

# MARRIAGE

## *Congratulations!*

You have decided to become husband and wife. We would be delighted if you decide to celebrate your marriage here at The Church on Fairford Leys. We will do all we can to make your wedding day one that you will remember for the rest of your lives together.

Christian marriage is not just about going to church and saying the right words. It's a life long commitment and needs to be taken very seriously. This booklet is designed to help you as you get ready for your wedding day and for married life.

*Fred Ireland*

Rev Fred Ireland  
Minister, The Church on Fairford Leys

*"Love is patient...  
Love is kind...  
love never ends!"*

*St Paul*

Pause for thought

Apart from birth and death, getting married is the most significant thing that ever happens to us. That's why newspapers record "Births, Marriages and Deaths." But unlike our beginning and end, marriage is something we can decide about ourselves. Couples increasingly "live together" but marriage is still very popular.

*What's the difference?*

The main difference is that on your wedding day you express your love publically and promise before God that:

*"for better for worse, for richer for poorer"*

in good times and bad, your commitment to each other will never falter. A successful marriage is one where there is complete sharing:

**Sharing a home**

**Sharing intimacy**

**Sharing interests**

**Sharing a family**

**Sharing feelings**

**Sharing love**

**Sharing God**

**“In the beginning God  
made them male and female...  
and the two shall become one”**

**Jesus**

**Where do you start?**

*By reading this leaflet!*



The Church on Fairford Leys is available for couples to marry and the Community Centre is available to hire for the reception, if desired. We welcome all applications to marry, including where either of the parties have been married before.

We hope this leaflet will be helpful and informative but if you have any further queries, please contact Rev Fred Ireland on 01296 488197 or 01296 424980.

### **The “Legal bit”**

If you are planning to marry in the **Church on Fairford Leys**, Aylesbury then you will need to visit the Registrar of Marriages, Walton Street, Aylesbury, to 'give notice' of your marriage.

You will need to apply for two:

**‘Certificates for Marriage without Licence.’**

If one partner lives outside the registration district of Aylesbury Vale they have to give notice in their own district. The maximum time to give notice is one year, the minimum 15 days. We recommend that you apply as soon as it is possible. The cost is £30 each and these. *Certificates must be given to the Minister as soon they are obtained.*

### **Services of Blessing?**

A marriage may be arranged for people who have been married before, or alternatively a service of blessing may be appropriate after a civil marriage. Sometimes couples who have been married for some time also appreciate a special church blessing ceremony or service of thanksgiving after many years of marriage. The Minister is happy to discuss special arrangements with you.

### **Honeymoon and passports**

Brides may have their passport changed to their married name prior to the wedding. This is advisable if travelling to some countries! Simply collect a form **PAS PD2** from the post office and bring it to the minister to sign. You then post the PAS PD2 form along with your passport to the passport office and they will return your passport with your married name. Obviously, the passport cannot be used until you are married! Please leave enough time for the passport office to process your application- they get very busy in the summer months.

### **How much will the wedding cost?**

Weddings are expensive as you will probably already have found out! The good news is that the service in the church will probably be one of the cheaper items. The current cost for a wedding in the church is £400.00. If you decide to hold your reception in the Fairford Leys Centre, the cost for hire of the centre is £600.00 for the day - 9.00am to midnight (Contact the Centre Manager on 01296 488262 or by email: fairfordleys@btconnect.com).

*If you are planning to use the centre and the church, Please check availability with the centre before booking the church!*

The centre offers two rooms: the Ernest Cook Hall which seats up to 80 people and the Coldharbour Hall which is a sports hall which can be adapted to hold larger parties of up to 120.

Attached is a well stocked kitchen with crockery, fridge, cooker and urn included in the cost. Each hall has a bar area. You are welcome to bring your own alcohol and soft drinks or you are welcome to bring in an outside bar. *A licence to sell alcohol must be obtained before the day.*

A deposit of £100.00 is requested, non-refundable within a month of the wedding, payable to the Fairford Leys Centre if both venues are to be used or to the Church on Fairford Leys if you are planning your reception elsewhere.

## **Flowers**

Included in the Church fee are the church flowers. It would be very helpful if you supply a sample of material indicating your colour scheme. If this is not possible, then an idea of your colours will enable our arrangers to provide flowers to complement the bridal party. If you wish to have extra flowers in addition to what is normally provided, then we can put you in contact with our arrangers and any extra cost can be paid direct to them.

## **The Rehearsal**

A rehearsal is held in the church usually the Thursday evening before the marriage. At the rehearsal you should try to have the Best man, Bridesmaids and the person who is 'giving away the Bride' present as well (if applicable). This is a time to run through the service and put you all at ease.

## **Bridesmaids and Page Boy**

Some people have many bridesmaids and a page boy and/or a ring bearer, however you may not wish to have any at all.

Bridesmaids are there to tend to the needs of the bride throughout the service, for making sure that your dress is arranged properly. The bride will pass her bouquet to the chief bridesmaid at the beginning of the service and if you wear a veil she may help remove it.

*Traditionally the bride made her vows with the veil over her face, in case the groom changed his mind!*

Increasingly popular these days are '**Ring Bearers**' - a young child who carries a cushion with the ring on to deliver to the Best Man at the appropriate point in the service.

## **The Best Man**

The best man is there to assist the Groom, not least in taking care of the ring(s).

*According to an old tradition,  
if the Groom failed to appear the Best Man  
was obliged to marry the Bride!*

## **Ushers and Seating**

It is helpful if you provide two ushers who will welcome your guests and assist people as they arrive. Ushers should be present thirty minutes before the wedding and distribute orders of service and buttonholes. They will also escort people to their seats.

It is traditional for the family of the Groom to sit on the right side of church as you walk in, behind the Groom. The family of the Bride sit on the left, with a space saved for the person giving away the bride. You may not wish to split the congregation in this way, especially if one family is very small.

### **Photographers and video**

We are happy for you to make arrangements to video your marriage ceremony but please let the minister know if you intend to do so. We are also happy for photographs to be taken in church. Most professional photographers are careful not to disrupt the service. Friends are not so predictable!

### **Rings**

You may decide to use one or two rings; it has become increasingly popular for both partners to be given a ring. There are appropriate vows for whatever you decide.

### **Signing of the registers**

This takes place in the church in the middle of the service. After the signing the photographer will normally want you to pose for some special photographs. After this there will be an opportunity for family and friends to take a few photographs as well. The minister will issue a marriage certificate which will be signed by both of you and two witnesses whom you need to appoint. They must be over 18 years of age and **'of sound mind!'**

### **Length of the service**

We allow 40 minutes for the service. Extra time should be planned for the taking of photographs outside afterwards or inside the church if it is raining.

### **Confetti**

This may be thrown by your guests outside the church. Usually the photographer is the one to give the signal when to throw it, so as not to spoil his photographs!

## **Orders of service**

Some people have their own orders of service printed. This would have the hymns included and it maybe a good 'keepsake' afterwards. The church has facilities to produce an order of service using different coloured or white card. The cost is £50.00 for 100 copies. Please entrust your orders of service to a reliable person as they often arrive late having been locked in a car boot or forgotten!

## **Reading from The Bible**

The service includes a reading from the Bible, often from 1 Corinthians 13 or John 2 are used. If you would like to ask a member of the family or a friend to read this then please tell the minister. If you have a poem or other reading that you would like included in the service, that would be welcomed.

## **Hymns & other music**

Most people prefer traditional wedding music as the bride enters and leaves the church - however, our organists are happy to provide music according to your wishes. The organist would be happy to discuss this with you.

The hymns are for you to choose: two or possibly three would be suitable. A list is attached with some suggestions but it is only to help and not meant to limit your choice. Hymns are projected onto a large screen and the digital projector can display photos, videos, DVD's etc!

As an alternative to singing hymns, the excellent audio/visual equipment can be used to play a favourite song/s, either on CD, DVD or Video. This allows you to make this service unique and personal to you both.

## **Hymns**

Choosing hymns can be difficult. It's a good idea to choose well known hymns your guests will know \_ here are some possibilities to help you try to decide.

**Love divine all loves excelling (Blaenwern)**  
**Lead us heavenly Father lead us (Mannheim)**  
**Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the king of creation**  
**Praise my soul the king of heaven (Praise my soul)**  
**Now thank we all our God (Nun Danket)**  
**All things bright and beautiful (Monk)**  
**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy (Slane)**  
**O Jesus I have promised**  
**Father hear the prayer we offer (Sussex)**

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind (Repton)**  
**Who would true valour see (Monk's Gate)**  
**Amazing grace**  
**Morning has broken**  
**At the name of Jesus (Camberwell)**  
**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart (Slane)**  
**Blest are the pure in heart**  
**Come down, O love divine**  
**Immortal, invisible, God only wise**  
**Let all the world in every corner sing (Luckington)**  
**May the mind of Christ my saviour (St. Leonard's)**  
**O for a heart to praise my God**  
**Take my life and let it be (Emma)**  
**The king of love my shepherd is (Dominus regit me)**  
**The Lord's my shepherd**  
**The grace of life is theirs, who on this wedding day.**  
**O perfect love, all human thought transcending**  
**As man and woman we were made. (Sussex Carol)**  
**And did those feet (Jerusalem)**  
**God of all living (Morning has broken)**

*Please make sure that the tune is the one you want!*

#### **Traditional entrance music**

Bridal March from Lohengrin- Wagner,  
Trumpet Voluntary-Jeremiah Clarke  
Trumpet Tune and Air-Purcell

#### **During signing of Registers**

Sheep may safely graze- Handel  
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring- Bach  
Morning-Grieg, Largo- Handel

#### **Traditional music to leave the church**

Wedding March - Mendelssohn  
Toccata - Widor.

### **The Ten wedding Commandments!**

1. Give notice to the Registrar at Walton Street, Aylesbury and give the **Certificates for Marriage without Licence** to the Minister as soon as you collect them from the Register Office.

2. Decide if you wish to have **Order of Service** printed by the church and inform the Minister. If you are having your own printed please bring them to the rehearsal to ensure that they are on the premises and not forgotten as frequently happens!
3. Let the Minister know your choice of **hymns and other music** as soon as you have made your decision.
4. Inform the Minister of your **colour scheme** in order that appropriate flowers are provided.
5. Arrange for the Minister to sign form **PAS PD2** for honeymoon passport if going abroad.
6. Pay the **booking fee** as soon as possible.
7. Keep in touch with us before the wedding- we like to hear how things are going. Inform those who need to attend the **rehearsal** of the time and date.
8. Try to find time to attend a normal **Sunday Service** to familiarise yourself with the church and to enable the church members to welcome you. The main service is at 10.30am Sunday morning.
9. If you have any queries at all please telephone the Church office on **01296 488193** leaving a message if it is unattended and we will get back to you as soon as possible.
10. Do not allow the busyness of all the arrangements to interfere with what we hope will be:

**'THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!'**

A copy of the order of service follows to give you a flavour of the service. Apart from the legal declarations, we can adapt the service to suit your needs.

For further information please contact:

**Rev Fred Ireland**

**Coldharbour Farmhouse  
27 Swallow Lane  
Fairford Leys  
Aylesbury  
Bucks**

**Tel: 01296 424980  
01296 488192  
Email: fred@ireland127.fsnet.co.uk  
THE MARRIAGE SERVICE**

**The Bride arrives (music)**

**The minister says:**

Welcome!

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of .... and ....., to surround them with our prayers and to share in their joy.

Marriage is given by God. The church believes that marriage is a gift from God in which man and woman become one in heart, mind and body. Marriage is the sacred and life-long union of a man and a woman who give themselves to each other in love and trust.

Marriage is given that husband and wife may enrich and encourage each other in every part of their life together. Marriage is given that delight and tenderness they may know each other in love and through their physical union may strengthen the union of the whole of their lives.

(Marriage is given that children may be born and brought up in security and love, that home and family life may be strengthened and that society may stand on firm foundations).

Marriage is a way of life that all should honour and it must never be entered into lightly or selfishly, but responsibly and in the love of God.

... and ... are now to begin this way of life which God has created. Therefore, on this their wedding day, we pray with them, asking that they may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

.....and.....are now to make the declarations which the Law requires.

Are you, ... .. , free lawfully to marry ... ..

**The Groom first and then the Bride replies:**

*I am*

**Hymn**

## **Reading**

### **Address**

### **The Marriage**

#### **To the Groom:**

.... will you give yourself to .... to be her husband, to live together in marriage? Will you love her, comfort and honour her, be her companion through all the joys and sorrows of life, and be faithful to her, as long as you both shall live?

#### **He answers:**

*I will.*

#### **To the Bride:**

.... will you give yourself to .... to be her husband, to live together in marriage? Will you love her, comfort and honour her, be her companion through all the joys and sorrows of life, and be faithful to her, as long as you both shall live?

#### **She answers:**

*I will.*

#### **To Father:**

Who gives .... to be married to....

#### **Father answers:**

*I do.*

#### **First the Groom and then the Bride says:**

*I take you ... .. to be my wedded wife or husband.*

*For better for worse*

*For richer for poorer*

*In sickness and in health*

*To love and to cherish*

*From this day forward*

*Until we are parted by death*

*And this is my solemn vow.*

### **Receiving of the rings**

(from best man)

Let us pray:

God of steadfast love,  
by your blessing,  
let these rings be to ... and ...  
A symbol of unending love and faithfulness  
and a reminder of the vows they have made today.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**First the Groom and then the Bride exchange rings and say:**

***... I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage, and of the vows which we have made today. 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..***

These are the words Jesus:

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.  
So they are no longer two but one.  
Let no one separate those whom God has joined together.

And before God and in the presence of us all,  
... and ... have made their vows together.  
They have confirmed their marriage by joining their hands  
and by giving and receiving rings.  
The two have become one.

It gives me joy and delight to pronounce them now to be  
husband and wife. May God bless you both this day and every day. Amen

**The Groom is invited to kiss the Bride**

**Hymn**

**The signing of the Registers**

**The Prayers**

Thank you, Father for the many gifts you give to us;  
the gift of life itself and all the blessings we experience day after day.

Thank you for the gift of love that you have given to ... and ...  
We pray that they may faithfully live together to the end of their lives.

May they be patient and gentle, ready to trust each other,  
and to face together the challenge of what tomorrow may bring.

May they support and help one another in joy and in sorrow,  
and always give thanks for the gift of each other.

May they never take each other for granted, but rather seek to deepen their love day by day.

Be with them, Lord, in all their happiness, that your joy may be in them,  
and their joy may be full. Strengthen them in every time of trouble,  
that they may carry each others burdens and so fulfill the command of Jesus that we  
“Love one another” through good or ill.

Give ... and ... grace, when they hurt each other, to recognise and acknowledge their fault,  
and to ask each other’s forgiveness.

May your peace dwell in their home, and be a sign of hope for peace in the world. Let their  
home be a place of welcome, that it’s happiness may be freely shared.

May they be creative in their daily work, and find fulfilment in the life of their community.  
(Optional)

May ... and ... Enjoy the gift of children.  
Help them if so blessed, to be loving and kind parents.

Bless the parents and families of ... and ...  
May they be united in love and friendship.

We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **all stand**

May God Bless you both ... and ...  
May you rejoice in each others love and enjoy your married life together. And the Blessing of  
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you both this day and for ever more.  
Amen.

### **Bride and Groom leave (music plays)**

## **The Church on Fairford Leys**