

St Mary's Church, Thorpe



THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Full Service Text

Common Worship 2000

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY.

Before the service begins, these announcements are made:

- ❖ Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off.
- ❖ Other than the official wedding photographer, NO Photographs are permitted during the wedding service. Please save taking photos to when the bride & groom walk down the aisle at the end of the service. Please don't use flash.
- ❖ A collection plate is sited at the back of church for your gift to St Mary's Church. Please use a yellow gift-aid envelope for your donation, signing it and placing the money inside.
- ❖ At the end of the service, the congregation are asked not to rush to leave the church as the happy couple will be having photographs taken at and around the north door.
- ❖ Please save your confetti for the reception venue. Don't throw it outside the Church or in Church Approach.
- ❖ In the printed order of service, the parts we say together are highlighted with *All* in the margin, and **bold print**.
- ❖ A rehearsal of the hymns will take place just before the service begins.
- ❖ The Groom should arrive 30minutes before the start of the Wedding service to check the registers are correct. He then takes his seat on the front row with the best man on the Left hand side. The front right hand side is kept free for bridesmaids. The first row back on either side is kept for the parents of the bride (Left) and groom (right).
- ❖ The priest will indicate the start of the service by asking the congregation to 'Stand'.
- ❖ Set hearing aids to **T** for use of our induction hearing loop.

The Marriage Service

OPENING MUSIC - The Bride Enters

The Verger leads the bridesmaids and then the priest.

The priest walks in front of 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 (Dias).

The Welcome

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

The Priest welcomes the people and introduces the prayer:

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

During verse 1, one of the bridesmaids help the bride to remove her veil and take hold of her bouquet. The bride and groom remain at the centre, front.

THE PREFACE

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

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.**

Everyone is asked to be seated. The couple move to their seats in front of the Font on the right-hand side of the church, being careful to watch their step.

READING (S) (POEMS may be included here also)
A bible reading MUST be included here

HOMILY *a short reflection by the priest*

THE MARRIAGE

The couple stand before the Priest at the Chancel Step / dais.

[*Optional - The Father of the bride may be asked:*

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Answer: **I do.**

The brides father, or whomever is giving her away, places the brides right hand into the grooms. The father then returns to his seat.]

The Vows

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]

GROOM: 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 says

BRIDE: 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:*

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 fourth 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.

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

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 couple turn to face the Priest, who joins their right hands together, wrapping them in his white stole and saying:

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

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The husband and wife kneel before the Priest at the chancel step dais.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you have created joy and gladness,

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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.**

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The minister says to the couple, making the sign of the cross over them.

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.**

THE PROCLAMATION

The Priest addresses the people - the Couple STAND.

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.

HYMN

The couple are led by the Verger & Priest to the high Altar Step.

Prayers *some or all of these prayers may be used*

The response to the prayer:

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

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, and we pray for them.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, creator and redeemer,
from whom comes every good and perfect gift,
fill *N* and *N* with the riches of your grace
and breathe into their marriage

the strength of your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
enriched by your presence and

strengthened by your grace;
may they bring comfort and confidence
to each other in faithfulness and trust.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;
may their love overflow to neighbours in need
and embrace those in distress.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they discern in your word, the bible,
order and purpose for their lives;
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they nurture their family with devotion,
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit
and come at last to the end of their lives
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

In a time of quiet we bring our own prayers before God.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our 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.**

[THE LIGHTING OF THE WEDDING CANDLE

Before the blessing and signing of the registers, the priest may invite the couple to light their wedding candle. The Verger will take a light from the Paschal (Easter) candle. The two tapers are passed to the priest who prays:

These tapers have been lit from the Easter Paschal candle, which represents the light of Christ.

As a reminder of the vows you have just made, you are asked to light your wedding candle and these two distinct flames 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 priest 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.**

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THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL *The Priest says*

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.**

HYMN

REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

The Verger leads the couple to the Rutherwyke Room for the signing of the registers. The Priest asks the congregation to sit.

Those invited to attend: Witnesses, Best Man & principle/head bridesmaid, Parents of the bride and groom

The photographer or videographer are not permitted to take pictures or film during the actual signing as the registers contain information which is party to the data protection act. Following the signing the procession line up in the Link, between the Rutherwyke Room and the Chancel door.

*The priest introduces the newly married couple to the congregation:
Please be upstanding to welcome Mr & Mrs N.*

The bells are rung. The couple enter the church through the Link door into the Chancel and pause under the Chancel Arch for photographs, before the rest of the procession follows on behind.

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

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