

Your godchild's relationship with God will be unique. Within Christianity, it will be an experience of love without limits.

To be a godparent, you do not need to be a saint, have a degree in theology, or have all the right answers. You need to be prepared to help your godchild on their spiritual journey. Like your godchild, you have the breath of God within you. Like your godchild you are growing up in Christ.

As a faith community here in the Tring Team Parish, we will be praying for you as well as your godchild and are grateful to you for your commitment.

More information

The clergy in the Tring Team and the members of the congregation who help with Baptism Preparation are always happy to talk with you.

Mike Watkin (Baptism preparation)

01442 890407 mike.watkin@btinternet.com

Margaret Oram (Baptism Secretary)

01442 824575 margo@oram-home.net

Revd Huw Bellis (Team Rector) Tring & Puttenham

01442 822170 huwbellis@btinternet.com

Revd Joanne Wetherall (Team Vicar) Aldbury & Wilstone

01442 851200 joanne.wetherall@btinternet.com

Revd Jane Banister Long Marston

01442 822170 jcbanister@btinternet.com

Our Parish Website with more baptism information

www.tringteamparish.org.uk/Bap_data.html

Church of England Website - the 'official site'

www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents

A site especially for Godparents - set up by godparents who wanted some more information / help

www.egodparent.com

GODPARENTS' INFORMATION

Infant Baptism in the Tring Team Parish



Thank you

Thank you for agreeing to be a god-parent. Being a godparent is a great privilege, and is about more than just sending Christmas and birthday cards. In the baptism service you will promise to pray for your godchild, and to draw them by your example into the community of faith and to walk with them in the way of Christ. We hope that as a godparent you will commit yourself to your godchild's spiritual growth and that you will try to help them understand their spirituality as they grow up.

This sheet contains a little more information about being a godparent.

Preparing to be a Godparent

One of the most important things that you can do is to talk to your godchild's parents to make sure you agree what involvement they want you to have with your godchild. A godparent is not the same thing as a legal guardian (although godparents may be guardians if asked but the roles are quite separate). At the baptism service you will make some important promises for your godchild. After the service your role is to care for the spiritual development of your godchild and to pray for them. Your godchild's parents will be invited to a baptism preparation evening, if you live locally you are very welcome to attend this too. If you live further afield, your own parish might have something similar. At the end of this leaflet are some internet resources you might like to visit or you may like to find a specialist Christian bookshop. There are some excellent children's Bibles around these days, either as a present, or to have a copy to read to your godchild - there are some great stories to read to children and what better way to share our faith?

The Baptismal Promises

To be a godparent you must have been baptised (or 'christened' - it is the same thing) yourself. To be able to make baptismal promises on behalf of your godchild it is important that you have already made these promises for yourself. If you are not baptised you can still be involved but as a 'sponsor' and not as a godparent. In the service sponsors are asked:

Will you pray for N, will you walk with them on their spiritual journey and help them to come to maturity in faith?

With the help of God, we will.

Godparents are asked some more explicit questions:

PARENTS AND GODPARENTS, the Church receives *these children* with joy. Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith. Will you pray for *them*, draw *them* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin *their* journey in faith. You speak for *them* today. Will you care for *them*, and help *them* to take *their* place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

Godparents are also asked to make the decision on behalf of your godchild. In the service the priest will address you saying:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask you these questions which you must answer for yourselves as well as for *this child*:

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

These are serious promises and it is important that you make them in good faith.

What is Spirituality?

The word spirituality comes from a word meaning 'breath'. Human beings are spiritual because the breath of God is within them. Spirituality is how we experience and relate to God. As a godparent, the most important thing you can do is to listen to your godchild and value the things he tells you. Everyday experiences, and concerns about other people and the planet, can lead naturally to the wonder and questioning which are doors to spirituality.

By introducing your godchild to the Christian religion you help to draw them close to a God who is love. Children are capable of enjoying the presence of God, and giving themselves to God's love in a very deep way.