

## How do I pray for my godchild?

Simply take a few moments to remember your godchild. You might like to light a candle or look at a photograph.

Here is a prayer which you might find helpful:

Lord God,  
I pray that you will guide  
and help me in being a godparent.  
Give me your wisdom and your love.  
Help me to be a good example  
of Christian living.  
Bless and guide my precious godchild  
[name] and help me to remember him/her  
always. Amen.

## What next?

The parents may ask you to have a special job in the baptism. This could be:

- Pouring the water into the font for the baptism – an older sibling could also help with this.
- Holding the white robe and placing it on the child's shoulders after the baptism.
- Receiving the baptism candle at the end of the service on behalf of the child.

In the weeks before the service you will need to come to a rehearsal at church with the parents and other godparents.

*You're invited to any of our services and events.*

**Sundays at 10.30am**  
**PARISH EUCHARIST**  
**(HOLY COMMUNION)**  
Children's activities on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

*Please contact us if you have any questions*

**Rev. Alison Mitchell**  
07540 792409

[www.stpeterschurchdarwen.org](http://www.stpeterschurchdarwen.org)

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**THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST PETER, DARWEN**

## Being a Godparent



## Congratulations on being asked to be a godparent!

We know that your friends or relations will have thought hard about this. They have chosen you to be a special person in their child's life, someone who will offer encouragement, prayer and support for the child, and help them discover more about the Christian faith as they grow up.

## What is baptism/christening?

Through baptism the church welcomes new members into the Christian family. It's a sign of new birth and celebration of the

outpouring of God's love for all God's children. It's an opportunity to pray for the candidate in their journey through life ahead and to remember that in good times and bad, God is with us.

### **What does being a godparent involve?**

As a godparent you have a special role. It's about helping a child to come to know God, encouraging and supporting them in all they do, praying for them and encouraging them to pray.

At the baptism you will make promises to help bring the child up in the Christian faith. It's a role that will grow and change over time, as your godchild grows up and develops their own faith.

### **Do I have to be a regular churchgoer?**

No, but Godparents must have been baptised themselves and this is a good opportunity to reflect on your own baptism, what it means and on your own beliefs. It is good if you encourage your godchild to attend church and even come with them when you can.

### **What happens in the service?**

At the Baptism, the minister will ask the parents and godparents to bring the child to

the front of the church or to gather round the font.

Before the baby is baptized, the minister will ask you to declare that you intend to do your best as a godparent. The minister asks you to say that you will help the child take their place in the church and set a good Christian example of living.



### **What do I do next?**

Both you and your godchild will get more out of your relationship if you keep it alive.

Children love to get letters, postcards, emails, text messages. Why not send a small gift on the anniversary of the baptism to show you care about this special relationship? Keep in touch, and as they grow older they may be able to ask you their questions about life and faith... and that's really special.

### **Christening present ideas!**

The most important gift you can give your godchild is your time, your interest and your

prayers. You may want to mark the Baptism by giving a special gift.

A simple meaningful present is a good choice - maybe something to be used at the baptism, or a gift to be kept for later.

#### **Ideas include:**

A Bible: there are many different editions of the Bible. Some have pictures and simple words which are specially suitable for children with.

Bible story books - there are lovely illustrated books of Bible stories for children, some with prayers included. Why not build up a collection over a few years?

Books of prayers

A silver or gold cross or chain - to be worn in the future

A small wooden cross

