

“Welcome and Congratulations”

For office use only: date, time and place of wedding

Please complete this welcome form with the couple when you meet and keep it for your records.

Parish Connection

Please indicate how this couple is connected with your parish church here

The couple may have several connections with your church, but only one is required. For more information, please visit www.churchsupporthub.org/marriage-measure

Groom's Details

Full Name

Current Address

Address Since

Phone

Email

Date of Birth

Occupation/
Profession

Have they been married before? Yes No

Previous partner is still living

Have they ever been in a civil partnership? Yes No

Are they a foreign national? Yes No

Parish Church
(for Banns)

Bride's Details

Full Name

Current Address

Address Since

Phone

Email

Date of Birth

Occupation/
Profession

Have they been married before? Yes No

Previous partner is still living

Have they ever been in a civil partnership? Yes No

Are they a foreign national? Yes No

Parish Church
(for Banns)

Are they related, or are they connected by marriage? If so how?

Keeping in touch: if address is due to change, note new address here.

Groom's Father

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

Groom's Mother

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

Groom's Parent

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

Groom's Parent

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

Bride's Father

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

Bride's Mother

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

Bride's Parent

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

Bride's Parent

Full Name

Occupation/Profession

Deceased? Yes No

For the purposes of data protection law, the data controller is the Minister of the parish, and the PCC ("PCC"), who will use the information on this form to ensure that the legal requirements relating to the marriage are compiled with and to make arrangements for the wedding ceremony. The Minister and PCC will only share the information with those who need to see it for those purposes. Your data may be stored on behalf of the Minister, or the PCC either on systems owned by the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England or other software. After your wedding, your church would love to keep in touch with you on anniversaries and to let you know about services and events that may interest you. If you are happy for the church to keep in touch with you in this way, please tick this box:

For office use only:

The couples key dates: You might like to enter the couple's details in the online Life Events Diary at www.lifeeventsdiary.org to receive "send a card" reminders.

First meeting

Prep event(s)

Wedding Choices:

Officiant

Entrance

Reading(s)

Useful contacts for this couple:

Photographer

Videographer

Flowers

Banns

First anniversary

Hymns

Recessional

Other

Bells

Choir



10 simple steps for thinking about marriage in one session

Research for the Weddings Project shows this: When it comes to preparing for marriage, most couples prefer the idea of a single session than a week-by-week course.

Revd. Andrew Body, author of *Growing Together* and *Making the Most of Weddings*, devised this single session template for the Weddings Project.

1. Choreography

Top of mind for most couples is the detail of the service. They are often worried about the mechanics of who stands where and does what and when. Use this as a jumping off point to talk about the meaning in all this. Do they choose to come in together or start separately? So is this the beginning of the book, or a new chapter in it? If they leave arm in arm, they are acting out the two becoming one.

2. The Ceremony

The Common Worship Marriage Service can be seen as offering a helpful pattern for preparation.

- The Welcome raises the issue of Awareness of God
- The Preface sets out basic Teaching about Christian marriage
- The Declarations focus on the couple's Intention to marry
- The Collect, Readings and Sermon provide a range of Reflections on marriage
- The Vows, Giving of Rings and Proclamation offer a way in to look at the Decision to be married.
- The Blessing and Prayers give an opportunity to talk about the place of Prayer in marriage

3. The Preface

This is a summary of some of the Church's teaching on marriage - the theory which they want to put into practice. Each paragraph offers opportunities to explore huge ideas:

- What we all are here to do - not just to watch, but to play a part;
- Marriage is not a human invention, but God's original design for life. All the legalities and ceremonies are barnacles that have grown on a boat which unites human beings of all races and cultures;
- Although we think about just two people, what they are doing affects the whole of society - good marriages make life better for everyone;
- This is the start of something big - God's 'purpose' is a reminder that there is something each couple can do in this world which no-one else can. They have a unique opportunity...

4. The Declarations

What do the words 'love, comfort, honour and protect' really mean? Like all 'big' words, they need to be anchored in real life. In 'forsaking all others' they are not only drawing a line under any previous relationships, but also fixing a 'Sold' notice on their own back - they are no longer on the market. The promise from everyone else is to support, not to interfere - these two people have to work out what marriage means in their own way. What will this mean for them?

5. The Readings

Choosing the reading(s) involves discovering what speaks most powerfully to them. They will learn a lot about each other's spiritual awareness as they discuss this. Asking what led them to their choice opens up all sorts of conversations. They can get an idea about hymns and readings at www.yourchurchwedding.org.

6. The Vows

The Vows are totally 'feet on the ground', yet they are hugely attractive to people today. If they are living together, these big promises (you can only make them in church, of course) may be a watershed between their past and their future. What difference will they make?

7. The Rings

The unending shape of a ring is a great picture of the vow of unending love. But what does this 'sign' mean to them? The words are poetic 'all that I am... and then very down-to-earth' and all that I have...' We have to learn to think 'ours' rather than 'mine'. How far have they travelled that route?

8. The Symbolic Acts

They take each other's hands at the vows - representing their whole being. But they let go after the first person makes the vow, and then reunite hands - because each must make the choice for him or herself. At the Proclamation, they may have their hands wrapped in the minister's stole - that is the origin of 'tying the knot'.

9. The Proclamation

This is a great opportunity to underline that it is they who marry each other. The minister's task is to proclaim to everyone they have done it. The 'those who God has joined' sentence begs the question of what things and people get in the way of marriages today - they may have witnessed this among their own friends....

10. The Prayers

So, we began with acknowledging God's presence, and we end by talking to Him. Edward Patey, one time Dean of Liverpool used to ask couples: 'What is it you want to say to God?' The law doesn't let you write your own vows, but you can write your own prayers if you wish. What prayers will they choose and why?

The Ceremony

You will need to make a few choices about the service including songs and readings. In a church wedding there must be a Bible reading, but it is possible to have another reading or poem as well (suitable for the occasion). Some of the words of the marriage service are compulsory for it to be a legal wedding but there are other choices about which version of the words to use.

The choices you will need to make about the service are below. Please take some time to discuss these before we meet. It would be helpful for you to come to the next meeting with an idea of what you might like. We will talk them through at the meeting when we will talk through the service and the choices.

There are some examples on the Church of England website to help you choose a Bible reading and hymns. You don't have to stick with these you may have something else that is a favourite, but it will help you to think through which you would like.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/bible-readings-your-wedding>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/hymns-your-wedding>

Music

If you require music played you must supply a copy. If you need the organist to play something specific, four weeks' notice and a copy of the music must be given

Entrance Music

Hymn 1

Hymn2

Music during the signing of the marriage document

Hymn 3 (optional/many only have two hymns)

Exit music

Musicians?

Readings

Which Bible reading (compulsory) Read by

Other reading or poem (clergy to approve) Read by

Entrance order

Traditional option	An "equality", contemporary version
Groom and best man/men are waiting at the front of the church. Head usher _____ walks bride's mother / lead relative down the aisle. The Bride walks up the aisle with her father* on his <u>Right</u> arm (*or mother / relative / friend)	is for the Groom to process up the aisle from the back or side of the church with his parents / closest friends. The Groom's procession is followed by the Bridal procession.

The Entrance of the Bride

English version	American style
Bride first with Bridesmaid(s) behind <i>everyone is in the right order to be seated And to sort back of bride's dress and veil</i>	Bridesmaids before the bride <i>needs more careful choreography</i>

(NOTE: Children under the age of 4 can be very phased walking into church with the bride. From experience, we advise they come into church earlier with an accompanying adult and pose on the photographs afterwards as appropriate. If young children are part of the procession, please ensure someone is responsible for them during the service.)

Standing at the front

Minister

Bridesmaid(s) Bride's father Bride Groom Best Man / Men

or bridesmaids on a second row. NB Bride gives her bouquet to a bridesmaid.

The Preface

Either of these 2 prefaces can be used or other options eg BCP words are still authorised

CW original version 1	CW version 2
<p>In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are here to witness the marriage of <i>Bride and Groom</i>, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love.</p> <p>Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.</p> <p>The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.</p> <p>It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are [born and] nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.</p> <p>Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.</p> <p>Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly, but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.</p> <p><i>Bride and Groom</i> are now to enter this way of life.</p>	<p>We are here together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of <i>N and N</i>, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy.</p> <p>Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit, he is with us now.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that <i>N and N</i> are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange</p>

<p>They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this, they will give and receive a ring / they will EACH give and receive a ring. <i>(if 2 rings used)</i></p> <p>We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.</p>	<p>solemn vows, and in token of this, they will [each] give and receive a ring.</p> <p>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.</p>
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Bringing to Marriage

The below words are optional

Traditional version	Equality Version
<p><i>Minister:</i> Who brings this woman to be married to this man? <i>Bride's father / relative:</i> I do</p> <p>The bride's father/relative passes the Bride's right hand to the minister who passes it to the Groom. The Father then goes to his seat.</p>	<p><i>Minister asks parents to stand (brides or both)</i></p> <p>Who brings Bride to be married to Groom? "I do" or "Her mother and I do" or "Her family and I do" or (in unison) "We do."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i></p> <p>Who brings Bride and Groom to be married to each other? Parent(s) of the bride and Groom: "We do."</p>

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel or stand. Practice this on a step at home.

The minister may use one of the following, or other blessing or mix and match

Version 1 (original)	Version 2	Version 3
<p>Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship. Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon <i>Bride and Groom</i> in their new life together. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts</p>	<p>All praise and blessing to you, God of love, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your likeness, the source of blessing for married life.</p> <p>All praise to you, for you have created courtship and marriage, joy and gladness, feasting and laughter,</p>	<p>Eternal God, you create us out of love that we should love you and one another. Bless, <i>Bride and Groom</i> made in your image, who today become a sign of your faithful love to us in Christ our Lord. (Amen).</p> <p>By your Holy Spirit,</p>

<p>and a crown upon their heads.</p> <p>Bless them in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death.</p> <p>Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen</p>	<p>pleasure and delight.</p> <p>May your blessing come in full upon <i>Bride and Groom</i></p> <p>May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows.</p> <p>May they reach old age in the company of friends and family and come at last to your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>	<p>fill <i>Bride and Groom</i> with wisdom and hope that they may delight in your gift of marriage and enrich one another in love and faithfulness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Amen).</p> <p>Bring them to that table where your saints celebrate for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>
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The Lords Prayer

Modern version	Traditional words
<p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.</p> <p>Give us today our daily bread.</p> <p>Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.</p> <p>For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.</p> <p>Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.</p>