

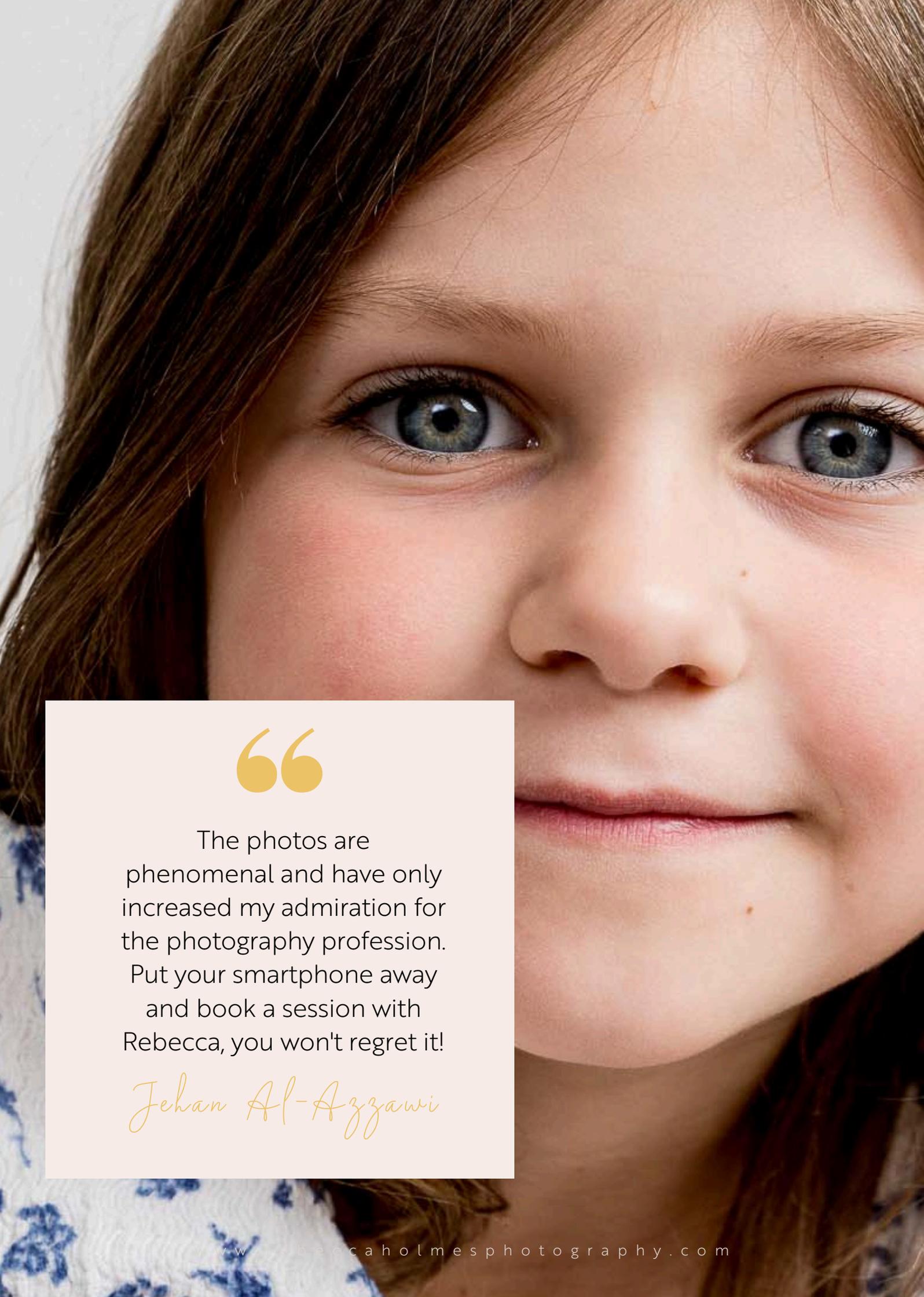
FAMILY MINI SESSION PHOTOGRAPHY

# Client Welcome Guide

RELAXED PHOTOGRAPHY THAT REFLECTS THE HEART OF YOUR FAMILY







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The photos are phenomenal and have only increased my admiration for the photography profession. Put your smartphone away and book a session with Rebecca, you won't regret it!

*Jehan Al-Azzawi*

# welcome



## I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU

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A million thank yous for booking a photography shoot with me. You've made an excellent choice and we are going to make something beautiful together.

You're going to look back at these photos in years to come and be so happy that you chose to capture your family at this magical stage in their story.

# a little about me



When you work with me, you can expect an exceptional, bespoke service that's both relaxed and hugely enjoyable. You'll be supported at every step and feel confident that you're in the best possible hands.

Rebecca

PHOTOGRAPHER, FILM MAKER

I play a lot of roles in my daily life – mother, wife, daughter, photographer, film-maker, photography trainer, mentor, entrepreneur. I also love playing music, performing musical theatre, teaching singing, scoffing delicious food and sipping gin or fancy tea (though not at the same time).

I'm definitely an introvert, though I can play extroverted about 20% of the time and for those that like a personality quiz, I'm a proud INFJ-T.

My superpower (every woman's got one, y'know) is my ability to make my clients feel supremely comfortable in front of my camera. I understand that, for some, the idea of a photoshoot is the stuff nightmares are made of. You're out alone, I'm a recovering photo-avoider myself. I get it. On the day, you'll feel well-prepared, excited, and completely at ease. Promise.

I bring a warmth and cheer to my work that makes me especially excellent with families; I adore kids and coaxing smiles (or even magic giggles) out of them is one of the most joyous perks of my job.

I've been taking photographs for a very long time. It's a career that both inspires and motivates me - there's nothing quite like helping a family create a little piece of history to hang on their wall, showing a mother the look of love her kids have for her, helping kids recognise how gorgeous they are.

Team Holmes





# My Vision & Mission

Photographs are so much more than just pictures. An amazing family photography session isn't just about capturing a posed photograph for Grandparents. It's about taking time to document your family history, memorialise your children's childhood, capture your love as a family, then put it on the wall for everyone to see.

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Photography that reflects the heart of your family

Time really does fly... One minute you've got a newborn in your arms, and the next – secondary school, then college. Please make sure you take time out to capture those memories, all the precious moments and ages. Take time to document the love your family has for each other and put it on your wall to be treasured. Your future self will thank you. .



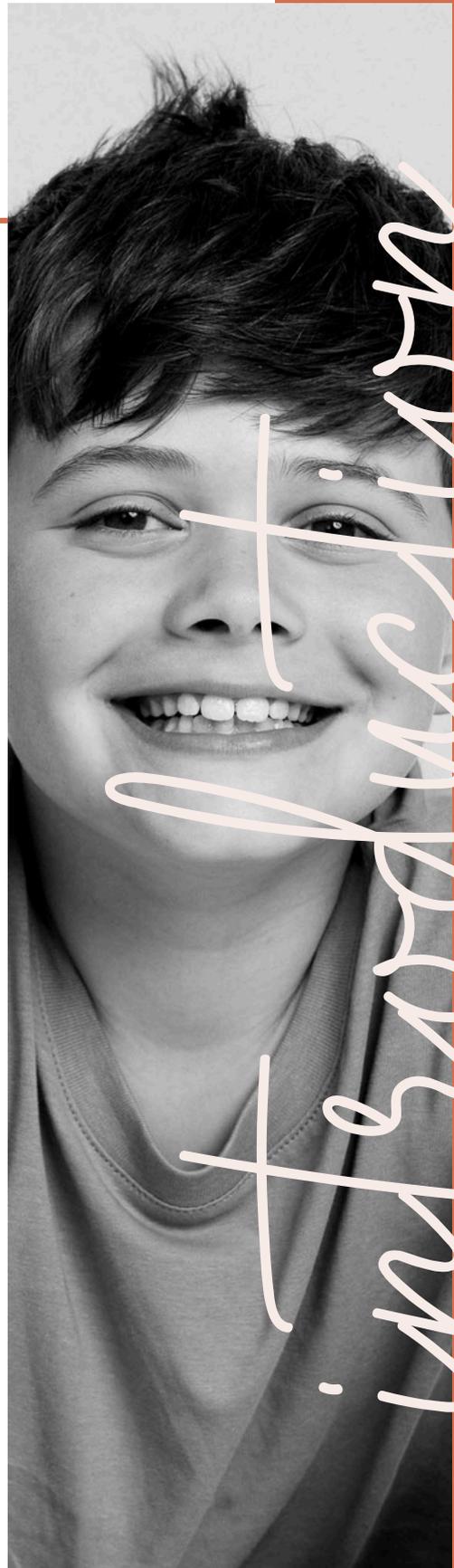
## INTRODUCTION

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This brochure is packed full with all the details you need in order to prepare for one of my family photography mini sessions.

If you have further questions, I am always on the end of a text message or email.

Can't wait to make a little magic with you.



# THE PROCESS

## BOOKING

You book your session, pay your booking fee, pencil in your booking date and you're on your way!

01

## THE SESSION

You have a fun, relaxed, memorable photography session with me. You'll spend time cuddling and playing with your family, making lasting memories. But don't worry, it's not awkward or weird - just loads of fun!

02

## PREPARATION

I will send you a full welcome and preparation guide.

03

## THE IMAGES

You'll grab a cuppa and a biscuit while I quickly cull and lightly edit the photos (about 10 minutes), I'll then present them to you to choose from.

04

## YOUR CHOICE

You then choose which package and products you'd like to purchase - all on the same day!

05

*how it works*

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME

Clear, timely, honest, and up-front communication



Availability to answer all your questions and any concerns



Guidance and reassurance with anything you're not sure about



Support and understanding - I'm a busy Mum, I get it



A relaxed, easy experience from start to finish



## WHAT I'LL NEED FROM YOU

-  Engagement in the planning process
-  To tell me if there are any shots that are essential for you
-  Let me know if there's anything you're worried about at all
-  Keep in touch with me if anything changes with your family that could impact the photoshoot
-  Your trust and confidence in my ability to plan and execute a wonderful photography session



# don't be shy



## I LOVE TO CHAT...

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### HOW YOU CAN CONTACT ME:

Email is always best unless it's urgent (I have a habit of replying to texts in my head... Don't all busy Mums?!).

I can be contacted by email on [hello@rebeccaholmesphotography.com](mailto:hello@rebeccaholmesphotography.com).

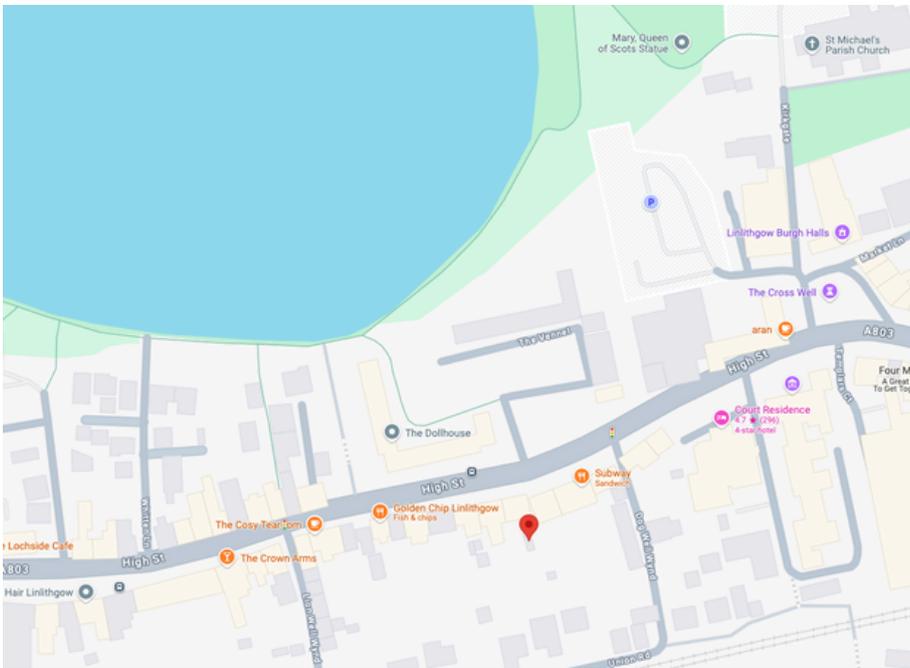
I endeavour to respond to all enquiries within 48 hours, though during busy periods please give me a little grace.

If you need to contact me urgently, please send a text message to 07970 318 566 in the first instance. I will then call you if we need to chat.

Please don't message me via social media as I'll struggle to keep track of your message.

### MY CLIENT CONTACT HOURS:

Tuesday - Thursday 9am to 3pm, plus the occasional late afternoon/evening if we need to catch up outside of these core hours. I also put aside most Saturday mornings for sessions with working/school-age families.



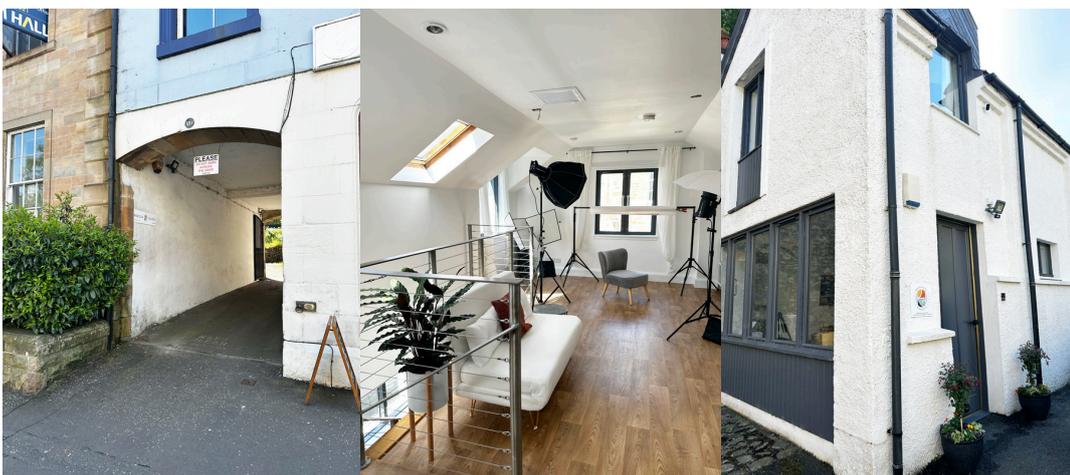
## WHERE TO FIND THE RHP STUDIO

My studio is located at 129A High Street, Linlithgow. It is nestled off the High Street, behind Byerton House.

To enter the studio, come up the walkway to the left of the shop Fair Tradewinds. Please don't drive your car up - there aren't any car parks for customers.

If travelling by train, the studio is just a short walk from Linlithgow station. Linlithgow is about 15 minutes train ride from Edinburgh, and 40 from Glasgow.

If driving, I recommend parking at the Vennel car park. Put 'Kirkgate Linlithgow' in your sat nav, then when you get there, take a left just after So Strawberry cafe to get to the car park. I'm about two minutes walk from there. There is a parking charge, but it's minimal.



Studio Location



## WHEN YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME BEFORE YOUR SESSION

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### WELCOME GUIDE EMAIL

The email I sent with this lovely welcome guide!



### THE CHECK-IN MESSAGE

Two days before your session, I will be in touch via text to confirm the session.

At this point you'll let me know if anybody's unwell (if not before).



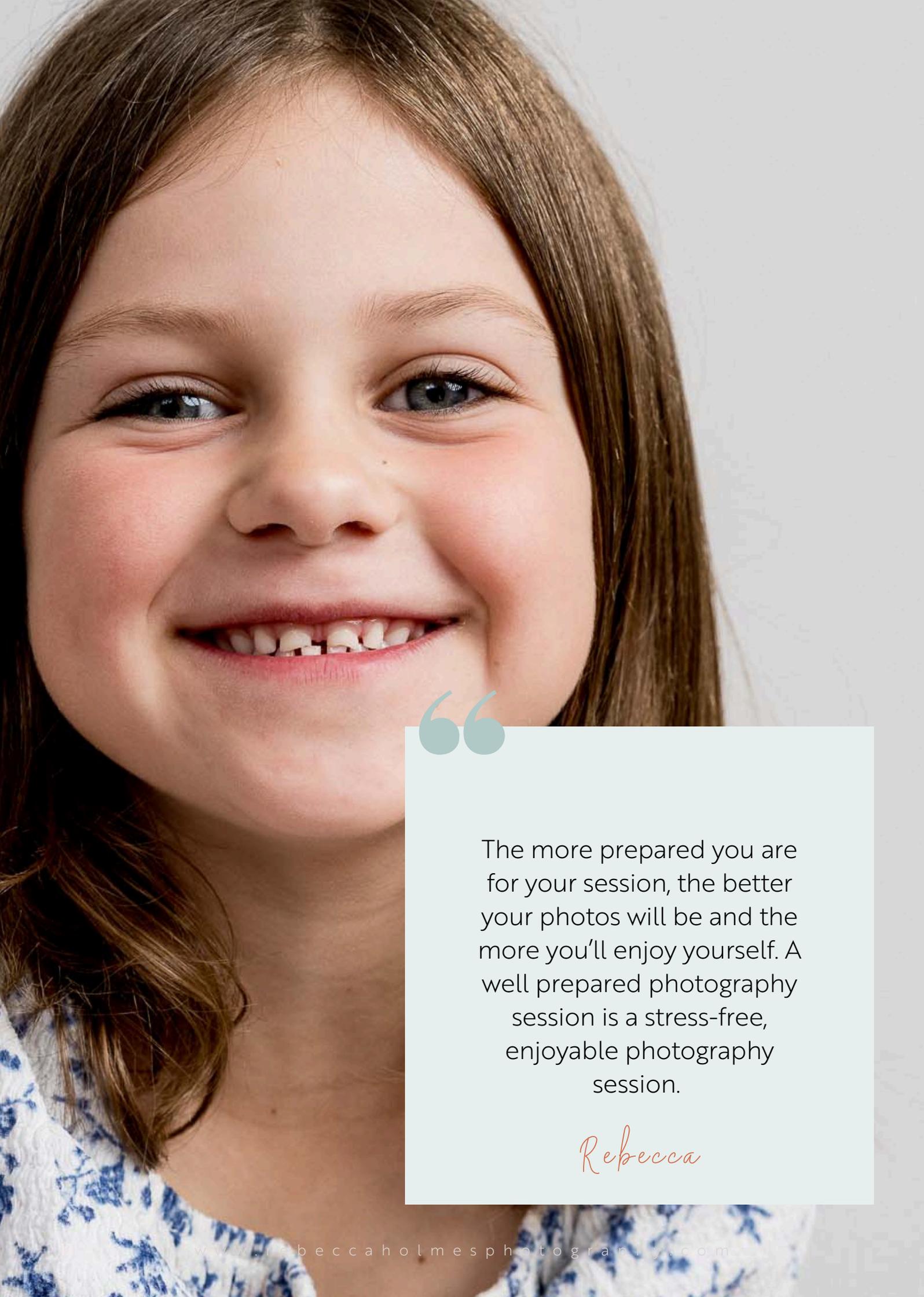
### THE DAY-BEFORE MESSAGE

If needed (due to weather or precarious health) I'll also check in the day before via text message.



### ON THE DAY MESSAGE

If there are any issues with health, timings, travel etc. you'll drop me a text message ASAP.



The more prepared you are for your session, the better your photos will be and the more you'll enjoy yourself. A well prepared photography session is a stress-free, enjoyable photography session.

*Rebecca*

# PREPARATION TIMELINE

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## AFTER YOU BOOK

- Grab a cuppa and spend some time digesting this welcome booklet. There's a lot of handy information in here.
- Book a haircut. In fact, book the entire family into the salon/barbers.
- It'd be such a shame to look back at the photos and think, "I wish I'd had my nails done." So if that's important to you, book in those beauty appointments before the shoot.



## THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE PHOTOSHOOT

- Plan your outfit (and what the rest of the family are going to wear). TOP TIP: Choose Mum's outfit first! Plan your outfits ahead of time and avoid a mad scramble on the day. This makes for a relaxed arrival and better photos.
- Do you have something you want to wear in your wardrobe? Or is it time to go shopping? Get that shopping trip in plenty of time before the photoshoot. Think about your accessories, too: shoes, socks, wellies etc.
- Does the thought of planning outfits fill you with dread? Let me know - I love to help!



## ONE WEEK BEFORE THE PHOTOSHOOT

- Haircuts, manicures, eyebrow wax etc...
- Wash and iron all outfits (and keep the kids from wearing them before the shoot!)
- Pack your bag (see What to Bring)
- Plan to do something lovely as a family after the shoot. A film, dinner out - something to finish off the day nicely.



## NIGHT BEFORE

- Only one last thing to do: get a good night's sleep. Kids AND adults. It always helps to be well-rested.



## ON THE DAY

- Make sure everyone has washed, eaten and used the loo ahead of the session. Hangry kids (and adults!) can make the experience quite challenging...
- Leave in plenty of time to avoid rushing, and to include finding a car park. You want to arrive calm and relaxed, not stressing.
- And if there's any problems at all - just text me!

*Let's get ready*

# PREPARING THE KIDS

## YOUNG CHILDREN

I find it's best not to make too much fuss ahead of the session. Tell your children you're going to visit Rebecca to get some lovely family photographs taken. You can show them a picture of me with my family (next page) to help them understand. I find that my kids always like to know whom they're meeting. It tends to relax them.

Please, please, please do not 'practice' their smiles, or put any pressure on them to 'be good' or 'behave'. I've done it, so I get it! But in my experience, kids who think what they're doing is a BIG deal are more likely to be kids that mess about (and I count my own kids in that too!).

Practised smiles actually make my job an awful lot harder. I have plenty of tried and tested techniques to get genuine, warm smiles from children, so there's no need to practice.

Please don't think it's odd if I greet the children first or make a fuss of them when I meet them – it helps break the ice!

If your children aren't happy about meeting me for any reason, please let me know. We can easily set up a video call so they can 'meet' me ahead of the session. This often works a treat.

If your children have any additional support needs, just let me know. I want to make the whole day as enjoyable as possible so I'd like to interact with them in a way most helpful to them.



# PREPARING THE KIDS

## OLDER CHILDREN

Perhaps unsurprisingly, older children (pre-teens and teens) tend to be a bit awkward about having their photo taken. They worry about their friends seeing them, about their appearance and even about being asked to cuddle their siblings. Teens need very little encouragement to feel embarrassed!

Giving them a good reason to have the photographs taken is often a sound idea: perhaps it's for a birthday, or as a gift for a favourite grandparent. Give them a bit of motivation.

Emphasise to them that with a studio session, they are HIGHLY unlikely to run into anyone they know, and that their images won't be used without their permission. Being caught publicly hanging out with your parents and a photographer is often considered a little uncool!

If all else fails, have a little "leverage" up your sleeve. Bribing them with an after-shoot pizza dinner or something they love to do will always encourage them to be cooperative. At least that's what works with my teens!

*This is me  
with my family!*



# what about you?



## PREPARING YOURSELF

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### AHEAD OF THE SESSION

Before the session, make yourself feel great. Whatever works for you: a manicure, a facial, an excellent night's sleep followed by a morning's meditation... There's no wrong way to relax. Dance around your kitchen in your knickers if that's what it takes!

If you feel good, you'll take a good photo. That's a firm fact. Now is the time to really focus on a little self-care.

### ON THE DAY

Try to give yourself plenty of time beforehand to ensure you're comfortable, organised and relaxed.

Take a moment to consider why you want to capture these portraits and what they'll mean to you after.

Take a deep breath, have a cup of chamomile and relax. We've got this.

# PREPARING YOURSELF

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## HAIR AND MAKE-UP DOS AND DONT'S

- Don't go over the top with make-up, although most make-up artists will advise you to wear a little more than you'd ordinarily wear day-to-day. A good rule of thumb is to put on about as much as you would for a fancy-ish lunch.
- Do avoid anything shiny. Highlighters and shiny eyeshadows are not the camera's friend - or yours (creases for days).
- Do get your hair touched up so that you have no roots showing; these are very difficult to Photoshop out realistically, and that sort of retouching is not included in what I do.
- Do get your hair cut a few weeks before the shoot, rather than the day before. You know how your hair can look a little too "fresh" immediately after a trim? And how it looks absolutely perfect about ten days afterwards? Bear that in mind.
- If you're worried about doing it yourself, do book in to have your hair and make-up done by an expert. A little expert magic might be just the confidence boost you need. Let me know if you need a referral to someone local.
- Above all, make sure you look like YOU. If you've never worn a scrap of makeup in your life and hate having your hair done, that's TOTALLY fine! Some of the most beautiful photos I have taken have been of make-up-less faces. Just do you.





## IF YOU'RE EXPERIENCING A CASE OF THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES BEFORE THE SHOOT, THIS MIGHT HELP...

Lots of us hate being in front of the camera (I'm certainly a recovering photo-dodger) but worry not. One of my superpowers is the uncanny ability to make even the most camera-shy person feel completely comfortable. Rest assured, on the day it will end up being much less stressful than you imagine it to be. Everyone I work with comes away saying how much they enjoyed the experience.

That said, if this is a bit of an issue for you, there are a few things you can do before the session to keep the jitters at bay:

- Remember that every negative thought is just that - a thought. A wisp of a thing that is malleable and changeable. It's not set in stone and you can conquer it.
- Keep in mind why you're getting these photographs taken. Are they for your family, for yourself? Having a goal in mind will make the whole thing easier.
- Find a treasured photograph of a loved one and put it somewhere you'll see it. They were brave enough to get in front of the camera. You can be, too.
- Get yourself fully prepared so that you're looking and feeling your best.
- Practice some positive affirmations. This might not feel like your particular cup of tea, but you'd be surprised just how effective they can be. Say them out loud to the mirror every morning for a week before your session – it could make a world of difference.
- If you're really worried, then please let me know. We can catch up ahead of your session and have a chat about how to alleviate your fears.



## WHAT TO WEAR

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What you wear during a photo session is an important part of your photographs' overall look, feel, and longevity. Nothing dates a photo like wardrobe choices. From flares in the 70s to the shoulder pads of the late 80s, trends can be portraiture poison.

Here are some key points to consider:

- Your clothing should express your personality but not distract from the main event (you).
- Smart-casual usually works best. Think lunch with your best friends.
- Make sure your clothes fit properly. They should be comfortable before anything else: if you're uncomfortable, it shows.
- Coordinate the family's outfits, but don't match. Matching outfits look stiff, awkward and weird, but coordinated outfits tie the entire photo together for a nice, cohesive look.
- Don't be afraid of colour! Try to incorporate your favourite colours into your photos, or even better - the colours of your home - so that photos on the wall blend beautifully.
- Aim for classic items that won't date. A classic cut shirt will stand the test of time a lot better than flares or acid-wash jeans, for example.
- Accessorise if it's your thing, but don't feel you have to. Avoid anything too big or flashy (it might distract from you).

Looking great

# WHAT TO WEAR

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- Step away from loud, busy patterns and clashing colours (leave the neons at home, avoid plaid, checks and stripes). Bright colours or dizzying prints are very distracting in photos. Simple block colours work best (unless crazy prints are your 'thing' - then go nuts!).
- Don't forget to consider shoes and socks, though we'll rarely get them in shot during a studio shoot, it's good not to have neon socks just in case!
- Avoid logos, slogans and typeface as these never photograph well.
- Unless it's your absolute staple favourite, steer clear of black, there are very few folk who look brilliant in it and it's a magnet for dust and fluff!
- Think about texture. Floaty dresses, chunky knits, woollen scarves. These all work beautifully.
- Do you wear glasses? If they're transition, please leave them at home, we want to be able to see your baby-blues.
- Don't forget to clear out your pockets! We don't need any unnatural bulges!
- Make sure clothing covers appropriately - avoid skirts that ride up or show knickers when you sit... This happens a LOT when kids have had a growth spurt.

And finally. Don't take any of the above too seriously, of course. Consider clothing that reflects your personality and makes you happy. If you're a lover of neons, zig-zag -printed flares, then do your thing. I'm not the fashion police.

Looking Great



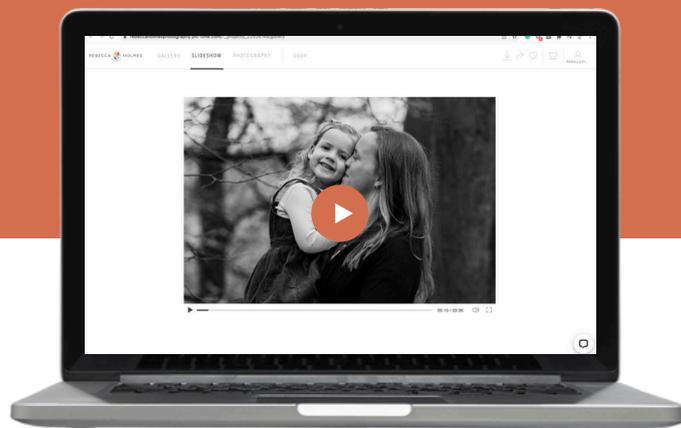


I can't recommend Rebecca highly enough! She made it so easy and relaxing. The photographs are simply stunning. So natural and beautiful, it brought tears to my eyes when I saw them for the first time!

*Anna Nicol*

# The exciting bit

One of the best bits about family mini sessions is that it's a one-day-one-stop event. The session AND the choices happen on the day - making it very easy for busy families.



As soon as your session is done you'll pop downstairs and one of my family (it's a family business - they all get to help!) will offer you a hot drink and a snack. While you're enjoying that, I'll do a very quick cull and light-edit of your photographs. This usually takes me about 5 minutes (it's not a full retouch!)

Once done, I'll bring the photographs downstairs and put them on the big screen so you can view them, and decide how you'd like to keep them.

There are three digital file packages available, as well as numerous options for albums and framing. I will work with you to narrow down the photographs you'd like to keep, and if you wish, to help you design a product. This process usually takes between 15 minutes and half an hour. If I have another session, then one of my family members will take over and help you to choose.

Family mini sessions only work this way. There is no option for an online gallery or for making a choice after the session - if you'd like that then please get in touch to change your session to a full family photography experience.

# digital or print



After you've viewed the images the next step is to choose what you would like to do with them. I have both digital packages and art products for you to choose from.

Perhaps you're a wall art family, with lots of pictures adorning your walls. You love beautiful frames and enjoy gazing at them on a daily basis.

Or maybe, you prefer albums? I love the idea of a row of albums on a shelf - all lined up ready to be poured over for years to come. It's what I have for my family. Albums are so wonderfully tactile, sitting with one on your lap is a beautiful thing.

Maybe you prefer a set of loose prints? Keeping them in a beautiful box ready to be looked at?

Digital files have become a bit like film negatives used to be. Does anyone else have boxes of them stashed in the loft? (I'm showing my age now!). Digital photographs end up stashed on hard drives in the depths of our computers, and we rarely ever look at them - let alone have them categorised in a way that makes looking at them easy... Oftentimes they aren't backed up properly either!

No digital file will ever set your heart on fire in the way a printed photograph can.

By printing our photographs, framing them, putting them in an album, we are elevating the status of the photo. We are making it a piece of art, giving it a special place - treating those memories with reverence.

# Investment

After your session you will be asked to choose from one of the three digital packages below.

THE SMALL ONE	THE NOT SO SMALL ONE	THE BIG ONE
£150*	£200*	£250*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ 1 high-resolution digital file sent by online transfer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ 5 high-resolution digital files sent by online transfer</li><li>✦ 5 matching loose 5 x 7 inch prints</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ ALL digital files sent online by transfer (minimum 10)</li><li>✦ 5 x 7 inch print of every image in a keepsake box</li></ul>

\*LESS DEPOSIT PAID AT TIME OF BOOKING

You can then feel free to add print products to your package, from the a la carte menu below. All of the products are on display in the studio.

- ✦ Pack of 10 prints up to 8 x 12 inches (not sold individually) - £300
- ✦ Mounted print box with ten 5 x 7 inch prints and a mini easel for display - £175
- ✦ Storyboard frames, medium - £450, large - £600
- ✦ Framed prints, small - £250, medium £400, large, £550
- ✦ Trilogy frame collection (two medium and one large framed images) - £1000
- ✦ Heirloom albums with 10 spreads, small - £250, medium - £300, large - £350

# Product gallery





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The service and the quality of the products is outstanding! The perfect way to display such beautiful images.

*Jane Harvey*



## PRINTING YOUR DIGITAL FILES

When you work with me, I want you to create something beautiful and lasting for you. A heirloom for your family which will remind you of this time in your life. A beautifully framed print or an album are perfect ways to display your photographs and preserve your memories.

But I also appreciate that once your friends and relatives see your photos - they'll want some prints too! So for them, I recommend printing your digital files.

However, since you have a lot invested in these photographs – prints from the supermarket just won't do! They are very poor quality and simply won't look as good as they are intended to be.

I highly recommend the company River and Coast ([www.riverandcoast.co.uk](http://www.riverandcoast.co.uk)) for all your loose photo printing. They are online, have fantastic customer service, are well-priced, easy to use and produce very high-quality prints. And no, I don't get a kick back from them - I just think they're fab!



Preserving Memories

# happy?



## NEXT STEPS

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If you're happy with your experience with me, then I'd love to work with you again! Being a family's 'life photographer' is at the very core of why I do what I do.

- Perhaps you run a business, or work somewhere which could do with some wonderful brand or headshot photography?
- Maybe you'd like to keep the flow of images coming by booking in your next session and paying monthly to save for it?
- If you've a special event coming up please get in touch!
- Or maybe one of you would really like to learn photography? I can help with that!
- If you'd like regular family sessions, I offer a family photography membership, it opens every January by invitation - let me know if you might be interested.

I love to say thank you to those who refer me to their family and friends. Please do let me know if you've made a referral - drop me a message or get them to let me know to credit you.

## SHOUT ABOUT IT

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Recommendation is at the heart of my marketing strategy. If you liked working with me, please take a few minutes to leave reviews on Google, Instagram, Facebook or LinkedIN.

And if I've messed anything up - anything at all - I'm very sorry! Please don't be silent. Drop me an email or text so we can make it right. I love receiving feedback of all kinds - it helps me learn, grow and improve.

# don't be stuck



## I'M JUST A MESSAGE AWAY

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It's very important to me that you enjoy the whole experience.

So if at any point you find yourself stuck or unsure, please get in touch so I can help. Drop me an email or a text message and I'll come right back you.

Email: [hello@rebeccaholmesphotography.com](mailto:hello@rebeccaholmesphotography.com)

Text Message: 07970 318 566

Thank you



I'm really looking forward to  
working with you