's work of that Church. As far as The Boys' Brigade is concerned, it is recommended that the whole Company participate as fully as possible.

The service will, and indeed should, be meaningful to the various participants in different ways. For the new Boy of whatever age, it is the time to formalise his membership of the Company by promising to be a good member and to accept the teaching and guidance of the Company and of the Church. For a Boy renewing his membership, it is a time to reflect on that membership and to affirm his promises for the future. For Junior Leaders, it is time to promise to go that little bit further than before and to accept the privilege and responsibilities of leadership. For Leaders, it is time to evaluate past work and commitment and to accept prayerfully a further period of service or new duties which God has called them to perform. For the Congregation – parents, friends, church members, adherents – it is time to give thanks for the work carried out in the past by the Brigade and other organisations, to rejoice in the richness of their life and to promise to continue to support them in the future in whatever way may be appropriate

The Service of Dedication is an opportunity to strengthen and deepen the links between Company and Church; to make all aware of the purpose of the Company and the Church; and to emphasise the responsibilities of all concerned.

## **When Should the Service be Held?**

Traditionally, such a service has been held about 6 – 8 weeks after the start of the session i.e. mid to late October. This is a good interval since it allows new Boys who tend to join at the start of the Session to get to know what The Boys' Brigade is, and to decide if they wish to become members. It also allows the Company to settle down into the new Session's work. However, it should be emphasised that such timing is *not* mandatory. If recruitment is held at other times of the year, or if earlier or later suits the Church's calendar or that of other organisations better, then the Company should be flexible over dates. However, if the Service is to be regarded as dedication of the members and the work for the Session, then an early date is to be recommended for it to have full impact and meaning.

## **The Form of the Service**

It must be emphasised that the precise form of the Service is a matter for the local Church. It is anticipated that in most circumstances, the Minister or Chaplain will wish to consult with the BB Captain and the leaders of any other organisations involved, to ensure that a suitable form of Service is adopted. Many services may include traditional Boys' Brigade elements such as receiving of Colours, Promotion of NCO's, singing of BB Hymns and so on. However it is important to remember that The Boys' Brigade Company should not seek to dominate the event by insisting on such events where others might regard them as inappropriate. For example, it might be suitable for the new members to receive their first Membership card from the Chaplain, but careful thought should be given to the effect on the congregation and other organisations if a large Company insist on every member receiving an individual presentation. In some cases, it might be felt that continuing members – especially Anchor Boys or Juniors should have their cards from the start of the session.

Whatever part The Boys' Brigade is invited to play in the Service should be planned carefully. Should they be asked to plan the Service, certain points should be thought through. Every effort should be made to ensure the Service is meaningful to all present, taking into account the age range involved. Participation by young people in Readings, Prayers, leading singing, etc is encouraged. It might be appropriate for a Senior to give the address if one has suitable gifts. If an outside speaker is to be invited, he or she should be chosen with care for their 'rapport' with young people, rather than just a 'big name'. Hymns/Songs should be chosen for appeal to both young and old.

## **Before the Service**

Everyone involved in anyway with the Service should be aware of what is required of them. For those participating actively, precise details of what they have to do and when they have to do it should be provided. All details of the Parade, timings, etc should be carefully worked out. Any special guests or visitors should be clearly informed in advance of what they are expected to do and when, and where they should go.

It is important from The Boys' Brigade point of view that all Boys should be made aware beforehand of the meaning of what is to be done, as well as the mechanics. The significance of the promises to be made should be explained carefully in language which they will understand. Each Boy should have a copy of the words to be used. If necessary, a rehearsal of the Act of Enrolment should be held so that everyone knows what to do during the actual service. However, it is important to remember that is not a performance to be so rehearsed it becomes an ordeal rather than meaningful worship which is its whole purpose.

**1. A Service for the Dedication and Enrolment of a Boy's Brigade Company only.**  
*(This service is couched in traditional form)*

Minister: The Church of Jesus Christ was commissioned by its Lord to go into all the world, and make disciples of all nations. The Boys' Brigade is part of the Church, and rejoices that it is called to share in this task, and, in particular to give nurture to the Boys of the Company, and to present them with the claims of Jesus Christ. Today, the Leaders of our Company have come to pledge themselves afresh to this work. Let us therefore commit them to Christ as we pray together:-

We thank you, Lord, that in every generation, you entrust young people to the care of your Church, and call those who are to exercise a ministry among them. Grant that by the power of the Holy Spirit, those who pledge themselves afresh to this service today, may be enabled to fulfil this task, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then shall the Minister say to the leaders who have been called by name to come forward, the Congregation standing:*

Leaders of the ..... Company of The Boys' Brigade. You have been called by God to the work of caring for and training the Boys of our Company. Will you by your work and example seek to advance Christ's Kingdom and work in partnership with the Church to share the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Leaders: **With God's help, we will.**

Minister: Will you by prayer and personal preparation seek to equip yourself in every possible way for this service?

Leaders: **With God's help, we will.**

Minister: May God give you grace to be faithful to him and successful in your work for him in The Boys' Brigade.

*The Minister shakes hands with the Leaders and they resume their seats. The congregation sits down.*

Minister: Now we ask our Junior Leaders to stand. Staff-Sergeants and other N.C.O's of the ..... Company of The Boys' Brigade. Your Captain has shown faith and confidence in you by promoting you to these ranks. Do you now promise, with God's help, to support your Officers loyally, to carry out your duties cheerfully and at all times to set a good example to other Boys of the Company?

N.C.O.'s: **With God's help we will**

Minister: May God help you to keep your promise and play your part in the service of others.

Now we enrol or re-enrol the whole Company, and ask the Boys to stand.

As members of The Boys' Brigade you are part of the worldwide family of the Church. Do you promise to be a loyal member of The Boys' Brigade and to support the activities of the Company?

Boys: **We do**

Minister: May God help you to keep your promise, and give you the strength to overcome temptation and to be loyal to our great Captain and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Finally, I have a question to put to the members of the congregation.

Do you promise to support the work of our Company of The Boys' Brigade and to pray for its Leaders and Boys that God will keep them Sure and Steadfast in their faith?

Congregation: **We do**

Minister: Let us then pray for The Boys' Brigade.

All: Bless, O God, The Boys' Brigade, and give to it greater power to advance your Kingdom throughout the world. Grant in your mercy that every member, past and present may prove Steadfast in his fight against evil, and true in his allegiance to you. Help us in times of temptation; make us strong when we are weak; give us courage in difficulty, faithfulness in duty, loyalty in friendship; and finally by your mercy, bring us into your everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 2. A Service for the Joint Dedication and Enrolment of a Boys' Brigade Company and a Girls' Brigade Company.

Minister: Our Lord Jesus Christ has given to the Church the task of going into all the world to tell people about Him. The Boys' Brigade and The Girls' Brigade exist to help the Church in that work, that through their programme of activities, Boys and Girls will learn of Jesus, be challenged to become his disciples and encouraged to live Christian lives.

The..... Company of The Boys' Brigade and the ..... Company of The Girls' Brigade have come to Church today for their Annual Service of Dedication and Enrolment. They are part of the life of our Church, and we, the members of this congregation, are asked to promise to support the work being done by them, and to pray for the Girls and Boys, and their Leaders that in their seeking to serve and follow Christ they will be sure and steadfast in their endeavours. As such members of this congregation we are invited to join the Brigades in the saying of The Girls' Brigade prayer and The Boys' Brigade prayer after the acts of dedication and enrolment.

### The Boys' Brigade

*The Boys' and Leaders' names may be read out at this point, with those concerned standing.*

Minister: Jesus Christ said that he came to give us life in all its fullness. The Boys' Brigade seeks to help you enjoy life through all its activities. If you are to benefit from the opportunities and experiences which The Boys' Brigade offers, you must be loyal and enthusiastic in your support of the Company.

Members of the ..... Company of The Boys' Brigade, you are part of the worldwide family of the Church. Do you promise to be a loyal member of The Boys' Brigade and to support all the activities of your Company?

Response: **I do**

All: **Bless, O God, The Boys' Brigade, and give to it greater power to advance your Kingdom throughout the world. Grant in your mercy that every member, past and present may prove Steadfast in his fight against evil, and true in his allegiance to you. Help us in times of temptation; make us strong when we are weak; give us courage in difficulty, faithfulness in duty, loyalty in friendship; and finally by your mercy, bring us into your everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Girls' Brigade

*The Girls' and Leaders' names may be read out at this point, with those concerned standing.*

Minister: Members of the ..... Company of The Girls' Brigade, I would remind you of The Girls' Brigade law: "A Girls' Brigade member will do her best to be loyal to Company and Church; to be honest, truthful, kind and helpful; and to remember The Girls' Brigade motto: 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ'". Do you each promise to do your best to keep The Girls' Brigade Law?

Response: **I do**

All: **Bless, O Lord, The Girls' Brigade here and throughout the world. Please continue to use it to help girls discover the reality of your love in Jesus Christ. Help each Officer and Girl renewing their commitment today to keep the promise which they have made. May they seek you earnestly, serve you joyfully, and follow you faithfully now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### 3. A Service for the Joint Dedication and Enrolment of a Boys' Brigade Company and other Children's and Young People's Organisations

#### Bidding Prayer

We thank you, Lord, that in every generation, you entrust children and young people to the care of your Church, and call those who are to exercise a ministry among them. Grant that by the power of the Holy Spirit, those who commit themselves today, may be enabled to fulfil this task, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Purpose

The whole Church of Christ shares in the task of giving nurture to the children and young people in its midst, and to present the claims of Christian discipleship before them. In this Church we have a variety of ministries which together seek to fulfil this charge. They include ..... Today, the leaders of these groups and organisations will be rededicating themselves to their work, and at the same time the..... Company of The Boys' Brigade will join in their annual act of enrolment and rededication. Finally, the whole congregation will be called on to pledge its continuing support for young people and those who work among them.

*The minister calls on the Leaders and workers among children to stand.*

Minister: Being called by God to the work of caring for and training young people, will you, by your word and example, seek in this place to create a community of Christian love through which our Saviour, Jesus Christ, may make himself known, and the young may grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Leaders and Workers: **With God's help, we will**

Minister: Will you be diligent in personal preparation and seek to equip yourself in every possible way for this service?

Leaders and Workers: **With God's help, we will**

Minister: Now we recognise the members of the organisations and ask them to stand.

Minister names each organisation in turn, and, as they are named, their members stand.

Minister: As members of your organisation, you are a member of the family of the Church, here and throughout the world. Jesus Christ said that he came in order that we might have life in all its fullness. The organisations to which you belong seek to help you to enjoy that fullness of life to which Christ calls us.  
Do you promise to be a loyal member of your organisation and to support its activities?

Members of organisations: **I do.**

Minister: May God give you strength and help you to keep your promise you have made.

The congregation are invited to stand.

Members of the congregation, will you sustain all those who today have made promises with your prayers, and support the work among children and young people in this place?

Congregation: **With God's help, we will.**

Minister: Father, we thank you that in you we are one family. We pray that we may learn from each other, give and receive your love, and service you with one heart and mind. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**