

**YOUR WEDDING
AT
ST PETER'S
LITTLEOVER**



Introduction

We are delighted that you have chosen to have your wedding at St Peter's in Littleover. This booklet is to help you with planning your big day and ensuring that everything goes as smoothly as you would wish. It includes details on a variety of issues, some which you will have considered, and some which may be a surprise, but we hope that you will find it helpful.

Our Church

Parts of St Peter's dates back to the 12th century and is a listed building, consequently there are some parts of the church that are not as 'user-friendly' as we would like. It is also the worship centre for around 150 Christians who attend the church regularly throughout the year.

The Legal Bit

Your wedding is a legal ceremony which binds you together as husband and wife and as such there are a variety of rules which we need to consider.

If you live in the parish –your banns will be read during the 10am Sunday service. This is an announce-ment, made on the first three consecutive Sundays two months before your wedding (eg if you are to be married in August, your banns will be read in June). These announcements give an opportunity for anyone to raise an objection before the big day. Please come to at least one of the Sundays to hear your banns read, since we always pray for every couple as they prepare for their wedding. Please send an e-photo to jen@stpeterlittleover.org.uk to go on the screen as your banns are read.

If you live outside the parish – **YOU** will need to arrange to have your banns read in your local church and then provide us with a banns certificate, as proof of the reading. You can't be married without an appropriate banns certificate from your local church.

The Order of Service

This is the booklet you give to your family and friends to help them to follow the service. An example of the service order is below:

Front page:

The Marriage of
(groom's name) and
bride's name)
at St Peter's Church, Littleover on

Inside:

Opening Music: The Bridal March from Lohengrin
Richard Wagner (*or your own choice*)

Welcome The Reverend XXXX

Hymn 1

The Marriage *including the congregation declaration*
Will you, the families and friends of *Groom's name* and
Bride's name, support and uphold them in their marriage now
and in the years to come?

All: We will

Hymn 2

Bible Reading read by XXX

Another reading if you wish

Talk The Reverend XXXX

Hymn 3 (optional)

Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

The Signing of the Register

The Blessing

Exit music Wedding March Felix Mendelssohn

Hymns

You will need to choose at least two hymns and please see the suggested list for hymns (and wherever possible avoid All Things Bright and Beautiful 'cos it goes on for ages!). Most people print out the words in full in service order (make sure they type is readable), but our hymns books are also available if you don't want to produce a special service order.

Readings

Since you are marrying in a church, you will need to choose a passage from The Bible to be read. Many couples select 1 Corinthians 13, as this talks about love, but there are plenty of different passages to choose from, just see further ahead in this booklet. You can also have other readings or poems if you wish, just OK them with your presiding priest before you finalise.

Music

During the signing of the register, the organist can play some music, or you can have a CD played. The entrance and exit music is usually the Bridal March and the Wedding March as on the suggested order earlier, but obviously you can choose something different if you wish, just give us (and the organist) plenty of warning.

Proofs of your service order

Please supply a proof copy of the service order the presiding priest for approval before they are printed to ensure there are no nasty surprises on the day! Email is usually fine.

The Marriage

During the main part of the marriage service you will declare yourselves willing to marry, make your marriage vows and exchange rings. Please note that at some parts of the service your full names must be used to fulfil the legal requirements.

You don't need to remember any words, but here is the main part for you to read before the big day:

The Declarations *To the congregation*

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

Groom and Bride, 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 groom –

Groom (full name), will you take Bride (full name) 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 bride –

Bride (full name) will you take Groom (full name) 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.

(INCLUDE THIS BIT FOR YOUR SERVICE ORDER)

The minister says to the congregation:

Will you, the families and friends of Groom and Bride, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All: We will

Minister Who is it that brings Bride to be married to Groom today?

Father of the Bride – Her mother and I do (*or similar*)

The Vows

Groom & Bride, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

The couple face each other.

Groom takes bride's right hand in his.

I, *Groom (full name)* take you, *Bride (full name)* 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 groom's right hand and says:

I, *Bride (full name)* take you, *Groom (full name)*, 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,

(women can also choose to obey at this bit) 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

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to *Groom & Bride* 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. **Amen.**

Groom places the ring on the fourth finger of bride's left hand and, holding it there, says:

Bride, 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.

Loose hands – then Bride

Groom, 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

Bride & Groom kneel. The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,

Groom and Bride 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 now husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

Reading these words BEFORE the day will help you prepare for being married in church. If you have any questions or queries, please speak to your presiding priest.

Take a look at the website:

www.yourchurchwedding.org.uk

packed with lots of useful information and tips....

Hymns – check out www.yourchurchwedding.org for tunes

- Amazing Grace
- And did those feet, in ancient times (Jerusalem)
- Bind us together Lord
- Come to a wedding OR Morning has broken
- Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising (Sing Hosanna)
- Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
- Lord of all hopefulness, lord of all joy OR God in the planning and purpose of life (same tune)
- Lord of the Dance
- Love divine, all love's excelling
- Make me a channel of Your peace
- One more step along the world I go
- Praise my soul, the King of Heaven
- Shine, Jesus, shine
- The King of love my Shepherd is
- We pledge to one another (tune: I vow to thee my country)

Suggested Bible readings

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Mark 10:6-9 (NIV)

But 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.

John 2:1-11 (NIV)

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 realize 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 at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Romans 12:9-13

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

1 Corinthians 13 (NIV)

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 hopes, 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.

1 Corinthians 13 (shortened version)

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.

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Colossians 3:12-15 from The Message

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline.

Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offence. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you.



And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

1 John, chapter 4

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Bells

Sadly we don't have a peal of bells available at St Peter's.

Flowers

These are an important part of the visual celebrations for your day and we will help as much as we can. However as a listed building (on the inside and the outside) we take great care with the fabric of the building and there are some guidelines to help you:

- All displays must be freestanding and not fixed to any part of the interior or exterior of the building or surrounding trees. Please bring your own pedestal columns/stands
- Our church florists may be able to help, but the arrangements will stay in church – please talk to Jen in the office for more information.
- Pew ends can be hung on using appropriate hangers, but **no sellotape or blu tac or nails can be used** to fix bows or flowers. Bows that are just tied on, will fall off.

Should the fabric of the building be damaged, compensation for repairs may be requested.

Photography & Video

We are happy for your official photographer to take pictures throughout the service as long as they are not intrusive and do not use a flash. We want all the focus to be on you getting married and not distracted by cameras or operators. Consequently we ask them to remain at the back of the church and use zoom as appropriate. In the same way we are more than happy for video cameras to be used as long as they are kept on a fixed tripod with no operator within sight of the congregation. The presiding priest wears a radio mike and this is usually sufficient to also pick up the voices of the bride and groom.

Once the register has been signed photographers are welcome to do as much photography as needed. **Please ensure your photographer knows what they can and can't do during the service.**



The signing of the register

You will sign four pieces of paper and **the bride must sign in her maiden name**, rather than newly married name. You will also need two witnesses to your signature who must not have witnessed any previous marriage of yours. Please sign as the presiding priest instructs you. You can order extra copies of your wedding certificate for a small charge – this is very useful when informing others of your name change – order via the office. Please note, the registers are signed in the main body of the church, in front of the congregation, rather than in the vestry.

The rehearsal

You will need to come to church for a wedding rehearsal, usually in the week prior to the big day. Essentially we need the bride and groom, whoever is giving you away and the best man. Bridesmaids, page boys and ushers are also helpful, so at least they know where they are standing and what they will be doing. Obviously when family and guests are dispersed around the country this can be difficult, but please consider who is attending the rehearsal well in advance and book the date with the presiding priest. The rehearsal takes around 40 minutes and will help the final ceremony to go well.

Timing

You may share the day of your wedding with another couple and so timing is crucial to ensure your ceremonies, guests and photographs do not clash. Consequently it is important that your wedding begin on time and not be delayed by cars or photographers.

Facilities and helpful requests

We have **toilets** at the back of the church which will be available to guests before and after the service.

If you have any **wheelchair users** among your guests then be advised that we have level access throughout and appropriate toilet facilities.

If you have young **children** in your party then we have space in the welcome area with plenty of toys to help keep them occupied. If the children are particularly vocal or fractious we would encourage carers to take the children outside for a change of scene.

Parking is very limited around the church and if you park in the nearby pub car park, please go in and have a drink first! Where possible encourage guests to walk or car share.

Please can you ensure that any **confetti used is biodegradable** and not the metal stuff that is meant for table decoration. It is also helpful if the confetti is thrown down towards the gates, rather than at the door, to stop it coming into church or the churchyard.

It is helpful to have **ushers** in church at least 40 minutes before the ceremony begins as some guests will always arrive early having travelled a distance. Please ensure the ushers have the service orders with them.

You will be given a final price for your wedding in Jan/Feb of the year you are married. Please ensure this is paid by the rehearsal.

**Cheques should be made payable to:
St Peter's Church Littleover**

Space for your own notes

