

The Role of a Godparent

Godparents are very special. They are not just special on the day but special for a child's life, even when they are grown-up themselves. It is a lifelong commitment which will involve special times and treats, but much more as well. Discover more about what it means to be a good godparent here.

Godparents are among the most important people at a Baptism, who make big promises to encourage their godchild to grow in faith and commit to helping them understand how to live their life in a Christian way.

Alongside your godchild's parents, you will:

- Give your time to your godchild to talk about the bigger questions of life - questions about hope, faith and love.
- Model and encourage them to develop Christian values - being kind and compassionate towards others, being generous towards others in need with time or money, and standing against things in the world that cause injustice and suffering.
- Pray for your godchild through the ups and downs of their life and their faith journey.
- Show them practically how to make good choices in life, for themselves and for others. This might mean talking to them about how to stay healthy, how to resist temptations that can harm us and other people, how to care for God's amazing world and how to handle peer pressure as they grow older.
- Help them to learn more about the Christian faith, through their church and in other ways. Going to church with them, talking about what the Bible shows us and helping them learn how to pray are all brilliant ways to support your godchild.

It is a demanding role, but help is always at hand, through your church, and of course from God, who will bless all you do to help your godchild.

Godparent's Promises

During the Baptism, godparents say some very important things, making promises that will last a lifetime. It is helpful to look at these before the day, so read on to find out more about these promises and how to discover more about what they mean.

In the Baptism Service, you will make some big promises to support your godchild throughout their life. You could talk to your own Church Minister about what these promises mean, or join with your godchild's parents when they explore what a Baptism means.

The first thing you'll be asked in the Baptism Service is:

- "Will you promise to care for them, pray for them and help them to follow Christ?"

To this question, parents and godparents answer: "We will."

You will then be asked some questions which you answer for yourself, and on behalf of a child who is too young to answer for themselves:

- Do you reject evil?
- Do you turn to Christ?
- Do you put your trust in Him?
- Do you promise to follow Him for ever?

These are all big questions and big promises, so you might like to take time to explore them for yourself. Help is always at hand for you:

- In the service itself, the Priest will pray for God to help you in your role as a godparent.
- Wherever you live, the church will be there for you with help and advice about godparenting if ever you need it.

The Church of England keeps its website up to date with support and advice.