

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE SAYING YES TO BEING A GODPARENT

HAVE I BEEN CHRISTENED (BAPTISED)?

The Church of England requires that all godparents must be christened themselves. That can be in any Christian church. Ideally godparents will have been confirmed as well but we do not insist upon this. The reason is that you will be promising to help your godchild on their journey in the Christian faith. You need to have started that journey yourself to help them on it.

If you have not been christened the parents might still want to involve you in a special way in the life of their child. We can still celebrate this in the service without you being an official godparent.

HAVE YOU TALKED WITH THE PARENTS ABOUT WHAT THEY EXPECT FROM YOU?

Apart from the promises they make in the service there are no set rules about what a godparent will do. What is important is that you have a discussion with the parents to make sure you agree how you can support your godchild in the way that they want you to.

WILL YOU PRAY FOR AND WITH YOUR GODCHILD?

One of the important promises that you will make as a godparent is to pray for your godchild. Prayer is at the heart of the life of the church. Remembering your godchild before God even in an idle moment at work is never a wasted moment!

WILL YOU HELP YOUR GODCHILD FOLLOW CHRIST?

Will you go to church with them when you visit, or they visit you? Will you talk to them about the BIG things in life as they grow up?



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Living God's Love

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INFORMATION FOR GODPARENTS

Support on an Amazing Journey



CHRISTENINGS IN THE TRING TEAM PARISH

Living God's Love



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SUPPORTING A GODCHILD ON THEIR AMAZING JOURNEY



Thank you for agreeing to be a godparent. 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 help them to follow 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 leaflet is designed to explain the role of a godparent to help you understand the special role you will have at the christening and in your godchild's life.

THE DECISION

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.

DURING THE SERVICE

In the christening service there are a number of times that you will be directly involved.

THE DECISION

You are asked to speak for your godchild and to make some promises on their behalf. The questions are below left. It is important that you are comfortable answering these honestly.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

During the service the minister will mark your godchild with the sign of the cross. Saying *"Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross."* You and the parents will be invited to trace the same sign of the cross on your godchild's forehead. It is a special moment of commitment.

THE BAPTISM

You will be invited to come and stand around the font as the water of baptism is poured onto your godchild's head.

PRAYING TOGETHER

All of the godparents will be invited to say a prayer (top right) together. This is a way of involving you in the service and also recognising the important commitment you are making.

GODPARENT'S CARD

We will give you a card to commemorate the service and to show that your name as godparent has been recorded in the official church registers.

PRAYING TOGETHER

"God of light and love, thank you for the joy of being a godparent, and the opportunities it gives us to journey with our godchildren as they grow in faith. Keep us faithful to the promises we have made to pray for them, and to encourage them to deepen their relationship with you. Amen"

HELPING YOUR GODCHILD ON THEIR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

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 or she 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.

GODPARENT NOT LEGAL GUARDIAN

A godparent is not the same thing as a legal guardian (although godparents may be guardians if asked but the roles are quite separate).