

## Some information to help you when you're planning your service

The Church of England has a helpful website: [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org).

On this website you can listen to hymns on-line, view the lyrics, choose Bible readings, and even print out a complete personalised order of service which we can discuss with you when we meet. It can also add your names into the vows, so you can see exactly the promises that you will be making at the service.

### Order of service

Please wait until you have met with the minister conducting the service before you finalise the order of service. Please don't print it before you've met with them and we find it helpful to check hymn words and order before you go to print. We have orders of service which you can take a look at to give you an idea of what you might include.

A suggested order is :

- Entry music
- Welcome and Opening Prayer (you can if you like include the words so everyone can say this)
- Hymn
- Marriage Preface and Declarations (*\*words are below*). [*Included in this section is a question for your family and friends and you may like to include the words in your order of service.*  
*Minister: Will you the family and friends of ..... and ... support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come? All: We will*]
- Reading(s) and/or poems and we ask you to include one Bible reading. Sometimes it works to have a reading later on in the service if you want to include several readings or poems.
- Reflection on Marriage/Thought for the Day
- Hymn (if you choose to sing 3 hymns)
- The Marriage: Vows and the Giving of Ring(s)
- Blessing of the Marriage and the Prayers
- The Lord's Prayer (please include the words in your order of service)
- Signing of registers
- Hymn (or earlier if you sing 2 hymns)
- Final Blessing
- Recessional music

### Music

CDs can be used for entrance and recessional music and during the signing of the registers. However, the sound tends to be less full than when the organ is played. The choir is available to sing an anthem during the signing of the registers or you can bring your own choice of music on a CD. At the end of this document you will find some organ and choir music suggestions with links to the music itself.

### Signing the registers

CDs of your choice can be played or our choir can sing some anthems or the organist can play music of your choice. If you would like the choir to sing or organist to play you can discuss this with the organist and she can help you make your choices. See music suggestions at the end of this document.

### The words of the Marriage Service

#### \*The Declarations

*The minister says to the congregation*

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*

The vows you are 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 asks the bridegroom*

..... (Groom) will you take ..... 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*

..... (bride) will you take ..... (groom) 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 ..... and .....  
support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

*All Answer:* **We will.**

### **The Collect**

*The minister invites the people to pray,*

Eternal God creator and sustainer of us all,

pour out your blessing and grace upon ..... and .....

Grant that in the years ahead they may be faithful to the vows they make this day,  
and in the strength of the Holy Spirit, that they may grow together  
in the love, joy and peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **The Marriage**

Who brings this woman to be married to this man? ..... *Response: I do .....*

### **The Vows**

.....and ....., I now invite you

to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

*(face each other ..... groom takes and brides right hand) .....FULL NAMES are used.*

*You repeat the words, phrase by phrase.*

I, ..... (groom) take you ..... (bride)

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. and rejoin, as the bride takes the groom's right hand.*

I, ..... (bride) take you, ..... (groom)

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.  
*They loose hands.*

**The Giving of Rings** *The minister receives the ring(s), and says this prayer*  
Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let *these/this* rings be to .....and .....  
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.**

*The couple face each other. The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand. Groom speaks these words, repeating phrase by phrase)*

....., (*bride*) 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.

*they loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger and says these words phrase by phrase. ....*

(groom) . I give you this ring  
(OR *if one ring is used* .....I receive 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**

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
..... & ..... 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.

*The minister joins their right hands together with stole and says*  
Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.  
*Kiss the bride*

# Organ Wedding Music suggestions

## Gathering Music

While the guests are gathering a selection of gentle music can be played.

## Entrance Music

As the bride enters the church and comes up the aisle:

- Wagner's Bridal Chorus - the most popular choice!
- Jeremiah Clarke's Prince of Denmark Trumpet Voluntary
- Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
- Pachelbel's Canon in D
- Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (Handel)
- [Hornpipe from Water Music \(Handel\)](#)
- Jesu, joy of man's desiring (Bach)

## Hymns

There is an extensive selection of traditional and modern hymns with links to the music (scroll down to the bottom of the website page) here:

[Wedding Hymns: 35 Songs to Sing During Your Wedding Ceremony](#)

## Choir Anthems

These can be sung during the signing of the registers:

- Panis Angelicus - Cesar Franck
- The Lord Bless You and Keep You - John Rutter
- Clare Benediction - John Rutter
- Jesu, joy of man's desiring (Bach)
- The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23) Howard Goodall (Vicar of Dibley theme tune)
- Ave verum corpus (Mozart)

## Recessional Music

As the couple walk down the aisle to leave the church:

- Wedding March (Mendelssohn) - the all-time favourite!
- Trumpet Tune (Charpentier)
- Trumpet Voluntary (John Stanley)
- Widor's Toccata in F
- Overture - Music for the Royal Fireworks (Handel)