



YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY EXPLAINED 2021/22

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Diocese of
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TRANSFORMING **CHURCH**
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PART 1 – MARRIAGE FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Welcome to St Mary's Church!

Congratulations on your engagement. We very much look forward to welcoming you for your marriage ceremony at St Mary's Church, which is right at the heart of historic Thorpe Village, Surrey. This guide will help you plan your big day. There are some things about marrying in church that you just can't get anywhere else. It's your wedding; let us help you make it personal, meaningful, spiritual and beautiful – a wonderful day to remember! Part of this is the welcome you will receive from our congregation as you spend time with us over the coming months. Do come along on Sundays as often as you can and get to know the church family.

A church wedding provides a spiritual dimension to the start of your marriage. The ceremony includes God and looks to Him for help and guidance. God's blessing is the main attraction for many couples, whatever their beliefs. As part of the ceremony you will make vows (promises before God), which have been used for centuries before, in a building that is thought to be over 1,000 years old. Made in public, these vows will help you to stay and grow together. God and your church are there for you to help you keep your vows.

In a Church wedding we celebrate marriage 'in the eyes of God' – this is more than legal; it's different, it's spiritual, it's about love and it's often described as 'proper'. And of course, beautiful St Mary's Church is a stunning wedding location with Grade 2* listed status. Imagine all the couples who have married in St Mary's Church down the years, some of whom may well be members of your family. You can feel you're becoming part of history itself, the bigger plan, by marrying in the same place as your relatives. We know these sorts of connections can make your day even more special.

The Sacrament of Marriage

It is all too easy for us to be caught up in the excitement of the time and perhaps miss the deeper meaning of the occasion. Yet most of us believe there is something sacred and special about marriage. We may not always have been able to express that in words – some simply feel that they wouldn't be married properly if they weren't married in church and for others there is a real sense in which they want to make their marriage vows in the church: blessed by the presence of God. For most a church wedding is about making vows to the person they love before family and friends and it is a 'rite of passage' and the only opportunity to mark a change in their lives. In marriage we cease to be single and become joined to the one we love.

Christians believe that marriage is God given and we consider it to be one of the Sacraments* of the Church. Put simply, a Sacrament is "an outward sign of something that God is doing on the inside of us." Sacraments touch our everyday lives and remind us that life is to be lived out fully, transformed by the presence of Jesus Christ. Sacraments are God given signs to us of his love and care. For the vast majority of people marriage is the way in which they will live out their adult lives and therefore it is the place in which they may develop their relationship with God. In almost every human culture, Christian and non-Christian, men and women get married and it is hard to argue therefore that it is not a God given gift.



**The Seven Sacraments of the Church are considered to be marriage, baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, ordination, confession and anointing the sick.*

Thinking about Marriage

Signs of the times! Which of these road signs best describes your understanding or view of marriage? Mark your first, second and third choice in order of priority, number one being the highest priority.



Being prepared for marriage... The three C's of Marriage!

- Communication
- Constructive Conflict
- Commitment

A lasting marriage usually consists of the 3 C's... These are three aspects that help two people in love strengthen the bond between them into a lifelong relationship.

Communication

As in all aspects of life today, communication is essential. First of all, we need to listen. Take time to listen to each other regularly. Make sure that each day you have spent time in listening to your partner. Understand that listening to the other person is more important than trying to solve their problems for them.

Constructive Conflict

Nobody likes conflict, but it is an inevitable aspect of any healthy relationship. How we handle our conflict is an essential tool for marriage. It is important to express our feelings effectively. This means listening to our partner and allowing them time to offer their feelings and thoughts without interrupting them and then being allowed time for us to do the same. In relationships it is important to learn to forgive and say sorry and really mean it.

Commitment

Without commitment the best of relationships will fall apart. Commitment is that which binds two people together in honesty and mutual affection; after all, real love wants what is best for the other person. Love and commitment are more about our will than our feelings. If we are strong in our commitment, our feelings follow.

Remember that every relationship is unique! We are all different, and we are always growing and changing as life challenges us. Therefore, we need to re-evaluate our relationships from time to time. This is healthy! Never cease to ask each other questions and always be prepared to work at finding the answers together.

Thinking about things that are important to each person in a relationship

As individuals, take a look at the list below, and place your initials in the appropriate column depending on whether the item is important to you or not. (Don't pay attention to what your partner feels – just put down what **YOU** feel. *You will find the task more fun!*)

	Very	Fairly	Not at all
Being tidy			
Organisation			
Healthy eating			
Punctuality			
Reading			
Shopping			
Sport			
Going out with friends			
Family time			

Keeping promises			
	Very	Fairly	Not at all
My own friends			
Spirituality			
Inviting people home			
Showing affection			
Saying 'I love you'			
Public displays of affection			
Having time to myself			
Talking together regularly			
Keeping the peace			
Honesty			
Keeping to a strict budget			
Promotion at work			
Volunteering			
Surprises!			
Having children / adoption			
Going to church			
Savings & investment			
Getting my own way			
Making careful decisions			
Living in a particular area			
Walks in the countryside			

How do the two results compare? Do you really know what your partner is thinking? Take time to talk about some of the things you did know about each other and anything which you didn't!



Happy Ever After?

St Mary's Church hopes so and we pray that you will have a very happy life together. See below a list of values that people often think are vital for a good marriage. What do you think?

Put them in order of importance to YOU by rating them 1 – 18. Start with what you think is most important – making it number 1 – and so on. (You may like to fold the page along the black line, so that you and your partner can complete the task separately, and later compare your answers!)

Her List

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Give & Take | () |
| 2. Our own home | () |
| 3. Listening to/understanding each other (|) |
| 4. Companionship | () |
| 5. Trust | () |
| 6. Agreement about religion | () |
| 7. Going to church together | () |
| 8. Honesty | () |
| 9. Love | () |
| 10. Getting on with the In-laws | () |
| 11. Sense of humour | () |
| 12. Sexual compatibility | () |
| 13. Awareness of each other's needs (|) |
| 14. Having children | () |
| 15. Time to oneself (Independence) | () |
| 16. Agreeing on money matters | () |
| 17. My career | () |
| 18. Any other _____ | () |

His List

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Give & Take | () |
| 2. Our own home | () |
| 3. Listening to/understanding each other (|) |
| 4. Companionship | () |
| 5. Trust | () |
| 6. Agreement about religion | () |
| 7. Going to church together | () |
| 8. Honesty | () |
| 9. Love | () |
| 10. Getting on with the In-laws | () |
| 11. Sense of humour | () |
| 12. Sexual compatibility | () |
| 13. Awareness of each other's needs (|) |
| 14. Having children | () |
| 15. Time to oneself (Independence) | () |
| 16. Agreeing on money matters | () |
| 17. My career | () |
| 18. Any other _____ | () |

Did any of your partners' answers surprise you? Talk them through together.

The Wedding Sermon

... a bit of fun ...

*'Marriage is like a garden', the Vicar used to say,
As he sped each couple coyly on its blushing bridal way
And with horticultural metaphor he warned each newly wed
Of the pleasures and the pitfalls which were hovering overhead.*

*Marriage is like a garden, he said. You're going to need
To succour every seedling and to banish every weed.
You'll have to work, to give your all, for if you offer less
A garden or a marriage becomes a wilderness.*

*Marriage is like a garden. Spread the fertiliser thickly
Or the plant that you neglect
will grow up weak and wan and sickly.
Never think that you have finished,
For despite the aches and pain,
Every morning you will find you have to do it all again.*

*Marriage is like a garden. Put a fence around its limit
To reduce the possibility of interference in it.
But not a prison wall – keep the fencing open so
There's light to keep your flowers strong
And room so they can grow.*



*Marriage is like a garden – if it's any good at all
The blossom in the spring will lead to the harvest in the Fall,
And the mowing and the trimming and the tilling of the soil
Will create a world of beauty from the effort and the toil.*

*'Marriage is like a garden' - and the Vicar's wife would smile
As she saw the wedding party Bridal marching down the aisle,
For while he praised the gardeners work, The Vicar quite forgot
That in the Vicarage garden - His wife did all the lot.*



Marriage as a sign of God's love for us

At the heart of the Christian faith is the belief that God has created the world and us, human beings, because he wants to form a relationship with us. As Christians we would say that this is the purpose of creation, our relationship with God and his love for us; we call this the covenant relationship. God, who is love, wishes to open himself to us and to share his life with us. In the person of Jesus Christ, God is responding to the fact that human beings turned away from his love. Yet God has always wanted us to live in relationship with him. Through Jesus' birth in Bethlehem (which we celebrate at Christmas) and his death upon the cross and resurrection (celebrated at Easter), that relationship with God is restored and we can become as God intended us to be – his children. This is indeed a covenant relationship in which we are blessed as individuals and as a community of faith – and in marriage.

Jesus is the sign and the presence of God's love and we are invited to share this love, by living our lives in relation to God. One of the ways in which we do this is by participating in the signs of God's love, the Sacraments of which we have already said Marriage is a part. That is why we take marriage seriously in the church, because in marriage we experience something of God's love and we find our fulfilment, for we enter with God into the nature of creation. Marriage mirrors God's covenant relationship with creation. What we believe is that God's love is given in marriage and is expressed in the love of a husband for his wife and a wife for her husband. A love which is self-giving and is, we pray, life-long. This Sacrament of love is confirmed as vows are exchanged and continues as those vows are lived out in the unfolding relationship that follows. There are four signs of this living out of Christ's love:

- Obedience - *a word we don't much like today, but it makes the point!*
- Faithfulness
- Self giving
- Love - *a word which is often over used but very important!*

In fact all of these aspects can be summed up in the word Love.

Obedience: as seen in Jesus is not about one being superior to the other; it is rather about our essential belonging and commitment to another. We may prefer a term like fidelity. Obedience requires us to submit oneself to another out of a total unity of purpose. It is commitment in relationship. Husband and wife are called to behave in a 'Christ-like' way, each acting as Christ to the other, or in other words always showing love for one another. Obedience is not out of fear or inequality but because we become one in marriage, which requires balance, each bringing their own valued gifts to the relationship. It is oneness and togetherness that demands commitment to each other. In marriage you will belong to one another with

each giving your total self to the other. You will live for what is good in each other, always responding to the needs of each other.

Faithfulness: Jesus made his faithfulness known to us by giving his whole self on the cross and has promised to be with us always. In Church worship we celebrate his gift of love demonstrated upon the cross and praise him for what he has done for us. Our faithfulness requires commitment and is far more difficult to achieve, in that we can become used to each other and sometimes fall into the trap of comparing ourselves to other married couples; in this context our commitment can slip as we don't give ourselves fully to each other. We rely on Christ's presence to reinforce our faithfulness so that we can fully give ourselves to the other. Obedience and faithfulness need a channel of communication and openness. A life-long relationship means accepting the other, warts and all.

Self-Giving: The channel is the total self-giving: bodily, emotionally, socially, intellectually and spiritually. Making ourselves completely available to the one we love. Jesus did not withhold any part of himself. In marriage a couple will want to give and receive as much of each other as possible – being open and honest about even the deepest parts of who we are. This exchange leads to an availability of body, feelings, mind and spirit. This is something we need to keep working at, something which is in constant need of new energy to realize fully the fullness of your relationship.

Love: St. John tells us that God is Love. In Jesus we see this love lived out in obedience, faithfulness and self-giving. Through this love, God working through his son Jesus is able to sustain and heal and help humanity grow. Love is the means through which spouses sustain, heal and help each other to grow; loving sensitively is something which we must keep working at. At the heart of God is a relationship of Love between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Marriage reflects this life giving, loving relationship which unfolds over a lifetime.

In marriage you will begin your unique vocation to live as husband and wife - a loving encounter which will sustain you through the decades and may bring you the joy of children. It is a life of love which precedes children and continues after their departure into the world having been nurtured by you, with the support of the wider church family. Marriage is a sacrament of the church; it starts with the taking of vows in which spouses surrender themselves to each other and continues in the lifelong committed relationship of love. This relationship is marked by obedience, faithfulness, self-giving and love, the characteristics which are found in the relationship of Christ with us.

We wish you every prayer and blessing as you continue in your marriage preparations. Also be assured of the prayers of the people of St Mary's Church, Thorpe. We are here to support you and pray for you and make your special day the most wonderful experience possible.

PART 2 - PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

The basic service format we use at St Mary's Church is set by the Church of England. We use the modern rite which is both easy for people to understand and follow but also contains words and phrases that are familiar, traditional and inclusive. Towards the end of this guide is a full copy of the Wedding Service text as set by the Archbishop's Council and approved for our use by Thorpe Parochial Church Council.

You will need to familiarise yourself with the parts where you make promises / vows. You don't need to learn your vows word for word as the priest conducting your ceremony will lead you through each response and in many places you will be asked to repeat after them. However, familiarity with the text will help you on your special day. You will also have a rehearsal to help make your day perfect, usually the Thursday evening preceding your wedding day.

Covid-19 Pandemic and Administration and Support with Your Wedding Planning

Due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic, HM Government have frequently changed the rules around weddings, including the numbers permitted to attend, and sadly even if weddings can proceed. St Mary's Church has Covid-secure protocols in place and in April 2021 the maximum number of people allowed inside our church, based on our risk assessment is 40 (+ 8 staff). As part of the roadmap out of lockdown the Government have suggested they will increase numbers permitted at weddings from 12 April 2021 is 15 and from 17th May 2021 30 people (these figures do not include staff).

Over the past year the number permitted to attend a wedding (or even weddings being allowed to proceed!) has changed depending on the rate of local and national infection. We are all optimistic that the vaccine programme will help keep Covid infections under control, but it is also possible that some form of restrictions on gatherings and social distancing rules may be in place even post 21 June. It is possible therefore that St Mary's risk assessment with reduced numbers permitted inside the church may remain in place post 21st June 2021 along with a requirement for all to enter via our Rutherwyke Room kitchen, wash their hands, sign in for test and trace purposes, wear a face covering, collect all service sheets/paperwork and then enter the Church following our one-way system and be seated in one of the chairs (or pairs) set out at 2metre spacing. To speed this process of entry up we ask that all couples prepare a guest list, grouping 'households' in advance of the day. This list must provide a contact phone number and or email address for each household group and the names of all in each household. The advantage of us receiving this in advance is that our team of wardens can re-arrange chairs into household groups and also, we can sign people off on the list as they arrive meaning they won't need to sign-in on the day, making the entry and seating process much quicker.

Given our corporate experience of the pandemic so far you would be advised to plan for your wedding based on these requirements remaining in place. Brides with father/another will still be able to enter in the customary way, but all will be required to wash hands in the Rutherwyke Room and sign in first, before walking around the outside of the church via the Tower to reach the porch for the traditional entry into Church. You may wish to factor an extra 10 minutes into your timings before the start of the service for this to happen.

The Ministry Team will do all we can to support you through this process and keep you up to date and we hope you will find the remainder of this document should answer many of your questions. If you are not sure about anything, feel free to email us at stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com. We may need to send you confirmation or reminder emails to guide you through the steps of planning your ceremony, and once you have submitted your Wedding Service Form will provide a template for your Order of Service.

Your Wedding Ceremony – Choices for You to Make

You will need to make some choices about various parts of your Service such as music, readings, rings, bells, flowers and video recordings. We need to have those well in advance of the ceremony.

Music – Covid rules mean singing by the congregation in Church is not presently permitted. You may still like to choose up to three hymns as well as music for your entry and exit, and during the signing of the register. Having an organist and hymns is mandatory, but while the singing restrictions remain in place, we are happy for you to have one person sing the hymns on behalf of the congregation of by

agreement, replace a hymn with another piece of music. Read more under “Thinking about music and hymn choices”.

Readings – you have a choice of up to two readings. One of these must be a bible reading from the New Testament (*requirement for any wedding held in church*). The other(s) may be from any part of the Bible or could be poetry or something personal to you. Read more under “Choosing Bible Readings”.

Rings – you may choose to give and receive a ring from each other. (Some couples prefer to have only one ring given by the groom to the bride – please specify in the Wedding Service Form.)

Giving away the bride – you may like the bride’s father (or another chosen person) to give her away within the service; this is optional within the service text. Please notify us if not required.

Flowers in church – you may choose to use a florist (you need to give contact details of the florist with the Wedding Service Form) or ask the church’s own flower guild (more under “Flowers and St Mary’s Flower Guild”) to assist you. Flowers inside the church are not permitted during Lent and Advent.

Bells - we have eight bells which are rung via an automated mechanical device. You can have these rung before and/or after your wedding ceremony. A fee (£40 in 2017) is charged for the use of the bells which goes towards annual Tower Maintenance costs.

Printed Service Sheet - when you have completed and returned the Wedding Service Form at the end of this document, the Wedding Administrator will provide you with a template based on your choices, but it is down to you to get this finalised and printed in A5 booklet format in time for your wedding. You will need to bring copies with you to your wedding rehearsal.

Video or audio recording of your ceremony – this is down to you to arrange and is permitted, but additional fees and licences (£150) will be charged. (Otherwise, no recording of any kind is permitted by order in St Mary’s Church, in accordance with Copyright Law.)

Live-streaming via Facebook or Zoom – *this is possible and the above fee of £150 will be charged.*

Please note that the last page of this guide is the Wedding Service Form **which you need to submit, with ALL details and specifications required, no later than 10 weeks before your ceremony.** From this we will prepare your draft service sheet for you, invoice you etc. You can hand in your completed hard copy or email a pdf or jpg file to the Parish Administrator (see details on form). Please submit your form only once complete with all details.

Flowers for Your Wedding Ceremony

Flowers are permitted in Church (outside of the church seasons of Lent and Advent). Most couples choose to use their own florist for wedding flowers, and we ask that your appointed florist is in contact with St Mary’s **at least two weeks prior to the service date** to arrange delivery of your arrangements – **Covid secure rules apply to all entering our buildings at this time and we will need to arrange for a warden to be present when they come to work in the church.** Options for flower arrangements in the church include to the side of the High Altar, on stands by the Norman Arch or in one or both of the squint windows either side of the Norman arch, beside the lectern and in the windows of the main body of the church. Please note that for Health & Safety reasons there cannot be any arrangements in the aisle, neither free standing nor attached to the chairs or pillars. In addition, some couples arrange (following agreement by the Parish Priest) for a floral display to be installed at the Lych gate or church porch. Nothing can be attached to the fabric of the church (including furniture) or the Lych gate with anything other than string as St Mary’s Church is an historical listed building.

St Mary’s Flower Guild is a small team of people who arrange beautiful flower displays in the church for each Sunday (outside Lent & Advent!) They can, by request, prepare the church flowers for you for your wedding. Costs per arrangement vary as the price and availability of flowers change with the seasons. Should you wish for the Church Flower Guild to prepare flowers for your ceremony, additional charges will apply to accommodate your choice of flowers.

Please contact Mrs Margaret Harnden direct – who leads St Mary’s Church Flower Guild. She will be able to advise. We ask that you do so as soon as possible and ideally no later than 2 months in advance of undertaking wedding flowers so that availability can be confirmed. You will be asked to make a separate payment to St Mary’s for the cost of this.

Email: mtharnden@aol.com Phone: 01784 432992

**The Sunday Flower Charge does not apply for weddings taking place during the Church seasons of Advent and Lent when flowers are not permitted in Church.*

Thinking about music and hymn choices

Below are suggestions for music at different times in your ceremony. All three hymns will be accompanied by the organist on the church pipe organ – this is mandatory. Entry and exit music are also to be played by the organist and there are many options listed below for your choice.

You may choose to bring in someone to provide live music during the signing of the registers (please refer to extended notes about “Musicians from outside St Mary’s Church”), or choose music to be played on the organ and/or for our cantor to sing (the cantor is our in-house soprano soloist). You may book our choir or cantor to support the hymn singing (subject to availability – please book at least two months in advance). The Wedding Administrator will be very happy to discuss with you possible music choices. By special agreement, you may like some alternative music provided as recordings on your own iPod. (There is an iPod connection lead to our church sound system. **You will need to provide someone to operate your iPod on the day.**)

Just before the start of your wedding ceremony it is customary for the priest to hold a brief practice of the hymns and responses found in your service with the congregation.

Below is a list of popular items often used in church wedding services:

Music before the service (organ)

Coro (Water Music)	<i>Handel</i>
Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen	<i>Grieg</i>
Toccata and Fugue in D minor	<i>Bach</i>

Music for the entry of the bride (organ)

Bridal march from Lohengrin	<i>Wagner</i>
Canon in D	<i>Pachelbel</i>
Fireworks Music: Minuet	<i>Handel</i>
Grand March from Aida	<i>Verdi</i>
March from Scipio	<i>Handel</i>
Ode to joy (abbreviated version!)	<i>Beethoven</i>
The Prince of Denmark’s March (Trumpet Voluntary)	<i>Jeremiah Clarke</i>
Te Deum Prelude	<i>Charpentier</i>
The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (abbreviated version!)	<i>Handel</i>
The Wedding March “Midsummer Night’s Dream”	<i>Mendelssohn</i>
Toccata from Symphony no.5	<i>Widor</i>
Toccata in D minor	<i>Bach</i>
Trumpet Tune and Air (abbreviated version!)	<i>Purcell</i>
<i>(any of the entry pieces can also be played before the service)</i>	

Recessional music (organ)

Canon in D	<i>Pachelbel</i>
Fireworks Music; Minuet, Finale	<i>Handel</i>
Another joyful piece from this suite as a Recessional is 'La Réjouissance'	
Grand March from Aida	<i>Verdi</i>
Hornpipe (Alla Danza) Water Music	<i>Handel</i>
March from Scipio	<i>Handel</i>
Ode to joy	<i>Beethoven</i>
The Prince of Denmark’s March (Trumpet Voluntary)	<i>Jeremiah Clarke</i>
Te Deum Prelude	<i>Charpentier</i>
The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	<i>Handel</i>
The Wedding March “Midsummer Night’s Dream”	<i>Mendelssohn</i>
Toccata from Symphony no.5	<i>Widor</i>
Toccata and Fugue in D minor	<i>Bach</i>
Trumpet Tune and Air	<i>Purcell</i>
Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen	<i>Grieg</i>

Popular Hymn choices for your weddingPlease choose **three** hymns:

All things bright and beautiful	All creatures of our God and King	Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
And did those feet in ancient times (Jerusalem)	Angel voices ever singing	At the name of Jesus
Be still for the presence of the Lord	Bind us together Lord	Come down O Love divine
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	Father hear the prayer we offer	From heaven you came (The Servant King)
Give me joy in my heart / Give me oil in my lamp	He who would valiant be	I the Lord of sea and sky
I danced in the morning when the world was begun	I cannot tell why he whom angels worship	Immortal, invisible, God only wise
I vow to thee my country	Jerusalem the golden	Just as I am, without one plea
Lead us heavenly Father lead us	Let all the world in every corner sing	Lord, for the years, your love has kept and guided
Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us	Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy	Lord the light of your love (Shine Jesus shine)
Love divine, all loves excelling	Love is His Word, Love is His way.	Majesty, worship his majesty
Make me a channel of your peace	Morning has broken	Now thank we all our God
O Jesus I have promised	O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder	O perfect love, all human thought transcending
O praise ye the Lord	O thou who camest from above	O worship the King
One more step along the world I go	Peace, perfect peace	Praise my soul the King of heaven
Praise to the holiest in the height	Stand up, stand up for Jesus	Take my life and let it be
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord	The King of love my shepherd is	The Lord's my shepherd
Thine be the glory	Ye choirs of new Jerusalem	Ye holy angels bright

Music during the signing of the registers

Please specify version where appropriate.

Amazing Grace (Choir or Cantor)

John Newton

Ave Maria (Organ or Cantor)

Schubert or Bach-Gounod

(this can also be sung in place of the second reading)

Ave Verum (Cantor)

Mozart

Canon in D (Organ) or Cantor (as "Christ be with me")

Pachelbel

Du bist die Ruh (Cantor)

Schubert

Flocks in Pastures Green Abiding (Organ or Cantor)

J S Bach (also "Sheep may safely graze")

Gaelic Blessing (Cantor)

Rutter

He Shall Feed His Flock from Messiah (Cantor)

Handel

How Beautiful Are the Feet from Messiah (Cantor)

Handel

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring (Organ or Cantor)

J S Bach

Largo (Organ or Cantor)

Handel (also known as "Ombra Mai Fu")

Pie Jesu (Organ or Cantor)

Andrew Lloyd-Webber or Fauré

The Lord Bless You and Keep You (Cantor)

John Rutter

A Clare Benediction

John Rutter

If you have another piece of music you would like played please discuss this with the Wedding Administrator who will liaise with the organist or cantor. Additional charges may apply to cover the cost of sheet music.

Musicians (entertainers) from outside St Mary

It is getting increasingly more popular for couples to hire professional singers or musicians for entertainment during the signing of the registers. Please note that such arrangements are welcome as long

as they have been clearly stated, with name and contact details of the musicians/singers or the booking agency, in the Wedding Service Form under “Music at the signing of the registers”. We expect the musician/singer or their agent to get in touch with us regarding their requirements at least a month before the service. If a soloist requires accompaniment on the organ or piano, we need to be furnished with a copy of the music at least three weeks before the service. If a soloist brings accompaniment on an iPod, please note that they will under no circumstances have access to the audio system other than plugging the iPod in (no access to balance, volume etc of the system – only what they can access via their iPod). We have no music-grade amplification equipment available. If a musician/singer requires a microphone or any other equipment they need to provide these themselves. Any required rehearsals (whether with or without the Church Organist) need to be booked at least a month before the wedding and will have to fit in with the schedule of the Church/opening times. Out-of-time rehearsals may be subject to extra fees for the organist and staff who have to come specifically. There will be no exceptions to these rules and we suggest that you notify this paragraph to the musician or agency you are booking with before you commit.

Choosing Bible Readings

Choosing an appropriate Bible reading(s) involves discovering what speaks most powerfully to you about the commitment you are about to make. You will learn a lot about each other's spiritual awareness if you do this together and discuss your choices. At least one Bible reading from the New Testament is required for a Church of England wedding service. Possibilities include:

New Testament

1 Corinthians 13; Colossians 3: 12-17

1 John 4: 7-12; Ephesians 5: 21-33

Romans 12:1-2,9-13; Philippians 4:4-9

For more suggestions visit: www.yourchurchwedding.org

Old Testament

Genesis 1: 12-17; Ruth 1:16-17; Jeremiah 31:31-33

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13 OR 8: 6, 7

Rules and Housekeeping at St Mary's Church

There are also a few rules we need to share with you:

Photographs – these are a wonderful reminder of your special day and the Priest will explain to your chosen photographer the protocol at St Mary's, asking the congregation not to take photos during the ceremony, although they are permitted to do so at the end as you leave the church. Use of flash photography within the historic church building is prohibited. (No photographs may be taken during the actual signing of the registers, even by your photographer, as these are legal documents.) Please also note that drones are not allowed above St Mary's and surrounding areas as our neighbouring property is a boarding school.

Parking – limited car parking is available in the Vicarage Car Park and in Church Approach, and this should be reserved for essential members of your wedding party and immediate family such as your parents and those with disabilities who need to park close to the church. St Mary's staff will also use this area for parking, so there will only be about fifteen spaces available in total and we suggest you instruct one of your ushers to make sure all cars make the most of the space available. Parking is only allowed on the gravelled area to ensure access for emergency vehicles if needed. Those who park in the Vicarage Car Park do so at their own risk and no responsibility can be taken by the Vicar or St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) for cars parked.

Please note that the TESIS car park is not available for private functions. There is parking in Church Approach but to enable good access for the bridal conveyance, especially if this is a horse carriage, we suggest cars don't park at the end close to the church. There is ample roadside parking in Mill Lane or Ten Acre Lane no more than ten minutes walk away.

Smoking and Dogs - all the grounds in and around St Mary's Church are strictly non-smoking and only guide dogs are allowed on church premises.

Confetti – paper, petals or bio-degradable confetti is not permitted at all, even in Church Approach. Although the church grounds are maintained by Runnymede Borough Council, confetti costs a significant amount of money to clean from Church Approach, footpaths and church grounds; any such cost incurred we would have to pass on to you.

Decorations/Flowers – we believe St Mary's is beautiful enough! But should you wish to add flowers or other decorations for your ceremony, please note that these must be freestanding and in places that do not interfere with Health & Safety procedures. You are not permitted to attach anything to the interior or

exterior walls of the church or its furniture. St Mary's Church is a Grade 2* listed building and special Legal Consent is required to make any alterations or attachments. Therefore the use of pins, tape, tack or glue is not permitted at any time. Please discuss any plans for decorations with the Wedding Administrator before booking a Florist of your choice.

Heating – an extra heating charge of £50 applies for all weddings, funerals and other occasions in Church between September and April. This means we will ensure the heating is on maximum in advance of your ceremony (the temperature inside the Church will be between 16 and 18 Celsius). For weddings outside this period you can request heating at the same charge.

Seating – the maximum number of guests we can provide with seating in the nave of the church is 146.

Legal Requirements

Banns of Marriage - THIS IS **VERY** IMPORTANT

The Banns of Marriage (*from a Middle English word meaning "proclamation", rooted in Old French*), commonly known simply as the "banns" are the public announcement in a Parish Church of an impending marriage between a man and a woman. The purpose of banns is to enable anyone to raise any canonical or civil legal impediment to the marriage, so as to prevent marriages that are invalid. In advance of the ceremony the Vicar will advise you of the three dates on which your banns of marriage will be called at St Mary's. Banns are normally read on the first three Sundays of the month preceding your ceremony at the Main Sunday Service, which is usually at 10am. You are asked to attend on at least one occasion.

You are **required** to ensure that your banns are read in **each parish church** where you are resident. *If your ceremony is to be held at St Mary's Church by virtue of a qualifying connection you will certainly need to arrange for your banns to be read in your local church as well. This could be more than one additional church!*

You must contact your local Church of England Vicar/Priest and make an appointment to see him/her to arrange for your banns to be called in their church (in addition to those at St Mary's Thorpe). A charge will be made for the calling of your banns and the church will present you with a certificate after the banns have been called for the third time (£41 FOR 2017). You must present the certificate to the Priest conducting your wedding at St Mary's at your rehearsal at the latest. **(Failure to have your banns read in each parish where you are resident will cause your wedding ceremony to be postponed and/or significant additional costs to you.)**

If you are unsure of how to contact your local church then go to the website www.achurchnearyou.com and enter your postcode. This will identify the correct church(es) to contact.

It is important that if you live at separate addresses banns must be read in **each parish** where you are **resident**. This could require banns to be read in **three** separate churches.

Qualifying Connection Sign-In Sheet

If you do not live within the Parish of Thorpe, or have a qualifying connection (for which it is your duty to provide proof in writing), then you will have to qualify for your wedding at St Mary's by attending our services at least once a month for six consecutive months. We are legally required to have proof of your attendance and therefore we provide a sign-in sheet for wedding couples on the welcome desk inside the main entrance to the church. It is **up to you to make sure you sign and date** this sheet every time you attend.

The Registers and Certificate of Marriage

The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019 came into force in May 2021. It has three main provisions: first, the extension of civil partnerships to couples not of the same sex; second, to allow for the mother's name and additional witnesses to be entered on marriage certificate and register; and third, to provide for electronic registration of all marriages in England and Wales, thus replacing the tradition wedding registers and certificates held at church.

On the day of your ceremony, you will now complete a "Marriage Document." We will send this our local Registry Office for inclusion and they will issue you with a certificate (within 21 days of the wedding). This is because there is now a central digital marriage register for all marriages, which replaces the old church registers. Our local office for registration is:

Weybridge Register Office, 81 Oatlands Dr, Weybridge KT13 9LN, Phone: 0300 200 1002.

The original application (banns) form that you completed when you booked your wedding at St Mary's now need to be replaced with a new form which asks for all the information required for your new 'Marriage Document'. Please note that we can no longer issue any certificates. This will now be done by the registry office at Weybridge. Should any of your details change before your wedding day, we will need you to complete a new form and present us with updated proof of identity/address. These are legal documents and should be treated with care. Only black ink may be used. When signing your 'Marriage Document' brides must always sign in their maiden name. A minimum of two witnesses are asked to sign and you need to give careful consideration as to who you would like to ask to do this. Finally, the priest signs the document. We have a new 'Register of Marriage Services' which will be written up with your details, as a record of your special day at St Mary's – but this is not a legal marriage register.

The Cost of Your Wedding

The Archbishop's Council of the Church of England sets the basic fees chargeable by parish churches and St Mary's applies these. The basic wedding fee below includes all such set charges plus the Organist's fee and Rutherwyke Room Charge. All extra fees are listed after. For 2021 the fees are:

Basic wedding	£675.
Heating (compulsory September to April)	£ 50.
Recording Fee (Video or Audio or use of Zoom/Facebook Live)	£150.
Cantor (to sing)	£60.
Bells	£40.
Wedding Candle	£20.

The charge for flowers must be agreed IN ADVANCE with the Flower Guild and paid separately to St Mary's Church Thorpe.

Payment Details

Please note that a non-refundable deposit of £200 is payable on booking your wedding, and **we suggest you make full payment for your wedding well in advance of your wedding.**

AT THIS TIME WE PREFER YOU PAY BY CARD at Church using our payment device or by online Bank Transfer to Thorpe Parochial Church Council, Account Number 10884901, Sort Code 20-81-11. (Barclays Bank). Please enter your reference with the date and time of your ceremony according to this format: weekday-DDMMYY-time, and email us a copy of your confirmation page.

Payment must have been received before the reading of your banns at St Mary's. Only in exceptional circumstances payment in CASH will be accepted before the date of your wedding rehearsal and no later!

All cheques must be made payable to **THORPE PCC**. Thank you.

Rehearsal of your Ceremony

Your wedding rehearsal will usually take place on the Thursday evening before the actual ceremony and lasts for about 45 minutes. (Friday evenings are not usually available for rehearsals.) The rehearsal should be attended by the bride and groom, best man & head bridesmaid. Your parents may also like to attend, along with one of your ushers. (Outside of Covid restrictions other bridesmaids, best men, witnesses, those reading for you, and ushers may like to attend too). Likewise if you have asked someone to play the music from your iPod or the church CD player they should also be present. *(This occasion can be a good opportunity to gather family and friends in advance of your wedding day for a celebration meal at a local public house following your rehearsal – in Thorpe Village the Red Lion and Thorpe Green the Rose and Crown come highly recommended – even if you have to eat outside at this time).*

On the Day

Children and Church – all are welcome!

St Mary's Church always welcomes families with children and we will do all we can to make them feel at home. In church we have a children's carpeted corner with a few quiet toys and books, but you may like to make up a special wedding pack with suitable things for the children to do during your ceremony. Do ask

the Ministry Team for advice on this one. To be Covid-secure you should aim to make one pack per household or child attending. These can be handed out upon arrival at Church.

Toilet facilities

There are toilets located in the Rutherwyke Room which is to be found on the South side of St Mary's Church by following the red brick path past the porch (entrance to St Mary's) and follow the one-way path through the churchyard to re-enter via the Rutherwyke Room kitchen door.

For the hard of hearing – our induction loop

Our sound system is fitted with a hearing loop which is designed for use with hearing aids that have the *T* symbol – switch to *T* to hear the ceremony relayed straight to an earpiece.

Be prepared and arrive in plenty of time!

The groom needs to arrive at the church no later than 30 minutes before the ceremony. It is his responsibility to check the registers are correct ready for signing. These will have been set up on a special table in the Rutherwyke Room in advance of the ceremony. During times of Covid restrictions it is important your guests arrive in plenty of time to. Ask them to come to church not later than 15 minutes before we are due to start. They may need to wait 2m apart along the path for entry into the Rutherwyke Room to fulfil our Covid-secure protocol. The earlier they arrive, the less likely they will have to wait outside.

The Wedding Ceremony Text

The wedding ceremony contains these key features and their meaning:

1. The **Welcome** and first prayer remind us that we are in God's house.
2. The **Preface** sets out the Church of England (Anglican) Teaching about Christian marriage.
3. The **Declarations** focus on your intention to marry, before your family and friends.
4. The **Collect, Readings** and **Talk** provide a range of reflections on marriage.
5. The **Vows, Giving of Rings** and **Proclamation** reflect upon your decision to be married and the love that you have for each other.
6. The **Blessing** and **Prayers** help us to think about the place of Prayer in marriage.

Before the start of the ceremony (just as the bride arrives for photographs outside with the bridesmaids) the priest will lead the congregation in a short rehearsal of the hymns and responses printed in the order of service. Everyone is seated until we are ready to start.

The priest will indicate the start of the service by asking the congregation to 'Stand'.

OPENING MUSIC - *The bride enters.*

The vergers lead the priest who leads the bride and her father or guardian down the aisle. Space should be left between the priest and the bride. The wedding couple meet at the chancel step (dais).

THE WELCOME *The priest welcomes the people.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

1 John 4.16

We pray together:

All **God of wonder and of joy: grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Without you, we cannot please you; without your love, our deeds are worth nothing. 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 no.1

During verse 1, the bridesmaids help the bride to remove her veil and sort out the flowers. They then all move to the chairs at the front of Church.

THE PREFACE

Read by the priest

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love. 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. 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. 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.

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. 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. *N* and *N* are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring. 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.

THE DECLARATIONS *The priest 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 priest 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 priest 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 priest 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 priest 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 *This is a prayer said by the priest.*

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.**

The congregation SIT. The couple move to their seats, bride first, walking carefully around the edge of the platform and up the step. The seats are in front of the Font (left hand side of the church).

READING (S) / POEMS / REFLECTIONS UPON MARRIAGE

HOMILY *A brief talk by the priest*

THE MARRIAGE *The couple stand before the priest at the Chancel Step.*

[*Optional - the father of the bride may be asked by the priest:*

Who gives this Woman to be married to this man? **I do.**

The bride's father (or whoever is giving her away) places the bride's right hand into the minister's, they then place the bride's hand into the groom's. The father then returns to his seat.]

THE VOWS *The priest addresses the couple.*

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

The bride and bridegroom face each other. The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his [originally a sign that the couple take each other in Law to be husband and wife]. The priest will say the words and first the groom repeats after each line:

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 then takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers and repeats the same action, this time the bride speaks after the priest:

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 priest receives the ring(s), and says the prayer:

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let *this / 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 fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, repeats after the priest:

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.

If rings are exchanged, they loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says after the priest

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.

[*If only one ring is given, before they loose hands, the bride says:*

N, 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 Priest joins their right hands together, wrapping them in their stole and says:

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

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE *The husband and wife kneel before the priest on the dais.*

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 *N*
and *N* in their new life together.

Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts and a crown upon their heads. Bless them
in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in
death. 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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

The priest says the prayer of blessing over the couple:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless and 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.**

The couple stand.

THE PROCLAMATION

The priest 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 priest may declare before the couple: You may kiss the bride.

HYMN no. 2 *The couple are led by the Verger and Priest to the High Altar step.*

PRAYERS *The priest invites the congregation to KNEEL for the prayers.*

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

The priest leads the prayers until they conclude with the Lord's Prayer:

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.

[OPTIONAL: LIGHTING OF THE WEDDING CANDLE

The priest will invite the couple to stand before the high altar. The bride will stand on one side of the wedding candle and the groom on the other. The Verger will take a light from the Paschal (Easter) candle. The two tapers are passed to the minister. The minister may use these words of preparation:

These tapers have been lit from the Paschal candle, which represents the light of Christ. As a reminder of the vows you have just made, you will light your wedding candle and these two distinct lights will merge into one. This is what the Lord meant when He said, "On this account a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall be one flesh."

From now on your thoughts shall be for each other rather than your individual selves. Your plans shall be mutual, your joys and sorrows shall be shared alike. As this one light cannot be divided, neither shall your lives be divided but shine forth as a united testimony, in a Christian home.

A lit taper is passed from the minister to both the bride and groom. Together, they light the Wedding Candle which symbolises Unity.

Let us pray:

Living God, as this candle burns brightly on this wedding day,
so we celebrate your love for us

mirrored in the love of N & N for each other. By the gift of your Holy Spirit, the life giver, may they know the risen Lord Jesus Christ to be with them now, as they celebrate this covenant together.

May this candle be to them a reminder
of the vows and covenant that they have made this day.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.]**

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The priest prays over the people:

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

The vergers with the priest lead the couple out of the chancel through the link door into the Rutherwyke Room for the signing of the registers. The wedding party will follow – parents, best man, bridesmaids and the two witnesses (if not already part of listed above).

*The bride will sign first, then the groom followed by the two witnesses, then the priest.
When the official signing is complete, one register will be set ready for a mock-up photo.*

Following photos the priest hands the bride her certificate. Then we form a procession with the bride and groom first, just inside the link door arch into the Chancel.

THE MARRIED COUPLE ARE INTRODUCED TO THE CONGREGATION

The priest will announce the happy couple and they exit (on their own) through the link door arch into the Chancel and pause for photos under the Norman arch. After a brief pause for photographs, the priest will signal to the lead bridesmaid for the rest of the party and the family (e.g. parents, who may exchange partners) and procession to follow on behind.

An appropriate piece of recessional music is played.

The collection plate is left by the main door for the generosity of the guests.

Photos of the happy couple may be taken at the door before the congregation follows on behind them.

CONGRATULATIONS!

*Complete & return the form on the next page and that is your
wedding ceremony prepared!*

*Father Damian, Father Gerard and Mother Jo and congregation of St Mary's Church
Thorpe wish you every blessing for your wedding day and your married life together.
You are very much in our thoughts and prayers.*

WEDDING SERVICE FORM – CHECK LIST for St Mary’s Church, Thorpe

Names of Couple _____

Date of Wedding _____ Time of Wedding _____

Expected number of guests in church: _____

We would like (please delete Y/N **AND** required specifications as appropriate)...

- | | | |
|------|---|-------|
| i) | To use our iPod* in church during the signing of the registers | Y / N |
| ii) | To have the Church Bells rung | Y / N |
| iii) | To have permission to record our wedding** | Y / N |
| iv) | To request a Choir / Cantor (please specify) | Y / N |
| v) | To exchange rings (please specify: two rings / one ring bride only) | Y / N |
| vi) | To light a wedding candle as part of our ceremony | Y / N |
| | (please specify: we will bring our own candle / please provide a candle for us) | |
| vii) | To have flowers in church*** | Y / N |
| | (please specify: please put us in contact with Flower Guild / | |
| | we will arrange a Florist: Name + Telephone.....) | |
| | AND we will leave the flowers in church for Sunday / we will take the flowers with us) | |

Our chosen hymns and music are:

- i) Hymns with organ (three required):
- ii) Processional Organ Music (entry of bride):
- iii) Recessional Organ Music (exit of bridal couple):
- iv) Music at the signing of registers (maximum two - please specify organ/choir/cantor/recorded music/hired musician from outside St Mary’s for each piece):

Our chosen readings (max. two in total; with readers’ names shown in Order of Service) are:

- i.) Bible reading(s) (at least one from the New Testament):
- ii.) Other reading (e.g. poem):

We (the bride & groom) will arrange for an Order of Service booklet (A5 format) to be printed according to the template we will receive based on this document. We will have any changes to the template approved through the Parish Administrator before going to print.

Please return this form digitally to stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com or as hardcopy to a member of the Ministry Team. Please submit only once you have **completed all parts** including the details of the Florist (if applicable) but **no later than 10 weeks before your ceremony**.

* You must bring your own iPod and find someone to operate the recorded music during the service.

** You must arrange the recording yourselves – St Mary’s Church will only provide the licence.

*** Not available for Lent and Advent weddings; you must arrange a Florist yourselves and he/she must comply with restrictions according to Listed Building Status and Health & Safety regulations for St Mary’s Church.