

Being a Godparent



A godparent is a sponsor for a child, someone who will take responsibility to help the child to understand the Christian faith.

What is baptism?

Jesus taught his followers to go into all the world and make disciples baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Gospel of Matthew, chapter 28 verse 19).

We can see in the Bible (especially the Acts of the Apostles) how the early Christians obeyed this command and baptism has been practised ever since.

Christening is another name for baptism, although originally it referred to someone becoming a Christian and taking a Christian name.

Traditionally a child has at least three godparents, this can include the

child's parents, and there should be at least two godparents of the same gender as the child.

This leaflet explains the parts of the baptism service where you as a godparent have something to say, or are being specially spoken to.

Godparent

/ˈɡɒdpɛːr(ə)nt/ – noun

A person who presents a child at baptism and promises to take responsibility for their religious education

What is a Christian?

The baptism service and promises made are about turning away from our own way, accepting who Jesus is, trusting in him and following God's new way.

We'd love to help you understand more about the Christian faith. You can find out more on our website where you can learn more about Christianity. Information can be found here:

(<https://sdrchurches.org.uk/about-us/#what-is-Christianity>).

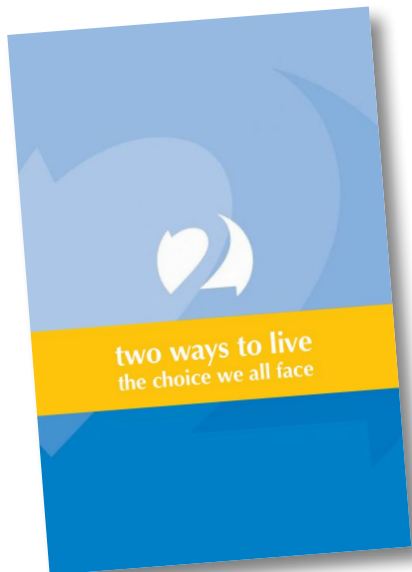
Or, why not consider coming along to our next enquirers course. Information can be found here:

(<https://sdrchurches.org.uk/explore-more/#ENQUIRER%20COURSE>).

Or, there's a really overview of the Christian faith called Two Ways to live. Why not take a look here:

(<https://twowaystolive.com/>)

Or get in touch and we can provide you with a simple booklet.



The Baptism

Baptism takes place in a normal Sunday service in one of our churches, at Stanton by Dale, Dale Abbey, or Risley (SDR Churches). At our usual Sunday services, we also worship God, learn from the Bible and pray. There are usually separate activities and teaching for children during part of the service.

Just before the baptism itself the parents and godparents will be asked to come to stand around the font.

The text on the page opposite includes the promises you are asked to make in the name of the child. The words which you have to say are shown in *bold italic* type.

In the service, as a godparent, you are asked to confirm that you will pray for the child, set them a godly example, and help them to take their place as part of Christ's Church. Then, you are asked 3 things which you are turning away from (in red), and three things you are turning to (in blue). As the "Two Ways to Live" booklet explains it is only because of what Jesus did that we can be forgiven by God and have a hope for the future.

After this, the child is baptised in name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in accordance with the command of Jesus.



Text from the Baptism service

Parent(s) and godparents, the Church receives [child's name] with joy. Today we are trusting God for his / her growth in faith.

Will you pray for his / her, draw [child's name] by your example into the community of faith and walk with him / her in the way of Christ?

A: *With the help of God, we will.*

In baptism [child's name] begins his / her journey in faith.

You speak for him / her today. Will you care for him / her, and help him / her to take his / her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

A: *With the help of God, we will*

The Decision

The minister then says to the candidates directly, or through their parents and godparents.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore, I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

A: *I reject them.*

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

A: *I renounce them.*

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

A: *I repent of them.*

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

A: *I turn to Christ.*

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

A: *I submit to Christ.*

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

A: *I come to Christ.*



Responsibility of Godparents

The key responsibilities of a Godparent are to:

Bring

Or at least encourage the parents to take the child to church. Fellowship is important and at SDR Churches we encourage children to worship and we have special Sunday and midweek groups for them.

Teach

If you can, do this yourself, otherwise why not buy your godchild a suitable Christian book every so often.

Encourage

Not just encouraging them to learn, but to live day by day as a follower of Jesus. Perhaps the best way to do this is by giving him/ her a good **example**. “Two Ways to Live” sets out a challenge, you can either live your way or God’s new way. What example will you give?

Lastly, remember to pray for your godchild that they would understand about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.

Sundays at SDR Churches

To find out more about our regular services visit: www.sdrchurches.org.uk

For further information you can contact the Rector
on either 0115 8605384 or phil.selby@sdrchurches.org.uk

To contact the Church Office
you can phone 0115 9440609 or email admin@sdrchurches.org.uk