



# Your Wedding



# **Congratulations!**

Congratulations on your engagement!

We are delighted that you have chosen to marry at All Saints' Church in the Parish of Cottenham with Rampton.

We've put together this booklet to provide you with all the information you need to plan a really special day. The Rector, Revd Lynda Davies, will meet with you several times before your wedding to plan the details of the service.

We hope that you will take up the opportunity of a 'Marriage Preparation Day' held each year on a Saturday in late Jan/early Feb. Lynda will be happy to tell you more about it. We believe that marriage is a solemn, binding commitment to one another, and that a good marriage is a journey of discovery and of finding joy and fulfilment in your partner. Investing time in marriage preparation is time well spent!

Because a Church of England wedding is a legal ceremony as well as a religious service (the priest acts as the Registrar), certain parts of the service are governed by law and cannot be changed. These include the necessary legal words: the declarations you will make – and also the vows: the promises you will make to one another before your family and God.

There are, however, plenty of opportunities to make the wedding service personal to you. Readings from the Bible (and possibly from elsewhere) may be selected, and music (both hymns, recorded songs, instrumental music) may be chosen.

*Love is patient,  
Love is kind.  
It does not envy,  
it does not boast, it is not proud.  
It is not rude, it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered,  
it keeps no record of wrongs.  
It always protects,  
always hopes,  
always perseveres.  
Love never fails.*  
1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

## The Marriage Service



## Preface

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of *N and N*, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit, he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that *N and N* are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

## The Declarations

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

*The minister says to the couple*

*N and N*, the vows you about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore, if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*The minister says to the bridegroom*

*N*, will you take *N* to be your wife?  
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live

*He answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the bride*

*N*, will you take *N* to be your husband?  
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*She answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the families and friends of *N and N*,  
support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

*They answer*

We will.

## The Vows

*The minister says to the bride's father (or another)*

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

*He/she answers*

I do.

*(Takes her right hand and gives her hand to the bridegroom). He/she sits down.*

*The minister says to the couple*

*N and N*, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows,  
in the presence of God and his people.

*Couple face each other.*

*Bridegroom takes bride's right hand in his.*

I, *NN*, take you, *NN*,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*Loose hands. Bride takes bridegroom's right hand in hers.*

I, *NN*, take you, *NN*,  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,

till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*Loose hands.*

## **The Giving of Rings**

*The minister receives the rings and says this prayer*

Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let these rings be to N and N  
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness,  
to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Bridegroom takes rings from the minister and places the ring on the fourth  
finger of bride's left hand and, holding it there, says*

N, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Loose hands and bride takes ring from the minister and places the ring on the  
fourth finger of the groom's left hand and, holding it there, says*

N, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



## The Proclamation

*The minister addresses the people, and holding the couple's left hands says*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,

*N* and *N* have given their consent

and made their marriage vows to each other.

They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands

and by the giving and receiving of rings.

I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.





# Order of Service

Entrance of the Bride

Welcome and opening prayer

Opening hymn

The Marriage

Second hymn

Bible reading

Address by Minister

Prayers

Final hymn

Blessing

Signing of the Marriage Document

Process out



You will need to produce an order of service for your guests to follow.

## Some Suggested Hymns

In choosing hymns, try to choose hymns that most of your family and friends will know. The website [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org) contains some of the most popular and even gives you the opportunity to listen to them. Here are some of the current most popular:

All things bright and beautiful  
Be thou my vision  
Colours of day  
Give me joy in my heart (Sing Hosanna!)  
Great is thy faithfulness  
Guide me, O thou Great Redeemer  
Jerusalem  
Lord of all hopefulness  
Lord of the dance  
Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus shine)  
Love divine, all loves excelling  
Make me a channel of your peace  
One more step along the world I go  
Praise to the Lord the almighty  
The Lord's my shepherd  
This little light of mine  
We pledge to one another

You will also need to choose music to come in and leave by, plus whilst you are signing the registers. This can be in various media through our sound system, or played by the organist/pianist. See [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org) for ideas.

## Some Suggested Bible Readings

Choosing your readings is one of the ways a wedding can be made really personal. Popular Bible passages are given here, but the minister can help with choosing alternatives if you'd like something different. You can also choose a non-Biblical reading that can be fitted in the Order of Service.

### **1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a** (by far the most popular!)

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

### **Colossians 3: 12-17**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Philippians 4: 4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything

is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **1 John 4: 7-12**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

### **Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12**

Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labour:  
if either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.  
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?  
Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

### **Romans 12: 1-2; 9-12**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

## Practical Stuff

### Wedding Fees

2023 (Fees go up slightly each year)

#### Church of England set fees

Calling of Banns: £34

Banns certificate: £17 (only needed if you don't both live in the parish)

Marriage Service: £505



#### Church Fees

Verger: £50 (he/she will set out the church, open the car park, open the Church Hall for access to toilets, light candles, operate the sound system, etc)

Organist: £80 (if required)

Bells: £180 (if required)

Choir: £100 (if required)

Heating (1 Oct-30 Apr): £40 (if required)

We do not take a collection during the service, but if you or your wedding guests want to make a donation to church funds, please use the donations box in the wall by the door.

### The Building

Both churches (at Cottenham and Rampton) are medieval buildings. It is inevitable that, from time to time, repair and maintenance works are necessary. At the time of booking, you will always be informed of any planned works which might affect your wedding. You will also be informed immediately of any unplanned, emergency repairs which may become necessary. There is little that cannot be 'worked around'.

## Banns and Marriage Certificate

- Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. The congregation will also be invited to pray for you both. It can be quite special and moving to hear this, so do come along if you can
- Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married, if that is somewhere else. You will need to obtain a Banns Certificate from the minister
- You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. At All Saints, this is usually done over the first three consecutive Sundays in the month before your wedding
- If there is not enough notice given for the banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or if one or both of you are British but do not live in England (or Wales), the Common Licence procedure needs to be used rather than banns
- If one or both of you is a national of a country which is outside the European Economic Area and you do *not* have Settled Status in the UK, you will require a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to marry, rather than have banns read
- Following the changes brought about by the Marriage Act 2019, you will need to apply to the Register Office <https://camdex.org.uk/search.cfm> after your wedding to obtain a Marriage Certificate. The names and occupations of mothers (in addition to fathers), and step-parents, can now be included on the certificate.



## Confetti

You can throw as much confetti as you want but please make sure it is biodegradable.



## Photography



Please ask the person taking your photographs to introduce themselves to the minister who is conducting the service.

Photographs during the service must be taken without the use of flash and the photographer will be encouraged to only move around when there is other movement in the church, e.g. when standing for hymns.

As many official photographs are spoiled by guests holding out their mobile phones, we will ask your guests *not* to take photos during your wedding. It would be really helpful if you could also explain this to your family and friends.



## Flowers

Please feel free to decorate the church with flowers and either leave them in the church or take them with you to decorate your reception venue.



## Church Bells



If you choose to have Church bells, they will be rung both before and after the service. It's a wonderful way to announce to the world that you are now husband and wife!

## Wedding Rehearsal

The person marrying you will arrange a wedding rehearsal during the week before your wedding. It is important for everyone with a key role (parents, best man, bridesmaids, etc) to join you for the rehearsal. It shouldn't take any longer than 30 minutes.

## On the Day Itself

Do remember that it is only in films that brides are impossibly late! The groom needs to arrive 45 mins before the ceremony to welcome guests and support the ushers. The bridal party should arrive *before* the time the wedding is scheduled to begin, particularly if photographs are to be taken getting out of the car, with bridesmaids, etc.

Hopefully, most of the answers to the questions you might have will be covered in this booklet. Please feel free to ask any others!