

**The United Benefice of
St Nicholas' Stevenage with St Mary's
Graveley**

Wedding Brochure for St Nicholas'



**A Guide to Your Marriage Service at
St Nicholas' Stevenage**

**The United Benefice of
St Nicholas' Stevenage with St Mary's Graveley**

2024 Brochure for St Nicholas'

Contents

Introduction	Page 4
Your Marriage Service in Church	Page 5
Wedding Fees	Page 6
Flowers Verger Parking Toilet Facilities Confetti	Page 7
Video and Photography Live Streaming Use of Data and Projector Screen	Page 8
Banns of Marriage Marriage Preparation Course New Marriage Measure To Encourage You...	Page 9 Page 10
Appendices:	
1. Elements of the Marriage Service	Page 11-13
2. Music	Page 14
3. Bible Readings	Page 15-16
4. Hymns	Page 17
5. New Marriage Measure	Page 18
6. Application for permission to video record in the Church and Churchyard	Page 19

Introduction

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage. We hope and pray that your wedding day will be a joyful and memorable occasion for you, your families and friends.

Preparing for a wedding can be a pleasurable activity but we know that with so many things to think about and so many arrangements to put in hand, it can be a stressful period too. We shall do our utmost to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible both before and during your wedding as far as the legal and service arrangements are concerned, but there are certain things for which we must rely on you to help us.

This Guide contains what you need to help plan your wedding service, but if we've missed anything or you wish to have further information about any particular item please do not hesitate to contact one of us; our telephone numbers and email addresses are below.

May God's blessing be upon you both, now and in your future life together.

October 2023

Revd Edward Keene
Rector of St Nicholas Stevenage & St Mary's Graveley
Tel: 01438 879049
Email: rector@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

Alison Hare
Parish Administrator
Tel: 07733 995779
Email: admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

Website: www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

St Nicholas PCC: Charity Registration Number – 1161229

Your Marriage Service in Church

What will your wedding service look like? Below are two basic outlines of the service - the traditional order and one for the slightly nervous. It doesn't matter which one you choose, so go with the one which you think will make you most comfortable. (The only real difference is whether the marriage happens early on or slightly later in the service.)

The Traditional Order

A few notices from the Vicar

Entry of the Bride

Welcome

Hymn

Some words about marriage

Declarations

Bible Reading

Talk

Hymn

The Marriage (*vows, rings, kiss and the blessing*)

Prayers – ending with the Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Final Blessing

Registration of the Marriage

The newly married couple leave

Slightly nervous? Try this...

A few notices from the Vicar

Entry of the Bride

Welcome

Hymn

Some words about marriage

Declarations

The Marriage (*vows, rings, kiss and the blessing*)

Hymn

Bible Reading

Talk

Prayers – ending with the Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Final Blessing

Registration of the Marriage

The newly married couple leave

Appendix 1 sets out the words you will say to each other and gives a brief explanation of the various elements of the marriage service. Do read it - especially the vows. Whilst it is possible for couples to add their own vows – these can only be in **addition** to the vows described in this booklet - otherwise you won't be legally married! Please talk to the minister if you want to include any extra vows. Whilst the vows are set, there are a number of things which you will need to decide for yourselves so that you can make your wedding service your very own.

Music also plays a large part in any wedding and you'll need to decide on the music you wish to have to accompany the arrival of the bride, the signing of the registers, and the exit of the bride and groom at the end of the service. **Appendix 2** includes some suggestions in this regard. If you would like your organist to play something else, please do chat to the Minister about it. It's also possible to include recorded music in any of these parts of the service.

Because it is a service of Christian Marriage, you'll also need to choose at least one **Bible reading**. In **appendix 3** you will find a selection of suggested readings, but don't feel limited to these. All of the Bible is inspired by God so if there is another part of the Bible which you particularly want read at your wedding, please do talk to your minister about it. You might also like to include a poem or a reading from a book other than the Bible. This may well be possible – but please do talk about this with your minister.

The other music included in your service will be the **hymns**, and you will also need to decide which ones you want to sing. Although both orders above include three hymns, you might prefer to sing just 1 or 2, particularly if your friends and family are not used to singing in public. Some suggested hymns are set out in **appendix 4**, but again, don't feel limited to these. If you hear a hymn you really like when you come along to church to hear your banns read, why not include that!

Although we would recommend that you use the services of our organist, you may wish to use other instrumentalists. In the past, we have had a string quartet, a band, a harpist, and keyboard players; some couples have engaged a singer and even a gospel choir. However, please bear in mind that space for musicians is limited. We are able to provide an organist and are often able to hire a choir should you require one; however any other musical input is entirely your responsibility. Please discuss with the minister, in the first instance, any music you are considering using.

St Nicholas' Wedding Fees 2024

A non-refundable deposit of £100 is payable at the time of booking to secure your wedding date.

At your first meeting with your minister, usually at least three months before your wedding date, you can make your choice of the options available. Six weeks before the date of your wedding you will receive a letter of confirmation and an invoice for your final fees. This must be settled at least **four weeks** before your wedding. Payment should be made by BACS (Direct Transfer), please contact Alison Hare on 07733 995779 for details. Alternatively, you may send a cheque payable to St Nicholas Church PCC Wedding Account.

We appreciate that weddings are costly affairs and we are prepared to accept payment of fees in three stages if discussed at the time of booking, however, full payment **must** be made at least **four weeks** before the date of the marriage. If full payment is not settled four weeks before your wedding date, your service may be cancelled. If you cancel less than six weeks before your wedding day, we cannot guarantee the refund of the fees.

Fees for marriage after banns during 2024

Statutory Fees for Basic Wedding – no music	567
Verger	60
Car Park (donated to the school)	<u>35</u>
	662
Optional Extras: to be booked at meeting with your minister at least three months before service	
Organist	95
Singing group	140
Bells	240
Live Streaming (see page 8)	Various

Fees for Services of Prayer & Dedication during 2024 following a civil marriage elsewhere

Statutory Fees for Basic Wedding – no music	290
Verger	60
Car Park (donated to the school)	<u>35</u>
	385
Optional Extras: to be booked at meeting with your minister at least three months before service	
Organist	95
Singing group	140
Bells	230
Live Streaming (see page 8)	Various

N.B. When the marriage is by licence, or by a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate, then these fees will be adjusted.

Weddings held between October and April will attract a surcharge of £55 to cover extra fuel costs.

Flowers

If you wish to have flowers at your wedding, you will need to be responsible for their delivery and arrangement. Please speak to your minister to discuss arrangements for access to the church for your florist.

If there is more than one wedding on the same date as yours, you may be able to share the cost of extra flowers with the other families involved. Please ask for names, addresses and telephone numbers from the minister.

Please note: Flower arrangements and 'pew-ends' may only be attached to woodwork by ties. No form of adhesive (including *Blu Tack*) or pins may be used.

Verger

We are happy to arrange the services of a Verger for your ceremony, at an additional charge of £60. If you do not wish to use this service, you will need to provide someone to be at the church at least half an hour before and after your service to carry out verging duties. These **include** opening the car park, setting out furniture, operating the sound system, welcoming latecomers, handling incidents during the service and clearing up the church ready for the next service.

Parking

In order to ease congestion around the church and to maintain access for our neighbours, we have had to restrict parking around St Nicholas Church during weddings. The only cars permitted to park in the immediate area of the church will be those for the bride and groom, ushers, and disabled people.

To ease congestion on the roads we offer you the use of the car park at Almond Hill School for an additional charge of £35, which is made on behalf of the school. You are strongly advised to arrange this with your minister. If the car park is booked, please tell your guests to park over the bridge on the southern side of the church and on the school's playground and car park. The car park will be opened approximately 45 minutes before the service and will be locked 40 minutes after the ceremony. You are asked to convey these arrangements to your guests, and particularly the closing time, to ensure that no cars are left locked in the car park.

If your wedding is to be held on a week-day, during term-time, the car park will not be available.

We have been asked to inform visitors that no parking is allowed on the road, pavements or grass verges in the immediate vicinity of the church. Please ensure that access to the farm is unimpeded. Farm machinery as well as cars regularly use this road. Your co-operation, and that of your guests, would be greatly appreciated.

Toilet Facilities

We have two toilets on the first floor, accessed by a steep staircase, but we also have one accessible toilet and baby changing facilities on the ground floor. Please convey this information to anyone in your party who may be affected by this.

Confetti

Confetti is allowed on two conditions: it is biodegradable (*none of the metallic or tinsel variety please!*) and it is only thrown outside the lych gate at the bottom of the church path. We also ask that your guests dispose of the boxes considerately.

Video and photography

Everyone wants good photographs of their Wedding Day and we want to give you every opportunity to have some wonderful photographic memories. However, the marriage ceremony is also an act of worship so there are certain guidelines for photography at St Nicholas and St Mary's which we would be grateful if you would pass on to your Photographer and Videographer.

- As far as the service is required, we are happy for your family and friends to take photographs in the church as the bride enters, as you both leave, and during the signing of the Registers. However, once the service has begun, only the official photographer will be allowed to take photographs.
- **Official photographers** are asked not to use flash, to keep their movements to a minimum and not to take photographs during any prayers.
- **After the wedding.** On some Saturdays there is more than one Wedding, so we would ask photographers to co-operate by ensuring that there is access to and from the church as guests depart from a previous wedding, or as guests arrive for the next one. Usually there about 30 minutes available for taking photographs after the wedding either by the tower or other suitable locations away from the path. When there is another wedding following, please avoid blocking the path or the gate as the next bride arrives.
- **Video. If your wedding is videoed, either professionally or informally by a member of your family, the appropriate form needs to be completed (Appendix 6) in advance.** The Minister will be happy to chat with the videographer about the siting of the equipment either at the wedding rehearsal or before the service begins. Once again, movement needs to be kept to a minimum.
- We are keen to maintain good relationships with photographers as they provide an important record of your special day. However, in the (hopefully rare) instance of any photographer deliberately flouting these guidelines then we would reserve the right to ban them from photography at future weddings at the church.

Live Streaming

Live streaming services is a great way for family and friends who are unable to be at the service to take part in the day. There are 2 ways this can take place. The first is via an iPad or smart phone, connected to our wi-fi network, with one of the guests in charge of the streaming. This has the advantage of a flexible camera position and so being able to catch the bride walking down the aisle. The cost for this is £25.

We have also recently installed cameras which offer greater quality of picture and sound than most mobile devices, but which are fixed in their field of vision to the stage area. This requires an extra trained verger to run the streaming service, so the cost for this service is £90.

If you are interested in live streaming, please speak to the minister when you meet to plan your wedding.

Use of Data and TV Screens

We have also installed data and TV screens, which you may like to use for the words of hymns, rather than the traditional hymn books. We make a charge of £30 for this service, which may offset the cost of printing the words of hymns if you choose to have your own printed Order of Service produced. Please discuss this with your minister when booking your requirements.

Banns

Banns are normally called at St Nicholas at our main morning service on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays two months before your wedding. **If either of you are resident in another parish** (other than St Nicholas and St Mary's Graveley) **and the marriage is not by licence, then it is your responsibility to contact the minister of the parish for banns to be called and obtain from him/her a banns certificate to pass on to the minister conducting your wedding.** Please see also the section referring to 'The New Marriage Measure' (Appendix 5). Please note that this is a **legal requirement.** If a banns certificate is not obtained in time a licence would have to be obtained for the marriage to go ahead. The cost of this license is currently around £200.

Marriage Preparation Course

Once a year, we try to run a Marriage Preparation Course at St Nicholas, which couples have found very helpful.

A leaflet and booking form with information about the Marriage Preparation Course will be available soon, but please contact your minister or Admin if you are interested in further information.

New Marriage Measure

Please refer to Appendix 5 for information on the New Marriage Measure and Qualifying Connections.

Marriage Certificate

After your wedding, the Rector will take your signed certificate to the Hertfordshire Registrar, who will digitalise it and enter the details on the national registers. That means that you won't be given a certificate on the day but will have to apply for your marriage certificate directly from Hertfordshire County Council. Details of how to do that are below:

Hertfordshire County Council

The Old Courthouse, St Albans Road East, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0ES

Tel: 0300 123 4045

Email: certificate.archive@hertfordshire.gov.uk

You can use the following QR code to order certificates:



To encourage you ...

This is *your* wedding and we want it to be an enjoyable and memorable occasion for you and your guests. If you experience any problems before the ceremony, please contact the minister responsible who may be able to help. If you are unsure about anything, please do ask - we will do our best to answer your query. Likewise, the minister conducting the wedding is available to provide *confidential* help and advice on spiritual or other personal matters at any time, before or after the ceremony.

All this may sound rather daunting and you may forget one or two things during the preparations. Nevertheless, remember this one thing above all else:

God loves you and wants you to be happy and fulfilled. In all things, let Him be your guide. Trust Him, Love Him, Honour Him in all things and He will repay you a hundredfold. May God bless you both in your forthcoming marriage.

Appendix 1 - The Elements of the Marriage Service

To help you understand that structure a little better we have set out a few notes for your consideration:

The Welcome - The minister welcomes the people.

Preface - The Meaning of Marriage

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.

There is an alternative preface that can be used if requested.

The Declarations

The minister will ask if anyone knows any legal impediment to your marriage and will then ask you the same question, but in a slightly different form: "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 minister 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 minister 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 minister 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?"

They answer: "We will."

The Collect: The minister says the Collect, a special encompassing prayer that God will pour out His blessings upon you both.

Readings: A selection of readings from Scripture may be found later in this booklet. If you would prefer some other Bible reading, please ask the Minister. Likewise, if you would like to choose someone to read the passage or additional other suitable material, please ask the Minister.

The Address

The Vows

The minister may ask: "Who brings this woman to be married to this man?"

The bride's father (or another member of her family) responds by saying "I do!" He then gives the bride's right hand to the bridegroom, gives her a kiss and sits down. The bride and bridegroom face each other and join hands. The bridegroom then makes his vows by saying:

"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."

The bride then makes her vows to the bridegroom and says:

"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."

The Giving of Rings

The minister receives and blesses the ring(s) with a prayer.

The bride and groom place a ring on the fourth finger of the other's left hand and, holding it there, say in turn

"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."

There is no legal requirement for two rings to be exchanged. If only one ring is used, then the bride's response will be different.

The Proclamation

The minister proclaims you husband and wife, before inviting you to join hands, after which he says:
"Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder."

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife may be asked to kneel for a prayer of thanksgiving and praise followed by a blessing on the marriage.

Prayers

The minister may use a selection of prayers for you, followed by the Lord's Prayer, said by all.

Registration of the Marriage

At the end of the service, you will both need to sign the registers along with two witnesses.
Witnesses should be over 18 years of age.

Following the Registration, the **Final Blessing** will be given (if it has not been said already). The wedding party then processes from the church to your choice of music.

Appendix 2

Music for your wedding

If you choose to have an organist play at your wedding, the following is a list of music which has proved popular at weddings. Every effort will be made to meet special requests, though it would be helpful if copies of anything unusual could be provided; it can be difficult to obtain music at short notice, particularly if it has not been clearly identified. The organist will normally play before and after the service, during the entry and exit of the bride, for hymns and during the signing of the register.

Before the service: The organist's selection will normally be played, though requests are welcome.

Entry Music: Bridal March from Lohengrin – *Wagner*
Trumpet Tune in D - *Purcell*
Trumpet Voluntary – *Jeremiah Clarke*
Te Deum – *Charpentier*
Canon in D – *Pachelbel*

Register Music: Prelude on Rhosymedre – *Vaughan Williams*
Air from Rinaldo – *Handel*
Minuet from Berenice – *Handel*
Canon in D – *Pachelbel*
Entr'acte from Rosamunde – *Schubert*
Ave Maria – *Schubert*
Ave Maria – *Bach-Gounod*

Exit Music: Wedding March – *Mendelssohn*
Te Deum – *Charpentier*
Trumpet Tune in D - *Purcell*
Trumpet Voluntary – *Jeremiah Clarke*

Appendix 3 - Readings from the Bible

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

Romans 12: 1, 2, 9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3: 14-21

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 4: 1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the

unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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.

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.

Mark 10: 6-9,13-16

Jesus said, "At the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female'. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

John 2: 1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Other Readings

You may wish to consult other biblical or secular publications, such as:

'Love - A Hundred Readings In Celebration Of Marriage and Love' compiled by Robert Atwell, published by Canterbury Press 2005, ISBN I-85311-600-9

'Heavenly Weddings That Don't Cost The Earth' by Susan Sayers, published by Kevin Mayhew Limited 2005, ISBN I 84417 297 X

Appendix 4

Hymns and songs for your wedding

Remember, this is just a selection of frequently used hymns... you may well have other hymns or songs you'd like to choose instead!

All creatures of our God and King
All things bright and beautiful
Amazing grace!
As the deer pants for the water
Be thou my vision
Come on and celebrate
Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Father, hear the prayer we offer
Give me joy in my heart
God of all living, Father, we praise you
God is our strength and refuge
Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
Guide me o thou great Jehovah
Hallelujah! Sing to Jesus
I danced in the morning when the world was begun (Lord of the Dance)
Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In Christ alone
I will sing the wondrous story
Jesus, good above all other
Jerusalem
King of glory, King of peace
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine Jesus shine)
Love divine, all loves excelling
Make me a channel of your peace
Morning has broken
Now thank we all our God
O Jesus, I have promised
O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height
O worship the king, all glorious above
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the king of creation
Praise my soul, the king of heaven
Seek ye first the kingdom of God
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
The King of love my shepherd is
The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
There is a redeemer
Thine be the glory
To God be the glory
Ye holy angels bright
You shall go out with joy

Words of the hymns can be made available. Please discuss this with the minister. We can also provide an electronic version by email. **Please use this facility rather than downloading words direct from the internet as these sources are often inaccurate or contain verses seldom sung.** Midi files of the music to most of these can be found at www.cyberhymnal.com to remind you of the tunes. If you choose to prepare an order of service we recommend you check the draft with your minister before printing.

Appendix 5

New Marriage Measure

From October 2008 you are entitled to get married in church where you have a "qualifying connection".

What does this mean?

Either of you were:

Baptised in the Parish (by a Church of England form of Baptism)

Were confirmed (by a Church of England Service) and your confirmation is entered in the parish register.

Your parent or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England Service

You have had your usual place of residence in the parish for at least six months. *

Your parent(s) has had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least six months during your lifetime. *

You have habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for the last six months. **

Your parent(s) has habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least six months. **

Notes:

** This can apply whether or not you or your parent(s) are still resident in the parish.*

*** This can apply whether or not you or your parent(s) are still attending worship in the parish.*

In the Measure a parent means

A parent of either a legitimate or illegitimate child; or

An adoptive parent (this requires legal adoption) or

A person "who has undertaken the care and upbringing" of another person.

Documentary evidence will be needed and a form (available from the clergy) will need to be completed and returned.

If you have been previously married and your former spouse is still alive, or if you are a foreign national who needs to be married by licence, you need to discuss this first with the clergy.

Appendix 6

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas Rectory Lane Stevenage

Application for Permission to Video Record in the Church and Churchyard

To the Incumbent and the Parochial Church Council

I / WE apply for permission to Video record the following Church Service:

- (i) Type of Service e.g. Marriage, Baptism:
- (ii) Date and time of Service concerned:

Full name, address and telephone number of parties (Applicants) for whom the Service is to be held:

.....
.....

- (iv) Full name, address and telephone number of Company or other person who will be making the Video recording:

.....
.....

I / WE understand that the prime purpose of the Service is an Act of Worship. The person making the recording will act at all times with care and discretion and strictly in accordance with the directions of the Incumbent.

Nothing is to be done which would or could cause offence to worshippers at the Church.

I / WE undertake that the recording will be used solely for our personal and family purposes and will not be copied or used for any public or commercial purpose whatsoever.

I / WE accept all responsibility for obtaining any necessary copyright consents in respect of the words or music recorded.

I / WE agree to Indemnify the Incumbent and the Parochial Church Council in full in respect of any claims against them arising from the making, use and distribution of any video recording (Including any claims for breach of copyright) made pursuant to this permission.

I / WE acknowledge that any permission so given may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the Incumbent and the Parochial Church Council.

Applicants **Date**

Where the video recording is to be undertaken by a Company or other person on behalf of the Applicants, the Company or other person is to countersign the Application to show that the Company or other person accepts the conditions and joins in the indemnity

..... **Date**
(Video Company or other person carrying out the videoing)

Incumbent I give permission on the basis of the above conditions

..... **Date**