

25 IDEAS FOR GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

There are lots of different ways to celebrate the special relationship between godparents and godchildren. Some of these ideas are really simple, while others will require a bit more planning and preparation. You might try one or two or three. It doesn't matter whether you are celebrating recent godparents or those who have been in the role for years, all of them are special, all of them are involved in prayer and support for godchildren of all ages. Enjoy Godparents' Sunday!

- 1 Invite recent baptism families to come to church, bringing godparents if they can, and hold a special service using the outline available from www.churchsupporthub.org
- 2 Create a special prayer tree. You will need two baskets, one containing short lengths of white ribbon, one containing short lengths of yellow ribbon. Label the white ribbons 'For godparents' and the yellow ribbons 'For godchildren'. Invite people to tie a ribbon to the tree as a sign of their prayer for either or both.
- 3 Buy a large box of picture postcards and leave them at the back of church. Encourage godparents and godchildren to choose a card and write a brief message to their godchild/godparent.
- 4 Make special cakes to share after the service – there are always creative bakers around and someone may even make a large celebration cake to share.
- 5 Buy special badges from www.churchprinthub.org and hand out to the congregation as appropriate. Of course, some of us are both godchildren and godparents!
- 6 Invite the congregation to join in a month of praying for this special relationship using the prayer calendar which you can download at www.churchsupporthub.org
- 7 Hold a giant church picnic lunch party to celebrate godparents and families. It could be a bring and share party, but with some celebratory elements like balloons and bunting.
- 8 Create a godparents memory board in church: invite both the regular congregation and the recently baptised families to send pictures – or stories – of godparents.
- 9 Use social media – either Facebook or Twitter – to send positive messages about godparents.
- 10 Either make or buy lots of paper hearts and paper stars [if you can find them chocolate would work well here]. Give out hearts to godchildren, reminding them they are loved very much. Give out stars to godparents to thank them for their care and commitment.

- 11 Invite everyone to bring back their baptism candle, and light them all in a special candle stand. Have extra tealights available for those who are godparents/godchildren and who have not got their candle. Encourage everyone to leave with a candle as they continue to carry the light of Christ to the world.
- 12 Invite everyone to take out their phone [if you have a signal/wifi] and look at www.churchofenglandchristenings.org/lightacandle. If possible, all light a candle together on line. If you can't do this, simply give everyone the bookmark that invites them to light a candle later [available at www.churchprinthub.org]
- 13 Put a large flipchart at the back of church. Head the page "Things to do for my godparent/godchild" and invite people to add ideas to create a giant to do list.
- 14 Remind all godparents, of whatever age, of the promises they made. Use the framework from the new Godparents card: Spend time, pray for them, be an example, share faith.
- 15 Place a large jar or a specially decorated box at the back of church. Place slips of paper or luggage tags nearby and invite people to add their thoughts to a 'Blessing jar' for godparents.
- 16 Find the longest godparent relationship in your congregation. Write about it in the parish magazine and on social media.
- 17 Contact your local radio/newspaper to tell godparent stories.
- 18 If you are able, make a skype call during a service to the godparent/godchild who lives farthest away.
- 19 Host a tea party for godparents of all ages. If possible, invite godchildren to prepare and serve at the party.
- 20 Invite everyone to bring a 10p coin [or £1 coin depending on the economics of your area] and build them into the shape of the baptism candle. Donate the money raised to a charity that supports wider family relationships such as Mothers' Union.
- 21 Hold a family fun or sports day on the Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May. Create games and activities for godparents and children to share together.
- 22 Create a family trail around your church/churchyard which is designed for godparents and godchildren to do together. Include various significant places for photo and prayer responses e.g. at the font, make the sign of the cross on your hand.
- 23 Plant a special shrub or rose in your church garden/flowerbed and call it "Godparents Garden".
- 24 Create a godparents/godchildren corner in church, using the 'Christening display' as a basis. Invite flower arrangers to create a special flower display.
- 25 Hand out the special fridge magnets to godparents to remind them of their promise to pray for their godchild. Available at www.churchprinthub.org

And for a bonus.. simply pray. Always a good idea.



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