



**Wedding Information
Booklet**

2016

We hope that the information here will help in planning your wedding day and beyond.

The marriage service uses these words:

“The Scriptures teach us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.”

Your marriage is a public declaration of your love for each other and a statement of your commitment to an ongoing relationship. It will give you a new legal status as husband and wife and a new stability within which your relationship can grow and flourish.

First, it is to be the best and closest friendship.

Second, it offers the right place for the fulfilment of our sexuality. Sex is a wonderful God-given gift, experienced at its best in the context of a totally committed relationship.

Third, it provides a happy, stable and secure environment for bringing up children.

In choosing to get married in church you are also saying that you want God to be part of your relationship.

The Bible is full of references to love and Christians

believe that the love we have for each other is a reflection of God's love for his people on earth.

Jesus demonstrated this love most perfectly by being prepared to sacrifice himself, even to die for us, on the cross at Calvary.

Christians believe that in this amazing example of unconditional love Jesus dealt once for all with the problem of our sinfulness. He made it possible for us to have and enjoy a new relationship with God as we believe and put our trust in Him.

In our marriages we can try to follow this model by loving our partner in a self-sacrificial way, always putting their needs before our own.

Including God in your marriage doesn't mean that you will necessarily avoid the usual ups and downs, but you will know that you can look to him for help and guidance and that his love will sustain you in the years ahead.

You will also have the support and encouragement of the Christian church family to rely on.

The Wedding Service

Beginning the Service

Traditionally the bride and groom enter the church separately - the groom first with the best man and the bride at the set time for the service, led down the aisle on the arm of her father or a close relative.

Declarations

You will be asked to promise before God, your family and friends that you will love, comfort, honour and protect your partner and be faithful to them as long as you both shall live.

Vows

The bride and groom make vows that have hardly changed for more than eight hundred years.

*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.*

In many ways, this is a high point in the service, as the bride and groom hold hand and make their marriage vows to each other it symbolises that they are setting aside their single lives and wish to begin an new life together dependent on one another.

Rings

In the marriage service the couple exchange a ring or rings, A symbol of unending love and faithfulness. A constant reminder of the vows:

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.

Proclamation

When all this has been done, the minister will tell everyone that you are now husband and wife!

Readings

As we celebrate your marriage before God and your family and friends, it's good to hear God's word from the Bible. A friend or the minister usually reads this if you prefer.

There is usually a short talk by the minister about the importance of the step you have taken and where God is in all that you have done. You can find a list of appropriate Bible readings at the back of this pack.

Prayers

In the course of the service the minister asks for God's blessing on you as you begin your married life together. There are usually prayers for your home, for children and for you. These can be led by the minister or by someone else if you chose.

Signing of the register

After you have exchanged your vows, the bride, groom and two witnesses - these are usually the best man and chief bridesmaid, but they can be parents, family members or good friends – sign the registers. This fulfils the legal requirements and, as registrar, the minister will give you a copy of the certificate of marriage.

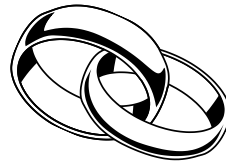
Life together

All these 'ingredients' will, we hope, be a special and significant part of your special day.

Your wedding day is the first day of the rest your life together!

Alongside the wedding preparations it is also important to spend time as a couple talking through your expectations of marriage.

However much you think you have in common, you are still two separate individuals with different backgrounds, personalities, experiences, hopes and fears.



What do you think will contribute to a successful marriage?

You may like to number the following factors in order of importance.

- Being faithful.
- Having enough money.
- Respect for each other.
- Having your own home.
- Similar backgrounds.
- Sharing political views.
- Similar religious views.
- Tolerance.
- Good sex.
- Sharing household chores.
- Being able to talk to each other.
- Children.
- Being best friends.
- The ability to forgive.

Compare your answers with your partner.
How will you resolve any differences?
How will you make sure that you grow and change both individually and together?
Your minister is always very willing to listen and help if needed.

Wedding Information 2016

Stages in your Preparation

- To book the date and time of the wedding.
- To attend Church as often as you can. We have found that getting married often causes people to think about where God is in their lives and where he will be in their married life together. Coming to Church will give you an opportunity to explore this together and also help the Vicar get to know you better!!
- To meet the clergy conducting your service three months before the date of the wedding. Please contact the office for an appointment. Arrangements will be made for the reading of Banns of Marriage. Please come ready to complete the "WEDDING DETAILS" form.
- To rehearse the wedding ceremony. This will usually be during the week prior to the wedding.

Banns of Marriage

It is the responsibility of the partner not resident in the Parish of St Mary's, Grassendale to get his/her Banns called in the Parish Church where he/she resides. A Certificate (for which a fee is payable) should be collected and brought to the Minister

conducting your wedding at the rehearsal. Banns have to be called on three Sundays within a three-month period before your wedding.

Electoral Roll

Where neither partner lives in the Parish, you will have arranged with the Vicar to apply for membership of the church Electoral Roll. Please ensure that you attend a Sunday Service weekly for a period of six months prior to the three month interview with the Minister conducting your wedding. At the end of the six-month period please complete an Electoral Roll Application Form (available from the Vicar) and return it to him. Please note you still need to have the banns read in the Parish in which you live, so please make sure you contact the minister in good time. It has to be stressed that six months attendance is a legal requirement for membership of the Electoral Roll. If an application to the Church Council is unsuccessful it will not be possible to proceed with your wedding arrangements. Please note!

Criteria for getting married in a Parish Church

You can get married in a Parish church without living in the parish or being on the Electoral Roll if

- If you were baptised in that church
- If you were confirmed in that church
- Your parents or grandparents were married in that church
- You have lived in that parish for 6 months whether you are currently living in that parish or not.
- A parent lives in that parish
- A parent worships in that church

Photography

An official photographer should be appointed for your wedding. They should feel free to take photographs outside the Church to cover the arrivals, in the Church porch, in the vestry or side chapel following the signing of the Registers and from the back of the Church as the bride and groom walk down the aisle at the end of the service. They may also bring the bride and groom back to the chancel step and/or communion rail after guests have left the Church.

After the service family and group photographs may be posed in the Church grounds.

Please impress upon the photographer that they must not delay the start of the wedding or intrude into the time allotted for any following wedding.

As a general guideline we request that the wedding party leaves the churchyard no later than one hour after the starting time arranged with the Church.

In the interests of the dignity and sanctity of the ceremony itself ***guests are respectfully requested not to take photographs during the service and the photographer can only take timed exposures and no flash photography during the service.***

Please can you let your guests know this, thank you.

Video

General use of video cameras by guests is not allowed during the service. This causes us problems with our church music copyright Licence. However, arrangements can be made for the service to be recorded by a member of the Institute of Videography. He will be asked to operate strictly within the guidelines laid out in the "VIDEO

RECORDING OF A MARRIAGE SERVICE "
information sheet. A signed copy of the agreement to abide by these conditions should be returned to the Minister taking your Service no less than three weeks before the date of the wedding. Please note the relevant fees on the fees list

Bells

St Mary's has an electronic peel of bells. The bells can be made available for a wedding. Final arrangements for the use of the bells will be made at the three-month interview.

Confetti

We do not want to unduly inhibit your guests! However, it is not permitted to throw confetti within the church buildings.

Printed Service Sheets

These are an optional feature and couples are responsible for making their own arrangements for printing or duplicating. A sample order of service is printed for you later in this brochure. Certain wedding hymns can only be printed on condition that their copyright details are given. Details of these hymns and copyright details are printed later in this brochure. We would also be grateful if the following words could be included on any hand-out:

"Guests are respectfully requested not to take photographs during the service and to refrain from throwing confetti in the church buildings. Thank you."

Ushers

Your choice of ushers is important! They are usually the first people that your guests meet as they arrive for the service in church. As well as giving out the service books and service sheets they are responsible for greeting your guests and showing them to the appropriate seats. Following the service it is helpful if the ushers collect any service books and sheets that have been left in the pews and leave them at the back of church.

Arrival Times

It may be helpful to you to know our recommended arrival times for a prompt and unhurried start to a wedding ceremony !

Experience suggests that optimum arrival times are:

Ushers - 30 minutes before the ceremony

Groom and best man - 20 minutes

Bridesmaids - 10 minutes

Bride - 5 minutes

You will appreciate that it is particularly important that we start on time when there is another wedding service later in the afternoon.

Fees

Full details of the fees for 2016 are listed on the following page.

A deposit of £50 is required for all weddings

Passports

If you are planning on going abroad immediately

after the wedding it is possible to have the ladies passport amended to her married name and post-dated to the date of the wedding.

A form **PD2 – Post-Dated Passports** can be obtained from the Post Office. This should be filled in and brought to the Office Hour in the Vestry in Church on Mondays 6.30 – 7.30pm for completion by the person taking your wedding

Arrangements for flowers at weddings

This note summarises the arrangements for providing flowers at weddings.

First, it should be appreciated that the Church has a group of ladies who arrange fresh flowers, which are on display in the Church throughout the year. They provide arrangements each week. One at the side of the communion table and one in the porch.

If additional displays are required, the bridal parties can also arrange for these to be done by our flower arrangers or by their own florist. Wedding parties are welcome to remove these additional flowers, but not the arrangements mentioned above,

AFTER the final wedding of the day (or on the Monday by arrangement.)

Pew end displays must be tied into position. Under no circumstances should nails or tape be used.

Wedding Fees 2016

These are:

(a) statutory fees as laid down by the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986 and authorised by the Parochial Fees Order 1993

(b) additional local fees specific to St Mary's Church.

Please could you put each fee payment in a separate envelope. Clearly mark each envelope with the fee heading and details of your surnames and the date and time of your wedding.

.1.	LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN FEE	£189
2.	ST MARY'S CHURCH FEE	£307
	Parochial Church Council	£226
	Wedding certificate	£ 4
	Banns	£ 27
	Verger (optional)	£ 50
	Total Fee	£496

The organist's fee of £100 is payable directly to him

If you require heating there is an additional charge £60.

If you are in difficult financial circumstances and payment of these fees will cause added problems for you, please do not hesitate to contact the Vicar.

Planning your wedding ceremony

This will be done in close liaison with the minister conducting your wedding ceremony. He will meet with you three months before the wedding day to discuss the details of the service and to finalise the service format. He will be happy to be available at other times to help you in your preparation.

Although the order of service is laid down in the Church of England's Common Worship Service's there are a number of ways in which you can add your own distinctive 'flavour' to a wedding service. We would encourage you to see this as 'your' service and to give careful thought to what you would like to include.

Please choose your own hymns (two or three of them) and the music for the bride's arrival and your departure as a couple at the end of the service. You may get ideas for these from the list of suggested music on the following pages. If you need to borrow a hymnbook please have a word with the Vicar at the end of a Sunday service. Please also choose your own Bible reading. Again, we have listed a number of popular and appropriate readings on the following pages from which you might like to choose.

You might like to consider whether a member of your family or a close friend would like to read the

passage of scripture during the service. You need to choose someone able to project their voice clearly, who believes what s/he is saying (!) and who will be able to attend the rehearsal in the week before the wedding.

It is also possible to change in some respects the traditional 'shape' of a marriage ceremony. You may have ideas you would like to talk through. Think carefully - and make it your aim to have a service that both honour God and expresses, with integrity, your love for each other.

Once the order of service has been finalised at the three-month interview you may choose to have the headings and hymns printed on an Order of Service card. This is entirely optional. Should you decide to produce an Order of Service card, then a standard layout for this is as follows:

Bridal March and composer.

Welcome

Hymn

The Marriage (as a heading)

Hymn (this can be omitted if you are only having two hymns)

Bible reading: _____

Sermon by: _____

And finally ...

A prayer for you both to say

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who gave marriage to be a source of blessing to all
mankind,
please be in all the joy and excitement of the prepara-
tions we are making for our
wedding.

Be in our hearts and minds,
that our love for each other may grow and flourish.

And as we prepare for our wedding day may we know
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
to be with us in our preparations and for evermore.

Amen.

“We are a family run business, established for over 15 years and based in Garston Old Road, just across from the Church.

We cater for all sizes of weddings from two buttonholes through to the Town Hall reception!

Early booking is recommended, but we are always pleased to show our portfolio and give a price list with no obligation to book with us.

In our shop we have a portfolio containing many examples of our work including bridal bouquets, bridesmaids posies, Church flowers and reception flowers. We are always happy to advise brides and discuss their ideas.

We only take one bridal booking for any particular date to enable us to offer our full attention to that bride (and groom, of course!)

Please contact Katherine Challinor at *FLEUR*, 73 Garston Old Road – 0151 494 1007



Flowers for every occasion

