

Fathers' Day FAQs

Why is the Church of England raising the profile of Fathers' day?

The church isn't raising the profile of Fathers' Day - we are calling on the church to join in and help people celebrate fatherhood on this special day. It's well known how important fathers are to the development of children. The support and love of a good father will help a child grow into a well-rounded, happy and secure adult and, of course, this is something that the church would want to celebrate.

It's not a church festival, so why has it got anything to do with the church?

- a) It's about people and the Church is all about people, so why not?
- b) Fathers' Day is a celebration of all that's good about fathers and fatherhood. Jesus had a lot to say about fatherhood - he taught us to call God 'Father' which shows how he honours it, and how a good father can reveal a little of God's love and care for us. God loves us unconditionally and wants the best for us, as any good father does, and so marking Fathers' Day in church means we can celebrate both the love and support of our earthly fathers and the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father.

Why the focus on fathers?

God describes himself as Father, because he wants to have that type of relationship with us. A good father can teach us a little of God's nature - his unconditional love, support, guidance, and also correcting us when necessary. Besides, motherhood is celebrated in many churches on Mothering Sunday, so why shouldn't the church celebrate fathers too?

You talk about our fathers giving us an example of what God as Father is like - surely that's really insensitive to those who have abusive or absent fathers?

Obviously it's a tragedy when we hear of, or experience for ourselves, fathers that fall short of the ideal that Jesus talks about, or that God the Father reveals. We are not negating the suffering that absent or abusive fathers can cause. Abuse in all its forms is contrary to the will of God and an affront to human dignity. However, it's also a tragedy if we allow these bad experiences to colour our views of fatherhood as a whole

What would you suggest the church does on Fathers' Day?

It will depend on the practise of the church locally. Many churches give every woman in church flowers on Mothering Sunday, so churches may want to consider giving out cards or small gifts in the service. Alternatively, they may want to hold some sort of party after the service.