

## You have been asked to become a godparent at a Baptism service.

### What is baptism?

Baptism for children is sometimes called Christening.

Baptism goes back to the time of Jesus.

A preacher called John the Baptist was teaching people about God and how they should live their lives in the good way God wanted for them. Many people were baptised in the water of the River Jordan, showing their willingness to have their bad ways washed away, and to try to live God's way from then on. Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan at the start of his mission.

Christians are baptised today to follow Jesus' example, and to show that they believe and obey him. It is also the formal way of joining Christ's church.



### What is a godparent?

In today's world, the presence of a trusted friend or significant adult has never been more important.

At the baptism service you will promise, along with the child's parents:

- to pray for your godchild and draw him or her, by your own example, into the community of faith (the church) and to be his or her companion in following Christ.
- to care for your godchild and help him or her to become active in the life and worship of Christ's church.

### How?

Good role models are important in every child's life and you can help by:

- Setting a good example of living in a positive way.
- Loving and respecting others.
- Caring for those less fortunate than us.
- Showing a responsible attitude to the resources of our world.

- Encouraging your godchild to learn about Jesus. Some ways to do this:
  - Following Jesus' example in your own life.
  - Sharing or giving Bible storybooks and books of suitable prayers.
  - Praying for your godchild.  
Here is a prayer to use:  
*Loving God, bless my godchild, keep her/him safe and always in your care. Help her/him to grow to know you and love you. Amen.*
- Accompanying your godchild and family to church e.g. at Christmas and Easter, or when you visit.
- Keeping in touch and marking special occasions in your godchild's life:
  - Birthdays
  - Christmas
  - Anniversary of baptism
  - Confirmation
  - Exams
- You could send a card and/or gift or for an older child, a text message.
- Supporting your godchild when he/she comes to confirmation.

## What is confirmation?

A service where the child who was baptised is now old enough to make up their own mind and 'confirms' the choices and promises made by their parents and godparents.

You can support him/her

- by your prayers
- by attending the confirmation service
- by a suitable gift. If you are stuck for ideas ask your vicar, or the priest where your godchild is being prepared for confirmation, for suggestions.

## For more help on being a godparent, try these publications:

***Someone to Watch Over Me - An essential guide to Godparenting.***

Peter Hinton and Iona Joy  
(ISBN 1-84549-076-2)

***Family Options - Godparents.***

John Bradford, David Gamble and Joan King (ISBN 0-7197-0982-2)

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## ***Being a Godparent***

*some simple guidelines*

Produced in the Diocese of Salisbury by

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