

## **Extracts from 'planning your wedding booklet'**

### **A letter of introduction from the Vicar**

I trust that your wedding plans are proceeding well and I take this opportunity to write to confirm the date you have booked. If for any reason you do not wish to proceed with the arrangements, please would you let me know as soon as possible.

As you are aware, the number of marriages ending in divorce is increasing. Separation or divorce generates a great deal of pain and destruction in the life of one or both parties, and especially where children involved.

Marriage vows are always made with the best of intentions; however, those of us who have been married for several years know just how difficult this life-long commitment can be.

It is not my intention to moralize, but to be supportive, and I feel that I can best do this by helping you to prepare and lay a foundation to work upon. The Marriage Preparation I offer is to help you to do just that, along with making sure that all legalities have been met and thus attendance is not an option.

The sessions I hold deal with marital issues which have the potential to break up marriages, and so we focus on how well you know each other, communication skills, anger management, equality but with differences, expectations involved in a Christian marriage, along with the vows and promises you will make in church.

This course will take place in Rushen Vicarage on a Friday evening 7.30-9.30 and Saturday will begin in church for practical purposes (layout, flowers etc) at 10.00am to finish at 1.00pm with a light lunch.

For these sessions to work socially, to be dynamic and fun, there are normally four or more couples present. I look forward to meeting you both at the session on [ date ] in the vicarage and from the response I have had from other couples doing this course, I know you will find it stimulating and an enjoyable time shared together.

Best wishes to you both. Revd. Norma Cole, Vicar.

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMME**

### **Friday Evening at Rushen Vicarage**

7.30pm Introduction

7.45 How well do we know each other followed by Video Clip

8.15pm - Light Refreshments  
"Any Questions"

8.25pm - Video Clip "Conflict Handling"

8.45pm - Role Play between couples

9.00pm - "Let's Communicate"

9.30pm - Finish

### **Saturday morning begins in Church**

10.00am – look at all the practical arrangements concerning flower arranging; signing of registers; photographs/video; and any special needs of wedding guests.

10.30am – Vicarage for light refreshments

11.00am – Video "Christian Marriage"  
this is followed by relevant discussion.

11.45am – checking with the Vicar you legal requirements have been met.

Arrange two dates with the vicar to discuss

- 1) Content of your Marriage Service
- 2) To arrange for your wedding rehearsal

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

**Important, please read the following question and go to the appropriate section.**

Do you or your partner live in a different parish from the one in which you will be getting married? If so, please read section 1, if not please go straight to section 2.

**Section 1)** Please would you notify the Vicar of your parish church with the intended date of your marriage, to arrange for publication of your Banns during a main morning service.

Your banns need to be published in your own parish church on three consecutive Sundays to qualify for **A Certificate of Banns**.

This certificate must be given to the minister conducting your wedding before the date of the rehearsal.

**Section 2)** If you are both getting married in your own parish church you will be given three consecutive dates (by the Vicar conducting your wedding) for the publication of your Banns.

Your Banns will be published during a main morning service.

Please make every effort to attend church on the day your banns are being read to witness their publication.

## **FEES FOR YOUR WEDDING ARE:**

Publication of Banns	£ 36
Marriage Service	£ 189
Marriage certificate	£ 6
Organist Fee	£ 45
Verger Fee	£ 30
Bells	£ 20
Video (copyright material)	£ 50
Marriage Preparation	£ 10

**NOTE: these fees are shown for guidance only, as they may have changed since the publication of this booklet**

## **PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING SERVICE**

The following is a list of some of the things you need to bear in mind when thinking about the service and about which you may need to consult with the Vicar.

### **MUSIC**

There are several opportunities for music to be played

- before the service begins and whilst guests are arriving at church
- when the bride enters the church
- at the signing of the register
- when bride and groom leave the church

Please see page 7 where there is a list of suggested music.

Before making your final choice, please check with the Vicar that this is appropriate to avoid any disappointment.

## **HYMNS**

If you are having an order of service on which the hymns are printed you will require copyright permission. The Parish's own copyright licence may include your choice of hymns. Please check with the Vicar about the tune and number of verses you wish – many popular hymns have more than one version. You will find a list of hymns on page 8

## **VOWS**

You may choose between two sets of vows and the vicar will be happy to talk you through the options.

## **BIBLE READING**

This is a good opportunity to involve a friend, or family member in the service.

Whoever you choose needs to be able to read confidently, and to practice this reading at your rehearsal. The choice of reading can be made closer to the time when your order of service is being discussed with the Vicar. You will find a list of readings on page 6

## **PRAYERS**

Prayers are said after the marriage ceremony. If there are special prayers, or people you wish to be included in the prayers, please consult with the Vicar.

## **WITNESSES**

Please choose two adult witnesses who will act as witnesses to your marriage ceremony. These witnesses may be the best man and chief bridesmaid, or parents, or close friends.

## **AUDIO VISUAL RECORDINGS**

If you are planning to have your wedding service recorded on video, then a special application needs to be made to the vicar, and any additional fee for copyright is to be paid (see fees on page 3).

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Please would you inform your friends and relatives who will be attending your wedding service that no photographs or video recordings are permitted in church, except for the official photographer (in consultation with the vicar) and or the official video (paid for by yourself).

## **CONFETTI**

Confetti is part of the occasion and is permitted well away from the church door.

## **USHERS**

Please would you choose three sensible and reliable people for your ushers as a great deal will depend upon them making your wedding day a day to remember.

One usher will need to have access to a mobile telephone.

## **MOBILE TELEPHONES**

All mobile telephones are to be switched off in church.

## **REHEARSAL**

The people required at your Wedding Rehearsal are:

Both sets of parents

Bridesmaids/page boys

Best Man

Ushers

The person who will be giving away the Bride

The person who will be taking the Video

## **FLOWERS**

Florists must not dispose of existing flower arrangements when they decorate the church for your wedding. These arrangements will have been done for the Sunday Service and can be placed out of view if necessary.

## **CHOOSING A READING FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Please choose a reading, which best reflects what you hope for in your marriage, and which uses phrases, which make sense, and you like.

It is advised that you choose a modern translation of the bible such as: New International Version; Revised Standard Version, New English Revised.

**Genesis 2. 18-21** tells of our human need to share life with other people

**John 2.1-11** tells the story of Jesus at a Wedding performing his first miracle – turning water into wine.

**1 Corinthians 13** – is one of the most popular readings at Weddings, and it reflects the kind of love we should all aspire to.

**Ephesians 5.21-33** - St Paul compares the marriage bond to the bond of love between Jesus and his followers.

**Matthew 7.21.24-27** – Jesus tells a story about two men who each build their home on different foundations to show how important it is in life to build our lives and our marriages on the right foundation.

**Mark 10.6-9** – In Jesus time when marriages broke down, men found it very easy to divorce their wives. Jesus reminds people of God's intention that every marriage should be an unbreakable bond.

**Colossians 3.12-17** - St. Paul describes how love changes us and helps us in the practical things of daily lives.

**1 John 4.7-12** - St John tells us that God is love, and that because of God's love for us, we too, should love one another.

**Ephesians 3.14-32** – St Paul prays that all who follows the Christian faith should know the love of Christ at the very foundation of their life.

**Genesis 1.26-28, 31** – A story of how God created man and women and instituted the marital relationship.

**Song of Solomon 2. 6-8,10-13** - The bond of married love and the passionate desire for each other at husband and wife

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING**

### **When the Bride enters:**

Bridal March from Lohengrin	(Wagner)
Trumpet Voluntary	(J Clarke)
Trumpet Tune	(Purcell)
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	(Handel)
March from Scipio	(Handel)

### **When the registers are being signed:**

Adagio	(Albinoni)
Air from the Water Music	(Handel)
Brother James Air	(Macbeth Bain)
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	(Bach)
Love changes everything	(Lloyd Weber)
Whiter Shade of Pale	(Procul Harem)

Other music can be provided whether choral or solo.

Or, you may engage someone who sings well. Please consult with the Vicar regarding the appropriate choice of music.

### **When you leave the church as Husband and Wife**

Wedding March from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'	(Mendlessohn)
Trumpet Voluntary	(J Clark)
March from Scipio	(Handel)
Trumpet Tune	(Purcell)

If you wish to choose music not on this list, please consult with the organist who will be able to help in this matter, and whose telephone number will be supplied if necessary by the vicar.

## **CHOICE OF HYMNS**

It is customary to have three hymns, popular choices are:

All things Bright and Beautiful  
Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us  
Love Divine, all love's excelling  
Immortal, invisible, God only wise  
Now thank we all our God  
Praise my soul the king of heaven  
The King of Love my Shepherd is  
Lord of all hopefulness  
Great is your faithfulness  
O Jesus I have promised  
O Perfect Love, all human thought transcending  
O Worship the King  
To God be the glory  
How great thou art  
I danced in the morning  
Sing Hosanna  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Father hear the prayer we offer  
Bind us together Lord  
Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation  
Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us  
Morning has broken  
May the mind of Christ my Saviour

Seasonal hymns can be sung at your wedding if appropriate.

Should you wish for a hymn not on this list, please consult with the vicar.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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