



May 2022

Christ Church Young Families' Newsletter

Grandparents matter

Adapted from 'The Sixty Minute Family' and 'The Sixty Minute Grandparent' by Rob Parsons.

I wonder if your child's grandparents fit the storybook image? You know, the one where grandma is an old lady with round, silver-framed spectacles who bakes her own bread and wipes her hands on her apron while telling stories. In the modern world Gran might be quite different.

She may be a successful career woman, or busy with new interests to pursue now that she has freedom from responsibility for children. Likewise, Grandpa may have decided that the pipe and slippers image doesn't suit him, and he has taken up karate



instead. And whereas, in previous generations, we may have lived just around the corner from our grandparents, today we may live on the other side of the country. If it's true that life in modern families has changed, it's also true that most grandparents desperately want to be involved in their grandchildren's lives and in a world where so many young people feel insecure and somewhat disconnected, children need their grandparents.

Psychologists describe the relationship between a grandparent and grandchild as "an emotionally uncomplicated form of love". (Perhaps it's because they don't have to deal with the normal responsibilities of parenthood – they don't have the 24-hour-a-day hassles and tantrums.) One child put it like this: "Being with my nan is like having a bath that is full of bubbles filled with love and with no cold bits."

The gifts of love and attention are not just emotional trinkets. It's absolutely vital for strong growth into adulthood: emotional health. In a world where friends can be cruel and teachers sometimes have to say negative things, it's good to have someone who believes in you anyway. I can imagine what some of you are saying: "That's all very well, but you don't know how difficult my mother/father/mother-in-law/father-in-law is." Perhaps not, but I do think it's worth trying hard in this area. It's not at all impossible for your child to have a

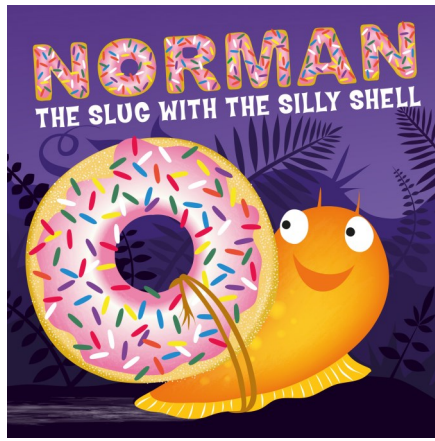


good relationship with their grandmother, even though you can't get on with her as a mother-in-law. It's not always possible, but if you can, try to give your parents as much quality time with their grandchildren as possible. However be aware that some take to this role more easily than others; some grandparents will love being asked to babysit, while others will not be so keen. If your need for a babysitter and your parents' need to see their grandchildren coincide, that's perfect – but don't take it for granted. Make sure

you talk with each other about the expectations you have and find a level of contact that works for everyone. If your children are separated by long distances from their grandparents, here are a few ideas to help build a good relationship across the miles:

- ♦ Ask your parents to record stories for your children that you can play to them. It could be an event from their life, or a story from one of your child's favourite books
- ♦ If possible, let your children speak on the phone to their grandparents so they become familiar with each other's voices and help build their relationship. Using Zoom or Skype is a great way of keeping in touch from a long distance.
- ♦ Have photos of your parents on display so that your children get used to how their grandparents look. It'll make it easier for them when your parents visit.
- ♦ Send your children's artwork to your parents and ask them to send back a photograph of it on display in their home.

It may not always be possible, but if you can, take every opportunity to encourage and build your children's relationship with their grandparents. After all, young children can never have too many caring adults in their lives.



This story by Sue Hendra is all about Norman who is a slug, but really wants to be a snail – if only he had a shell! He compares himself to others and wants to be like them. Yet, the Bible tells us in Matthew 6:30 “If God gives such attention to the appearance of wild flowers – most of which are never seen – don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?”

Poor Norman never seems to be happy with who he is. This is not how God sees us. We are precious in his sight, like the wild flowers, and He loves us just as we are.

Try these family activities this month:

- What is it you love doing—go and do it as a family.
- Make some slime bug cups (<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/slime-bug-cups>)
- Discuss what each of you are good at within our own family and encourage one another.
- Try something new, like a word in a new language, a new game or cooking a new recipe.

We believe in the power of prayer:

- A prayer for you to pray:
Loving Father, help my child know that they are unique and precious in your sight. Amen
- We will pray this prayer for you as parents:
Loving Father be with these parents as they encourage their child/ren to discover their own natural abilities and skills. Amen

Looking forward to seeing you at the

**All Age Service
Sunday 1st May @ 10am**

We are here to help.

We all know how special it is being a parent but also that it is often very hard work. Do remember that your church family is here to help. You can always talk with the vicar who baptised your baby or someone else by 'phoning the parish office or dropping one of us an email. You will find all our contact details on the church website:

www.christchurchswindon.co.uk

If you no longer wish to receive these monthly emails please reply “unsubscribe”.



We invite you to
All Age Easter Joy
1 May
10am Christ Church

**This service is for the whole family
with child friendly songs, a children's
talk, and fun activity sheets.**