



Choosing Godparents

St Mary's Church, Thorpe

Choosing the right people as godparents for your child is a big decision. Here are some key things which might help you decide:

Because of the very special role godparents have in supporting your child's faith journey, they must be baptized themselves. (Only those who have been baptised can be included in the register/certificate - this is Canon B21-25).

If the people who you'd like to be godparents aren't baptised, they can be "Supporters" and still be involved in the christening service and in your child's life as they grow up, but they cannot be added to the certificate/register entry. Please ask your vicar if you require more information.

Godparents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come. They may be relatives or friends of the family. They'll be people who you know you can trust and who'll be there for your child to talk to about the bigger questions in life; questions about faith, hope and love.

They should feel ready to make some big promises about faith for your child in church.

Every child should have at least three godparents, preferably of both sexes. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual and quite enough. If you'd like more than that, talk to the priest who will be conducting the baptism about the practicalities and they'll be pleased to advise.

Parents may be godparents for their own children, providing they have at least one other godparent.

If you're thinking about asking someone who is under 18 to be a godparent, talk to your vicar first. There's no minimum age for godparents, but they must be mature enough to understand the responsibilities they're taking on.

At St Mary's we will ask for the full name, date and place of baptism for each Godparent. This information is required when you submit your application form to book your child's baptism.