



Your Wedding in the Five Saints Team

Why get married in church anyway ?

A marriage service, wherever it is held, is a public declaration of love and commitment to your partner. If you choose to get married in church, there is an added dimension - the assurance that God cares about your relationship and that His resources and strength are available to help you.

Including God in your marriage doesn't mean that you will avoid all the usual ups and downs, but you will know that you can look to God for help and guidance and that his love will sustain you. You will also have the support and encouragement of the Christian Church family.



We are very pleased that you have decided to get married in one of the churches in the Five Saints Team. This booklet contains things that you need to know, to help you prepare for your wedding.

Date of the Wedding

You will obviously need to find a date and time which suits all those taking part. You may also need to book the reception well in advance.

Also please bear in mind that the church will need as much notice as possible, especially as Saturdays can get booked up very quickly. However weddings may be arranged for other days of the week and this helps considerably in finding a good venue for the reception.



Banns

The “Banns” are in effect public announcements made in the parishes in which you live, which declare that you (both of your full names are stated) are intending to marry. It further requires that anyone who knows of a legitimate reason why you cannot be married, then they must declare that reason to the church authorities. In that unlikely event, the wedding would be cancelled.

Your Banns have to be called within the three months leading up to your wedding day. If you both live in the parish where you are getting married, the Banns need only be called there. But if either of you live elsewhere, the Banns will need to be called in your home parish as well, and you will have to see the minister there to make these arrangements.

Afterwards it is your responsibility to collect from that minister a formal certificate which states that the Banns have been read there in accordance with church law. This

certificate must then be handed to the minister here as soon as possible. These actions are very important since a failure to provide this document at the right time would prevent the wedding taking place.

Don't forget that Banns have to be called on three Sundays within three months of the wedding date - so leave plenty of time. If the Banns cannot be called for any reason, (e.g. because one of you is not a British citizen) you will need to obtain a licence or a superintendent registrars certificate. One of the clergy will explain the procedure.

If you have been married before there are other procedures to follow. Please speak to a member of the clergy team about this.

Hymns, Music and Readings.

The clergy will be happy to discuss the music, hymns, and suitable readings for the ceremony. It's best to stick to hymns or tunes that most people know, otherwise there can be an embarrassed silence when the time comes to sing.

Some suitable Hymns, and Bible readings are shown on subsequent pages in this booklet, for your consideration. You may want to select others, but you do need to discuss your choices with the minister taking the service.



Order of Service Booklets

We do have hymn books, but couples often prefer to have their own Order of Service booklets for all guests, which not only shows the order in which the service progresses, but contains all the words of the hymns at the place in the service where they are needed.

If you are intending to have these, then they need to be organized in good time. After writing the booklet, it must be checked through with the minister before printing, so please allow time for this to happen.

Other People Involved

As well as your Bridesmaids and Best Man you will need Ushers to give everyone a service booklet as they enter the church, and to show them to their seats. It is usual for the Bridegroom with his Best Man to sit in their seats as their guests arrive. The Bride's father or whoever else is "giving her away", will normally arrive with the Bride, and process into church together, at the beginning of the ceremony.



You will also need two witnesses to sign the register. These are often one parent from each family, or the Best Man and Chief Bridesmaid, who are asked to do this, but anyone can act as a witness if they are over 18 years of age. It would be a good idea to forewarn witnesses so that they are close by, at the right moment.

Rehearsal

Shortly before the Wedding Day, you and the other main participants in the service will be invited to a rehearsal in the church. This is very important so that you will feel completely familiar with everything that is going to happen. You will feel a lot more confident if you have walked through the service beforehand.

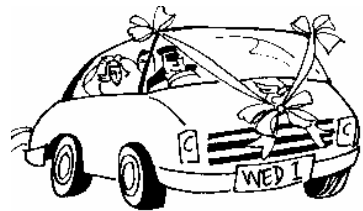
Flowers in Church

If you are thinking having flowers in the church please discuss this with the minister well in advance, because if there are several weddings on one day, there may not be sufficient time to rearrange flowers between the services.



Best Time to arrive at the Church

When you book the cars, always allow plenty of time for traffic delays and unforeseen hitches. It may be a tradition for the Bride to arrive late, but it is not a good one! If you are late, it not only keeps your guests waiting, but it may also cause problems for those getting married after you. So please arrange for the bridal car to arrive at least five minutes before the service is due to begin. (It will take more than five minutes for you to get from the car to the church porch by the time you have had all the photographs taken !)



The Bridegroom, Best Man and Ushers must arrive at least 20 minutes before the service is due to start.

Costs

Current charges for church services etc., are shown on the enclosed leaflet.

Choice of Hymns



Please note that we have only given the first lines of these suggested hymns. For the full text of all verses please refer to a suitable hymn book.

- Praise my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring.
- Guide me, O though great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
- Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down.
- Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
- The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want,
He maketh me down to lie.
- Lead us, heavenly father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea.
- Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices.

- Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird. . .
- Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy. . .
- O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end,
be thou ever near me, my Master and my Friend.
- At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of Glory now.
- Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
You are one with us, Mary's Son
- I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun. . .
- Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways.

Or you may choose others, which have some special meaning to you.

Old Testament Readings

Genesis chapter 1 verses 26 - 28 & verse 31

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.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Jeremiah chapter 31 verses 31 - 34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

New Testament Readings

John chapter 2 verses 1 -11

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.

Matthew chapter 5 verses 1 -10

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.

1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 4-13

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.

Philippians chapter 4 verses 4-9

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.

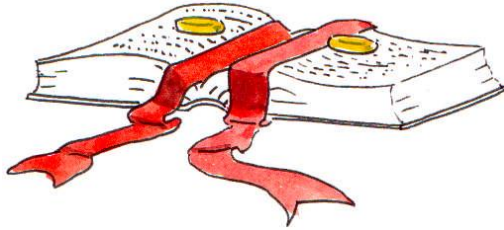
Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and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

Colossians chapter 3 verses 12 -17

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.

All Bible readings shown in this booklet are suggestions only. There are many other readings that could be suitable, and the clergy would be pleased to help you select something that you may prefer.



.....and finally,

You have decided to make your marriage vows before God, but in all the hustle and bustle it is easy to forget God. So before the wedding day arrives, try and give yourselves time to be quiet together and read through the marriage service and think about what it means to you. Do this so that you start to focus on God and his love for you, which is the heart of Christian marriage.

Don't forget,

Should you need to discuss any aspect of the marriage you can contact the Revd Jenny Penn as follows:-

Address: 130 Green Lane, Bolton, BL3 2HX

e-mail: Jenny@fivesaints.org

Phone No. 01204 524184

Further help may be found at....

www.fivesaints.org

www.yourchurchwedding.org