

Harry John



Funnell esq.

Introduction:

This is a service of thanksgiving for the gift of a son to Clare, a name-giving ceremony, and an opportunity for all of us, as family and friends, to pledge our support to Harry not only today but throughout his life.

Unitarian services always start with the lighting of a chalice, to symbolise that this is a special time. Today couldn't be more special, so it seems appropriate to follow that tradition.

Some words from Harry's granddad, Maurice.

Clare's pledge to Harry:

Clare, in asking for this dedication, you offer yourself up to provide for Harry's fullest development, and to trust in the support of those around you.

- Do you promise to take responsibility for Harry's welfare for as long as he needs you?
- Do you promise to shelter, protect, care for and nurture Harry?
- Do you promise to love and support Harry, and to help him grow to independence?
- Do you promise to respect Harry as Harry, with everything that might come to mean, and to help him develop his own thoughts, opinions, beliefs and values?
- Do you promise to be an example to Harry of right-living, truth and integrity?
- Will you help Harry to take his place in society with all the blessings and trials that might bring him?
- Do you promise to turn to us, your friends and family, for support and guidance when you need it?
- Do you promise to be the best parent you possibly can be to Harry, and to know that that will always be good enough, even when it's hard to feel that it is?
- Do you promise, above all, to teach Harry about the joys of the world and of other people, and to do all that is in your power to make his life as full of wonder and magic as it should be?

Some words from Harry's granny, Mac, or from his GrandPete.

Harry's godparents' promises:

I have asked four people to be Harry's secular godparents, and I will now ask them to make some promises to him.

Laura, Maurice, Kate, and Rowan,

- Do you promise that in times of problems, Harry and I can turn to you for reassurance and help?
- Do you promise to keep a careful watch over Harry as he grows, and always be ready to comfort, advise and encourage him?
- Do you promise him friendship without condition, and guidance without judgement?
- Do you promise to share in his successes and support him should he fail?
- Do you accept your special commitment to Harry, and do you promise to offer him someone to turn to in times of doubt or difficulty?
- Do you accept the importance of your role to Harry, as more than just an honour for yourselves?

Some words from Emma.

A promise from Harry's friends and family:

Harry is Clare's special responsibility, and her special blessing, but he is not born to her alone, he is born into our world and into our care.

Nature and society are laid out before him. He will learn from everything he sees, hears, and touches, and that includes what we show him. He will learn from us, as well as from the sun, the stars, the flowers in spring and the fruits in autumn. He will learn from our smiling and our frowning faces, from his friendships and from the things he dislikes.

It is our responsibility, as people around him, to work towards providing a world of peace and justice for him to grow in; to give him confidence in himself and also an awareness of others.

- Do you, Harry's friends and family, promise to support and nurture Harry throughout his life, and to help him see the wonders of the world he lives in?

We promise.

A reading from Rowan.

A blessing, and a symbolic gift for Harry:

Harry, as a token of today's ceremony, I give you this rose, in the hope that it may be a symbol of the beauty of the life that we wish for you. It, like you, is unique in all its natural beauty, separate and distinct from all other flowers, and expresses our hope that all your life will unfold and blossom in its own natural and unique beauty.

Harry has already been known by a lot of names in the 284 days he's been alive. He's been a Moose, a Toad, a small English, a Harrington, a man-pie, a little legs, a Mister Monster, a Haz, and probably lots of others. But the name he's going to take through life is the name he's being formally given today. No matter what pet names he might get, what nicknames he may be called, he will carry this name with him for many, many years.

So: I give you - Harry John Funnell.

Some words from mummy.

A wish for Harry:

Harry, we wish you the blessings of love and life, of laughter and of giggling, of seeing and hearing and touching, of play and work, of giving and receiving friendship, of learning and understanding, of wonder and mystery. We wish you these blessings now, throughout your childhood and throughout your whole life as it unfolds before you.

