THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE SERVICE - THE VOWS

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

we have come together to witness the marriage of X and Y,

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 bodily 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.

X and Y 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 minister says to the bridegroom X, will you take Y to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers I will.

The minister says to the bride Y, will you take X to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers I will.

The minister says Who gives X to be Y's wife? THIS IS OPTIONAL

The father replies I do

The minister says to the congregation

Will you, the families and friends of *X* and *Y* support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All We will.

BREAK HERE

The minister continues X and Y, 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, and says

I, X, take you, Y,
to be my wife,
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

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

I, Y, take you, X,
to be my husband,
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands.

The Giving of Rings

The minister receives the rings, and says

Heavenly Father, by your blessing, let these rings be to *X* and *Y* 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

X, I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage. With my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you, within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says

Y, I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage. With my body I honour you, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you, within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Proclamation

The minister addresses the people
In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
X and Y 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.

For old fashioned type wording as an option visit

http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/1928/Marriage.htm and let the Vicar know you would prefer that version

The place where the vows is in the service may vary according to which minister is taking your service

PLEASE CHOOSE EITHER ONE OR TWO BIBLE READINGS FROM THE BELOW READINGS, BUT NOT TWO OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES OR TWO GOSPEL PASSAGES

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Genesis 1.26-28

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.'

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me:

'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom;

they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;

for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house,

it would be utterly scorned

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1 Corinthians 13.1-13

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

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a

mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3.14-20

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

Ephesians 5.21-33

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind – yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Philippians 4.4-9

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 3.12-17

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.

1 John 4.7-12

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

GOSPEL READINGS

Matthew 7.21,24-29

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

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

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

Mark 10.6-9,13-16

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 2.1-11

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.

John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

John 15.9-17

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

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

PRAYERS A

CHOOSE TWO OR THREE

A God of love,

we thank you for the gift of marriage and for the joys it brings. Bless us as we share in this wedding. We thank you for the love which has brought X and Y to each other and for their desire to share that love for the rest of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

B Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
reign in the home of these your servants as Lord and King;
give them grace to minister to others as you have ministered to them,
and grant that by deed and word
they may be witnesses of your saving love
to those among whom they live;
for the sake of your holy name.

All Amen.

C God of all grace, Almighty God, you send your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of all your people.
Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace, that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

ΑII

D Faithful God, giver of all good things, give X and Y wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their life together.

May they dwell together in love and peace all the days of their life, seeking one another's welfare, bearing one another's burdens, and sharing one another's joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

E Eternal God,

without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure. Strengthen X and Y with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that they may fulfil the vows they have made. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome. Make their life together a sign of Christ's love in this broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair; through Jesus Christ our Lord. All Amen.

F 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. *All* **Amen.**

G All praise and blessing to you, God of love, creator of the universe. maker of man and woman in your likeness. source of blessing for married life. All praise to you, for you have created courtship and marriage, joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight. May your blessing come in full upon X and Y May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows. May they reach old age in the company of friends and come at last to your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

WEDDING SERVICE DETAILS

Surname of Groom and Bride			
Date of Service	Time		
Church		olease circle YES to relevant one – Choose just one	
Music for the Entrance of the Bride	- please circle YES to		
A: The Bridal March B: Trumpet Tune C: The Prince of Denmark's March D: The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba E: YOUR CHOICE OF CD OR OTHER PIECE Name of piece – CD OR ORGAN?		YES YES YES	
		YES	
Music for Departure of the Couple -	please circle YES to re	elevant one – Choose just one	
F: Wedding March G: Toccata from Symphony 5 – Widor H: Ode to Joy – Beethoven I: Hornpipe from Handel's Water Music		YES YES YES YES	
E: YOUR CHOICE OF CD OR OTHER PIECE Name of piece – CD OR ORGAN?		YES	
Music for Signing of Registers (allow	v 7 minutes) – please	circle YES to relevant one – Choose	
just one ORGANISTS DISCRETION CD SOLO PERFORMERS		YES YES YES	
Opening Hymn:			
Second Hymn:			
Final Hymn:			
CHOIR? BELLS? FLOWERS? appropriate)		YES/NO (please delete as appropriate) YES/NO (please delete as appropriate) YES/NO (please delete as	

Please return this by post to Karen Goodwin, Wedding Adminstrator, Karen Goodwin, Wedding Co-ordinator, All

Saints Church office, Church Street, Whitstable CT5 1PG at email as an attachment to kag@goodwin95.plus.com at least a month before your wedding – thank you

Hymns that we recommend

Love Divine All Loves Excelling – tune Blaernwern or tune Love Divine

Praise my soul the King of Heaven

O Jesus I have promised – tune Thornbury or Appleford

Lord of the dance

Morning has broken

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer

Lord of all hopefulness

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Tell out my soul

Jerusalem

This space below is for your notes during the wedding session

FEES FOR MARRIAGES AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

WHITSTABLE

For weddings services between 1 January and 31 December 2021

Statutory Marriage Fees (these are not optional)	£464
Wedding certificate	£11
Banns fee when you live in the parish	£31
Certificate of banns for weddings at other churches	£15
Non Statutory Fees (these are all optional and extra but are strongly advised to have the verger, and organist if yo Flowers	u want hymns) £80.00*
Fees for verger	40.00
Choir	130.00
Bells	130.00
Heating (October to April inclusive)	40.00

The £50 deposit you pay when booking your wedding is deducted from the total when you pay the outstanding balance. It is not refundable if there is a cancellation of your wedding.

*This is the contribution asked if you wish to have specially chosen flowers for your wedding. Otherwise, the flowers on your wedding day, in the church will be the normal weekly flower arrangements. Please note we do not permit private individuals or businesses to come in and organise flower pedestals or arrangements at the church as it may conflict with another wedding on the same day or with the plans of our flower arrangers. However, pew ends may be brought in separately.

To discuss online payments call our church wedding administrator Karen on 01227 273448 or even better email our treasurer Malcolm Waller at malcolm.waller@outlook.com

The fee is to be paid by cheque to the Treasurer FOUR weeks before the wedding. Cheques are to be made payable to All Saints' Whitstable DCC.

General information

<u>Confetti</u> may be thrown providing this is done well away from the entrances to the church. Your guests are requested not to take photographs during the wedding service. Professional photographers may take photographs during the signing of the registers and (with limited flash) during the service. Everyone may take photographs as you walk through the church at the end of the service. If there is a wedding following your service, we ask that you move as soon as possible to the south side of the church for photographs. **December 2018**

Special note for photographers

Please copy this into an email and send to your photographer and video camera operators

The Vicar at All Saints Whitstable would be grateful if you could meet him briefly before the service and he will inform you of the two places in the church where photographers and video camera operators are able to stand. These allow good viewpoints onto proceedings. Flash may be used but sparingly please as it can be very intrusive. Please do not walk around during the service as it can be distracting. Thank you.

One issue that has come up recently is that on a number of weddings photographers were wearing very informal clothes which meant they were very obvious and stood out from the crowd (for example t-shirts and shorts have been worn on occasions). We are sorry if this appears patronising but we have to mention this as an issue as it has caused problems on some previous weddings. We are very welcoming to photographers and video camera operators, realise how important they are to proceedings, but urge their discretion and willingness to blend into proceedings at all times.

Rev Simon Tillotson The Vicarage Church Street Whitstable CT5 1PG 01227 272308 tillotsons@gmail.com

BANNS

IF YOU OR YOUR PARTNER LIVE OUTSIDE WHITSTABLE

Please contact your local vicar for your nearest Church of England church to arrange your banns to be read. Preferably contact them **soon** as this is something that can be forgotten and without your banns being read your marriage will not be able to go ahead at All Saints Whitstable. A quick drive around your local area will reveal to you your nearest Church of England church and there is normally a phone number on the board outside the church. Please bear in mind it has to be a Church of England church, not Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal etc.

There is also a website called www.achurchnearyou.com which can be very helpful.

You will need to give the local church a fee of £46 after your banns have been read. They will read the banns at the local church on Sunday and it is polite and normal practise to go and hear them read as often as you are able. They are read for three weeks running. Please note that you should post your banns certificate to Rev Simon Tillotson at The Vicarage, Church Street, Whitstable, CT5 1PG, or bring it to the wedding rehearsal, once your banns have been read at the church where you live.

IF YOU LIVE IN WHITSTABLE

Your banns will be read the first three Sundays of the month before your wedding. Providing your banns are not being read in another parish, it is traditional to attend all three services when your banns are read. Please make every effort to attend all three services.

WHEN?

Normally your banns will be read towards the end of the service which starts at 10am on Sundays.

In August on the second Sunday of the month the Banns will be read at the Pet service in the Vicarage garden which starts at the same time of 10am.

There is a Sunday school for children which you are also welcome to attend if your children are unsure about going out on their own. You will be back from Sunday school in time to hear your banns.

IF YOU ARE A FOREIGN NATIONAL

If you are not a UK citizen you now need to complete civil formalities instead. Please talk to Simon immediately after the session today to discuss this.

MAKING YOUR OWN ORDER OF SERVICE - ADVICE

- 1. We are only able to give you advice for orders of service using this basic order of service. If you wish to make up a special cover into which this order would fit, that is fine.
- 2. Hymn words for the hymns you want can be found at the website www.hymnal.oremus.org although check for any Americanised spellings. Alternatively, come to a church service at 10am and at the end of the service borrow a hymn book from us, checking your choice of hymns are in the hymn book.
- 3. Please remember to do three extra, for the organist, Vicar and verger. If you have asked for the choir to sing, please do an extra ten copies for them. It's always a good idea to do about twenty more than the number of people you are expecting.
- 4. Please double-check all spellings. To be extra safe send a copy of your order of service to the Vicarage at the below address in a stamped-addressed envelope, making sure the postage is sufficient on the envelope. Remember the Vicar does go on holiday so allow <u>at least a month</u> before your wedding if you wish him to check it, and get it back to you in time for it to be printed.

Rev Simon Tillotson The Vicarage Church Street Whitstable CT5 1PG

Or email it to him at tillotsons@gmail.com

Some quite serious mistakes have occurred in orders of service when he has not checked it beforehand!

- 5. Your ushers are responsible for bringing them to the church on the day and giving them out to guests as they arrive.
- 6. Because we do not have high quality printing equipment at the church office we are unable to print orders of service for weddings.

RESPONSE SHEET FOR WEDDING REQUIREMENTS

Name of couple:

Date of wedding and time:

REQUIREMENTS

VERGER £40 YES/ NO/ WILL CONFIRM

BELLS £130 YES / NO / WILL CONFIRM

CHOIR £130 YES/ NO/ WILL CONFIRM

FLOWERS £80 YES/ NO/ WILL CONFIRM

ORGANIST £90 YES/ NO / WILL CONFIRM

HEATING (October to April inclusive) £40 YES/ NO/ WILL CONFIRM

Footnotes:

Verger – Unlocks church, makes sure church is tidy and ready for the service, gets registers out of cupboard and arranges church for wedding, operates sound system during service, and is there as a source of information for guests and to help with any problems amongst a number other duties. Operates doors at entrance of bride and end of service as bridal couple leave church. Helps at end of service.

Choir – Normally comprises of about six to eight adult singers. Helps with hymn singing and also during signing of register if required.

Bells – Normally comprises of eight ringers for our eight bells – will ring both before and after your marriage service

Flowers - This is the contribution asked if you wish to have specially chosen flowers for your wedding. Otherwise, the flowers on your wedding day, in the church will be the normal weekly flower arrangements

Organist - plays before and after the service, as you arrive and depart, and for hymns

CD Playback facilities – if you are providing CDs for the service, this is the fee we charge for use of our PA system. The verger is the only person authorised by the Church Council to operate CDs in our church.

Heating – Strongly recommended between October and April inclusive