

# Choosing Godparents

Please read this leaflet carefully  
before you make any family arrangements.



Choosing a Godparent is sometimes a tricky business!  
You can risk offending both family and friends!

It's important to know what to look for.

A Godparent is not a legal guardian or a rich relative who remembers birthdays generously, or someone you can more easily call on to baby-sit. These are important roles and the second of them will no doubt bring much pleasure to your child as the years roll by.

**The greatest gift that a Godparent can offer is to love and pray for your child.** As children grow up they are immersed in a world of different influences, some good, some bad and some utterly sinister. Some people worry so much about the future of the planet that they put off having children forever. Fortunately for the survival of the species many overcome this fear and find joy in having a family. But as any parent will tell you the older the children get the more you worry about their future.

Without trying to explain the mysteries of prayer, **it is a Christian belief that to pray for someone is a good and positive thing to do for that person.** It is through prayer that a person can become more aware of the spiritual side of life. This opens you up to see that there's more to life than just the material things and that there's a beginning and an end to everything and a meaning and a purpose to our existence. It is a gift through prayer to discover that God not only made the world but loves and lives alongside each and everyone of us. A child often has an intuitive sense of this even though their parents might not believe.

A Godparent has a special responsibility to nurture this side of your child's life. **So look for a person amongst your family and friends who will pray for your child and take a special interest in how they grow up spiritually.**

In the Baptism service you and the Godparents are asked questions about what you believe. **It's important to have Godparents who believe the answers they give** even though they, like us all, will have lots of questions about believing in God which crop up throughout our life.

As well as praying, a Godparent should also show that to follow Jesus is the way to know God. **Being with other Christians and belonging to the church can be the place where God strengthens that faith and immerses us in experiences of his love.**

**by Rt Rev James Jones, former Bishop of Liverpool**