

The Parish of St. Bartholomew, Otford



WEDDING NOTES 2020

CONGRATULATIONS on your forthcoming wedding.

We are delighted that you have chosen to get married in Church. We want to do all that we can to make your special day memorable and a good start for your married life together. So we have prepared this booklet to give you the information you will need.

Inside this booklet you will find information on:

- * Marriage and the law - banns of marriage
- * Organ music and hymns
- * Bible readings
- * Prayers
- * Producing your own order of service
- * Flowers
- * Bells
- * Fees
- * The countdown to your wedding

With prayers and all good wishes from St. Bartholomew's Church.

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MARRIAGE AND THE LAW

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Before you can be married, certain legal formalities have to take place to make sure that you are both free to marry. Usually this is done by the reading of banns in the parish church(es) where you are resident and here in St. Bartholomew's Church where you will be getting married. In some circumstances a Common Licence or a Special Licence may need to be applied for (We will advise you if this is the case at our first meeting).

Your banns will be read in our parish at the 10 a.m. service on the first three Sundays of the month preceding your wedding. Most couples like to be present to hear their banns read, and we look forward to welcoming you to the services when your banns are to be read. We also hope that you will enjoy coming to church in the months leading up to your wedding. Discovering more of God's love for you and his purpose for your lives will be a strong foundation for your marriage.

If one of you lives in another parish, your banns of marriage will also have to be read in that parish church. It is your responsibility to contact the Rector or Vicar there and make the arrangements for your banns to be read. He or she will arrange to have the banns read over a series of three Sundays and then issue you with a Banns Certificate for which the fee (payable to that parish) is £45. You must give this certificate to the Church Office as soon as you are issued with it because your marriage cannot legally go ahead unless we have seen it.

* We suggest you contact your local minister about four months before your wedding.

If neither of you lives in the Parish of Otford you may still get married at St. Bartholomew's Church on the basis of qualifying connections, as follows:

- (1) If either or both of you:
 - have been baptised in the parish;
 - were prepared for confirmation in the parish;
 - have at any time had your usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
 - have at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months.

- (2) If your parents have at any time during your lifetime:
 - had their usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months;
 - habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months.

(3) If your parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

If these qualifying connections do not apply in your case, you can still get married at St. Bartholomew's Church by making it "your home church". You do this by worshipping with the church family on Sundays at one of our services on a regular basis (not less than once a month) for a period of six months. (Full details of times and services are available on our web site - www.StBartholomews.co.uk - and in our monthly magazine and weekly notice sheet.) After the six months you can then join our Parish Electoral Roll. You will also need to have been baptised.

I hope that you will find a real welcome in the parish, and that because you have joined in worship here, your wedding will be even more meaningful.

* You will also need to arrange for banns of marriage to be read in the Anglican parish church(es) where you both live, as well as in our parish.

ORGAN MUSIC AND HYMNS

This organ music and these hymns may readily be found on the internet, or on various compilation CDs of wedding music. Choosing hymns from those you hear during our Sunday worship is a good idea. The BBC programme *Songs of Praise* is another good place to hear traditional as well as contemporary hymns.

Organ Music

Suggestions for entry (most of these would also be suitable for the final procession)

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 1. | Bridal March | Wagner |
| 2. | Trumpet Voluntary | Clarke |
| 3. | Trumpet Tune in D | Purcell |
| 4. | Trumpet Voluntaries (Op. 6 numbers 5 or 6) | Stanley |
| 5. | The arrival of the Queen of Sheba | Handel |
| 6. | Hornpipe in D from the Water Music | Handel |
| 7. | March from Scipio | Handel |
| 8. | Spring (from the Four Seasons) | Vivaldi |
| 9. | Prelude to the Te Deum | Charpentier |
| 10. | Ballet des Matelotz | Praetorius |

Suggestions for music during the signing of the registers

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Jesu joy of man's desiring | Bach |
| 2. | Air on a G String | Bach |
| 3. | Ave Maria | Bach / Gounod |
| 4. | Ave Maria | Schubert |
| 5. | Air from the Water Music | Handel |
| 6. | Canon in D | Pachelbel |
| 7. | Adagio | Giazotto / Albinoni |
| 8. | Brother James' Air | Macbeth Bain |
| 9. | Panis Angelicus | Franck |
| 10. | Chorale Prelude on Rhosymedre | Vaughan Williams |

Suggestions for the final procession

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Wedding March | Mendelssohn |
| 2. | Toccata from Symphony no. 5 | Widor |
| 3. | Crown Imperial | Walton |
| 4. | Pomp and Circumstance March no. 4 | Elgar |
| 5. | Finale from the Fireworks Music | Handel |
| 6. | Finale from the Water Music | Handel |
| 7. | Chorale (based on <i>Now thank we all our God</i>) | Karg-Elert |

A Selection of Hymns (from the church hymn book, BBC Songs of Praise)

There are normally three hymns during the wedding service. The following selection is simply for your guidance and they are listed in alphabetical order.

281	All my hope on God is founded	192	Lord Jesus Christ, you have come
2	All people that on earth do dwell	303	Lord of all hopefulness
3	All things bright and beautiful	305	Love divine, all loves excelling
205	Angel voices ever singing	10	Immortal, invisible
287	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart	337	Make me a channel of your peace
161	Come down, O love divine	238	Now thank we all our God
325	Father, hear the prayer we offer	339	O Jesus I have promised
357	Father, Lord of all Creation	365	O perfect love
220	Fill thou my life	244	O praise ye the Lord!
222	For the beauty of the earth	15	O worship the King
223	Give me joy in my heart	20	Praise my soul the King of heaven
227	God of mercy, God of grace	18	Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore him
8	Great is thy faithfulness	19	Praise to the Lord the Almighty
142	Guide me O thou great Redeemer	346	Take my life and let it be
73	I danced in the morning (<i>Lord of the Dance</i>)	347	Teach me my God and King
185	Jesus, good above all other	39	Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord
299	Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us	25	The King of love my shepherd is
333	Lord, for the years	256	To God be the glory

When choosing hymns it is helpful to bear in mind these points:

1. The first hymn should be one which everyone knows so that the service gets off to a good and confident start.
2. The second hymn, which comes after the marriage vows and before the prayers, can pick up the theme of the vows that you have just taken, asking God for strength to fulfil them in the years ahead.
3. The final hymn, which comes before the final blessing, should be one of praise and thanksgiving as you leave church to begin a new life together as husband and wife.

Our organist and choirmaster is Mr. Kevin Grafton. Please make an appointment to see him after one of our Sunday morning services to discuss your choice of music and hymns with him.

We have a choir and, subject to availability of choir members, they may be booked to sing at your wedding.

BIBLE READINGS

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of his house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

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. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17

Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 3:18-24

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:1-10

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Jesus said, "From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2:1-11

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15:9-17

PRAYERS

Thanksgiving

1. Faithful God, holy and eternal,
source of life and spring of love,
we thank and praise you for bringing *N* and *N* to this day.
May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;
and may they bring comfort and confidence to each other
in faithfulness and trust;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Spiritual Growth

2. Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
reign in the home of these your servants as Lord and King;
give them grace to minister to others as you have ministered to them,
and grant that by deed and word
they may be witnesses of your saving love
to those among whom they live;
for the sake of your holy name. **Amen.**
3. Almighty God,
you send your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of all your people.
Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace,
that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
4. Faithful God,
giver of all good things,
give *N* and *N* wisdom and devotion
in the ordering of their life together.
May they dwell together in love and peace
all the days of their life,
 seeking one another's welfare,
 bearing one another's burdens,
 and sharing one another's joys;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5. Eternal God,
strengthen *N* and *N* with patience, kindness, gentleness,
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,
so that they may fulfil the vows they have made.
Keep them faithful to each other and to you.
Fill them with such love and joy
that they may build a home of peace and welcome.
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love
in this broken world,
that unity may overcome estrangement,
forgiveness heal guilt,
and joy conquer despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Faithfulness, Joy, Love, Forgiveness and Healing

6. All praise and blessing to you, God of love,
creator of the universe,
maker of man and woman in your likeness,
source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you, for you have created
courtship and marriage,
joy and gladness,
feasting and laughter,
pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full upon *N* and *N*.
May they know your presence
in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
and come at last to your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
7. God of all grace,
friend and companion,
look in favour on *N* and *N*,
and all who are made one in marriage.
In your love deepen their love
and strengthen their wills
to keep the promises they have made,
that they may continue
in life-long faithfulness to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8. O God of love,
look mercifully upon *N* and *N* in the new life
which they begin together this day.
Unite them evermore in your love.
Keep them faithful to the vows they have made one to the other.
Strengthen them with every good gift.
And let your peace be with them,
now and always;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
9. Heavenly Father,
we thank you that in our earthly lives
you speak to us of your eternal life:
we pray that through their marriage
N and *N* may know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly
day by day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Children, other Family Members and Friends

10. Heavenly Father,
we pray that your blessing may remain with *N* and *N*.
In prosperity may they be grateful to you, the giver of all good;
in trouble may they find that you are their refuge and strength.
May their home be a place of love, security and truth,
that all who are members of their family may know your love and care
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
11. God of all grace and goodness,
we thank you for this new family,
and for everything parents and children have to share;
by your Spirit of peace draw them together
and help them to be true friends to one another.
Let your love surround them
and your care protect them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

12. Lord of life,
you form us in your image,
and by your gracious gift
the human family is increased.
Fill *N* and *N* with wisdom and love
as they care for their family,
so that they and their children
may know and love you;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
13. Gracious Lord,
bless the parents and families of *N* and *N*
that they may grow in love and friendship.
Grant that, as they have witnessed these vows today,
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened
and their loyalties confirmed;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
14. Holy Spirit of God,
you know our strength
and have compassion on our frailty.
Be with *N* and *N*
in all they undertake.
And grant that we their friends,
with all who become their friends,
may sense and understand their needs;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Introduction

The Welcome

God is love, and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

The minister prays:

God of wonder and of joy:
grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Send your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you now
with thankful hearts
and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn

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

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 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?

All **We will.**

The Collect

The minister prays the Collect

God our Father,
from the beginning,
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon *N* and *N*,
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Reading(s)

Sermon

The Marriage

The minister introduces the vows

N and *N*, I now invite you to make your vows,
in the presence of God and before this congregation.

The couple stand before the minister.

The minister may ask, "Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"

The Vows

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.
The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says,*

I, *N*, take you, *N*,
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.

*They loose hands.
The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says*

I, *N*, take you, *N*,
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 rings, and says

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.

All **Amen.**

The bridegroom places the ring on the ring finger of the 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.*

They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the ring finger of the bridegroom'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

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.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

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

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel

The minister blesses the couple saying

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

All **Amen.**

A Unity Candle may be lit

Hymn

Prayers

Four prayers are used, selected from a range which cover these topics:

- 1. thanksgiving;*
- 2. spiritual growth;*
- 3. faithfulness, joy, love, forgiveness and healing;*
- 4. children, other family members and friends.*

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

The Dismissal

The minister says the blessing:

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Registration of the Marriage

Departure of the Bride and Groom

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

1. Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
give me joy in my heart, I pray;
give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
keep me praising till the break of day.

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!*

2. Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
give me peace in my heart, I pray;
give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
keep me loving till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...

3. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
give me love in my heart, I pray;
give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
keep me serving till the break of day

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...

The Blessing

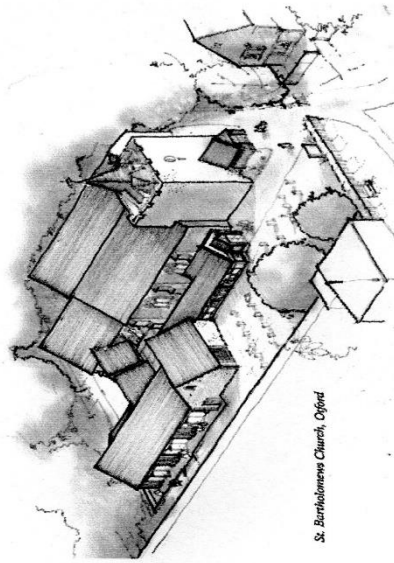
Signing of the Registers
Canon in D.....Pachelbel

Departure of the bride and groom
Wedding March.....Mendelssohn

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THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, OTFORD

THE MARRIAGE OF
EMMA SMITH
AND
BILL JONES



St. Bartholomew Church, Otford

Saturday 5th July 2008

1.30 p.m.

Bridal March..... **Entry of the Bride** Wagner

Introduction
Rev. R. Worssam

Hymn

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, Alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.

3 Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.

4 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

The Preface

The Declarations

The minister says to the congregation:
Will you, the families and friends of Emma and Bill, support and uphold
them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All: We will

Bible Reading
1 Corinthians 13

The Prayers

The Address

The Marriage Vows

The Giving of Rings

The Proclamation

The Blessing of the Marriage

The Lighting of the Unity Candle

Hymn

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us,
we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us,
we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us,
we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us,
we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.

WEDDING FLOWERS

Our beautiful and historic church is a much-loved and cared for building. It is a “living” church where worship is regularly offered to God. Because of this, you will always find floral decorations in the church which are provided on a weekly rota, except during the season of Lent, which comes just before Easter.

You are welcome to arrange for your own florist to supply additional flowers for your wedding. We would simply ask you to kindly contact our flower co-ordinator to discuss your plans with her, and to follow the guidelines for the church.

Our flower co-ordinator is Mrs. Joan Beacom and she may be contacted through the Church Office (01959 523185).

General Guidelines:

1. Please ensure that the florist places two arrangements at each of the two communion tables. These are to be left in church for the Sunday services following your wedding.
2. You may also wish to have other arrangements, as follows:
 - i) a large arrangement **near the organ**, placed near where you will be making your vows to one another;
 - ii) an arrangement by the **main door** to welcome your guests as they enter the church;
 - iii) an arrangement **in front of the pulpit**;
 - iv) a small arrangement **in front of the lectern**.

Please fill in the form at the end of this booklet and post it to our flower co-ordinator to let her know what you have decided.

BELLS

St. Bartholomew’s Church has a peal of six bells which may be rung for your wedding, subject to the availability of bell ringers. They may be booked through the Church Office (01959 523185)

Our Tower Captain is Mrs. Bobbie Fairclough. She may be contacted through the church office if you have any specific queries.

PRACTICALITIES AND FEES

Personal interview for each couple

On a date after the preparation morning We will meet with you to discuss the choices you have made for readings and hymns etc. **Please come prepared with your choices.** We will also deal with any other personal arrangements, and fix a date for your wedding rehearsal.

After we have discussed your choices, if you wish to have your own service sheets printed, please show the draft to me before you print them so that we can ensure they are correctly set out.

Banns

Your banns will be read in our parish on the first three Sundays of the month prior to your wedding. Please make sure you have the banns read in the other parish(es) where you reside, and then give the banns certificate(s) to the church.

Wedding rehearsal

Your wedding is a very special occasion in your life and it is important that the service flows in the way you want it to. The rehearsal will enable you to be familiar with exactly what you are going to do. It will usually take place in the week before your wedding, generally on the afternoon before your wedding day. All those taking part in the wedding, including your best man and bridesmaids, are encouraged to be there. Parents are also welcome.

Photography

You will most probably want photographs taken on your special day. If so, please tell your photographer that they are welcome to take photographs without flash from the back of the church and the side aisle (but not standing beside or behind the Vicar).

The Big Day

Relax and enjoy it! We will make sure that the service runs smoothly. Please arrive in good time to allow time for photographs to be taken. We suggest that people arrive as follows:

Ushers	30 minutes beforehand		
Groom and Best Man	25	``	``
Bridesmaids	15	``	``
Bride	5	``	``

Confetti

You can buy "green" confetti that is either biodegradable or which can be eaten by birds. Please encourage your friends to use this environmentally friendly confetti.

Fees

These are to be paid, at the latest, two weeks before the wedding, or any time after the initial booking:

By cheque (made payable to "St. Bartholomew's PCC, Otford")

Or by bank transfer to: PCC of St. Bartholomew's Otford

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account no: 00022757

(CAF Bank Ltd)

Statutory wedding fee	463.00
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By cash, in separate labelled envelopes:

Verger	65.00	
Organist	120.00	
Choir	120.00	
Bells	<u>120.00</u>	
SUB TOTAL		<u>425.00</u>

OVERALL TOTAL	888.00
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The fees may be delivered either to the Parish Office (Monday-Friday 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.) or to the Vicarage.

WEDDING OF

Day and Date of Wedding

Time

Day and Date of Rehearsal

Time

Everyday names

- Music:
- i) Entry
 - ii) Signing of the registers
 - iii) Final procession

- Hymns
- i) At the beginning
 - ii) After the proclamation and blessing of the marriage
 - iii) After the prayers

Choir Yes No

Bells Yes No

Readings *There needs to be one reading from the Bible. If an Old Testament reading is chosen, this can sometimes be supplemented by a New Testament reading. There can also be a reading on love / marriage from another source, which is read before the Bible reading.*

[Poem or other reading on love / marriage]

Reader:

Bible Reading

Reader:

Is the bride being given away? Yes No By whom?

Unity candle? Yes No *[If yes, supplied personally?]*

Prayers Three from 2 –14 (in general, one from each of the three sections)

[Own? If so, by whom?]

Own Service Sheet?

Video Yes No

Photography

Witnesses 1.
 2.

Number of guests expected

CONTACTS

Vicar:

Position Vacant

Church Office:

Clive Southgate & Susan Reid 01959 523185 c/o st.bartholomews@otford.net

Organist and Choir Master:

Kevin Grafton c/o st.bartholomews@otford.net

Flower Co-ordinator:

Joan Beacom c/o st.bartholomews@otford.net

Bell Tower Captain:

Bobbie Fairclough c/o st.bartholomews@otford.net

Parish web site: www.StBartholomews.co.uk

Church of England web site: www.yourchurchwedding.org

NOTES