

Choosing Godparents

Godparents are some of the most important people at a Baptism, and should be chosen carefully. Here is some information which will help you choose your child's godparents. When you have finished with this leaflet, you may like to show it to your child's godparents.

What does being a godparent involve?

Godparents have a special role. It's about helping a child to come to know God, encouraging them in their spiritual life and supporting them in their membership of the local church.

Godparents make promises to help bring the child up in the Christian faith. **A godparent is not a legal guardian**, and is under no obligation to care for the child should something happen to the parents. Provision for this should be made through a will.

How many godparents should there be?

There are usually at least three godparents: two of the same sex as the child, and one of the opposite sex. However, it is possible to have greater or fewer godparents than this.

Do godparents have to be of a certain age?

There is no age limit (upper or lower) for being a godparent, but the person must be able to understand the promises they are making at the baptism.

Do they have to be baptised?

Godparents must be baptised. This is because they have a special role in helping your child to grow in the Christian faith. If there is someone you would like as a godparent who isn't baptised, it is possible for them to be baptised first. If they are unwilling or unable to be baptised, there are other ways in which they will be able to take a role in supporting your child. Talk to the clergy for more information about this.

I'd like someone to be a godparent, but they can't come to the baptism

Godparents are required to be present at the baptism, as on the day they will make special promises for your child. If they are unable to attend and there are exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for them to join the service via Skype or Facetime. This is your responsibility to arrange

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Information for Godparents



What will I have to do at the baptism?

During the service you will gather round the water with the child and his/her parents, and the vicar. You will all be asked to make certain promises. The vicar will make sure you know what to do on the day.

What promises do I have to make?

During the baptism service, you will be asked certain questions, and will give these responses:

*God knows each of us by name and we are his.
Parents and godparents, you speak for them today.
Will you pray for them,
and help them to follow Christ?*

We will.

*We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.*

*Therefore I ask:
Do you turn away from sin?*

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

How can I pray for my godchild?

Take a few moments to remember your godchild. You might like to light a candle or look at a photograph. Here is a prayer which you might find helpful:

*Heavenly father,
Thank you for the precious gift of [name]
And for all the joy that she/he brings us.
Be with her/him on her journey through life
So she/he may come to know our Lord Jesus Christ
As Saviour and Friend. Amen.*