

## Christ Church and Holy Trinity, Gosport - WEDDING PACK

[www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk](http://www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk)  
[www.christchurchgosport.co.uk](http://www.christchurchgosport.co.uk)  
(You can email via either website)

**You might wish to visit the Church of England Website:**  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/weddings>

**See next Page for your own “Check-list”!!**

## Christ Church and Holy Trinity, Gosport – Wedding Checklist

- Have you see the “Wedding Pack” on the website/s, or sent to you through the post? **Yes / No**
- Have you visited both Christ Church and Holy Trinity to see which one you like best? **Yes / No**
- If you are booking a venue for your post-wedding “do” (and before you meet with the priest) have you found out if it is free on the date/s you are after? **Yes / No**
- Have you met with the priest and got your date confirmed - by completing the **booking form**? **Yes / No**
- Have you noted when your banns begin? **Yes / No**
- Have you noted when your payment (**IN CASH!**) is due? **Yes / No**
- Can you come to hear your banns at least once, preferably all three times? **Yes / No**

**When you come to church to hear your banns read, bring this sheet, with the following information completed on it.**

**(But, see page in wedding pack about music FIRST, before completing this!!)**

I would like an organist (**extra £80.00**) or I would like to supply music on CD/s (**no extra charge**)

My entrance music will be\_\_\_\_\_

My “Signing of the Register” music will be\_\_\_\_\_

My exit music will be\_\_\_\_\_

If you are having the organ, and would like hymns, please write the names of one, two or three hymns:

Hymn 1 (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

Hymn 2 (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

Hymn 3 (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following readings or poems:

**(But, see pages in wedding pack about readings and poems FIRST, before completing this!!)**

Reading 1 (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

Reading 2 (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

**Booking Form:** Someone will meet with you at the church to fix a date and complete a **booking form** with you – and will then give you a copy as a “confirmation of booking.”

**PLEASE NOTE:** Reception venues are usually more difficult to book than the church, so you may want to investigate where your reception is to be **FIRST!**

**Fees:** There is no deposit to pay. We ask for total payment **by cash ONLY** three weeks before the wedding (or earlier if you wish!)

The Fees are below. The fees are set by the national church, and will go up a small amount each year.)

**WEDDING FEES 2020: £530.00** (*this will be higher for future years.....*)

*Optional:*

*Organist £80.00*

*Christ Church Choir £45.00 (same fee for both churches)*

**Flowers at Christ Church:** £35.00 per stand [3 stands for £100.00!] IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE CHURCH TO DO FLOWERS, CONTACT KATHY SMITH ON 023 92 352530

**Flowers at Holy Trinity:** *Negotiable.* IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE CHURCH TO DO FLOWERS, CONTACT JOAN MILLARD ON 023 92 525319

Wedding costs do vary year by year. Please contact us before you pay, to make sure that you know the **EXACT** cost of your wedding. Please pay by CASH.

**Banns:** by law, a church wedding has to be announced on three consecutive Sundays during the main Sunday service. **Banns are read on the first three Sundays of the month before your wedding.** For example, if you are getting married in July, the banns would be read on the first three Sundays in June. The precise dates when your banns are read will be on the form you completed with someone from the church. You do not have to be there when the banns are read, but it is nice if you can come on at least one of the three Sundays, or all three if you can. **You do NOT need to apply for a marriage licence if banns are read. If you DO need a licence (perhaps because you are not a British Citizen), the clergy can help you get one!**

## **The Service**

The service usually lasts between 20 and 45 minutes, depending on what you include in the way of readings, music and hymns.....

Holy Trinity is laid out in a circle, so you are surrounded by your guests. Christ Church has rows of pews, with the couple at the front.

The service follows the set Church of England format (the words for the vows and rings are printed below) but you can choose the following for yourself:

## **Music**

You don't have to have an organist (although an organist will add a great deal to the atmosphere of your wedding) – you can use CD's of your choice, which you need to provide. You need entrance and exit music, music for the signing of the register, and – if you'd like them - one, two or three hymns. If you are having hymns, you'll need to have an organist. [SEE FURTHER ON FOR MUSIC AND HYMN SUGGESTIONS]. **Please note that the music can be traditional or modern! We can play CD's of any type of music you choose, including pop and rock songs! Why not meet with an organist to discuss music? You could catch them at a service on a Sunday – perhaps when you come to hear your banns read?**

## **Reading(s)/Poems**

You can have a reading/poem or more than one reading/poem if you wish. There are lots of ideas further on! Perhaps (a) family member(s) or friend(s) (if used to speaking in public) might read for you!

## **Order of Service**

Unless you are having a hymn or hymns, then a printed order of service for your wedding guests is not necessary, as they can just watch the wedding. But if you would like to have a printed order of service, then once you have told the clergy what your choices of music are (and a reading/poem or two if you'd like a reading/poem) then the parish can produce for you a draft order of service. **We can then produce very simple, photocopied service orders for you, the cost of which is already covered in the fees you pay.** Or we can give you an outline order (by email or disk or memory stick) so you can produce your own or take it to a print shop to produce professionally.

## **Confetti/Photographs/ Filming**

Confetti is fine, but if possible, WELL AWAY from the entrance door (so it doesn't blow back into the church)!

It is best to have one person filming or taking photos during the service, otherwise, photographs and filming are NOT allowed. We can allow opportunities for photos at the signing of the registers, and as the couple leave the church at the end.

## **Rehearsal**

We will need to arrange, to take place at a mutually convenient time (day-time or evening) a 20/30 minute "walk-through" in the church, preferably within seven days of the wedding. It is handy, but not essential, if all those who are taking part can be there as well as the couple (bride's escort, best man, bridesmaids, readers, photographer.....plus any immediate family who'd like to come!) The priest will steer you through it all, and make it very easy (so you won't need to remember anything) but it will help you relax for the service!

## **Questionnaires:**

Further on, are two copies of a sheet entitled "**What is important to you?**" If you want to do this exercise together, that's up to you.....no-one else see them! Many couples find it most interesting!

The last two pages has a questionnaire called "**Helping the priest get to know you**" (one for each of you!) Please complete it and return it to the priest some time!

## Words for Vows and Rings:

I, (name), take you, (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.

I, (name), take you, (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,  
till death us do part; according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*(name)* 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.

## **Music for the entrance and exit; and for signing the registers**

Here are some of the most popular organ pieces for weddings: you can click on this link, scroll down the page, and click to hear each piece.....

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/community/weddings/organ-music/>

.....but why not meet with the organist (perhaps after a service, when your banns are read?) and hear a few pieces?

Or, you could have CD's (Pop, Rock, Jazz, Classical, etc)

## **Hymns**

All things bright and beautiful (*please also note that there are two tunes!*)

And did those feet (JERUSALEM)

At the name of Jesus (*please also note that there are two tunes!*)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Father hear the prayer we offer

Give me Joy in my heart (SING HOSANNA)

Guide me O thou great redeemer

I danced in the morning (LORD OF THE DANCE)

Immortal, invisible God only wise

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us

Lord Jesus Christ (LIVING LORD)

Lord of all hopefulness

Lord the light of your love (SHINE JESUS SHINE)

Love divine all loves excelling (*please also note that there are two tunes!*)

Morning has broken (*other words are available for this tune – see below*)

Now thank we all our God

O Jesus I have promised (*please also note that there are THREE tunes!*)

Praise my soul the King of heaven

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

Tell out my soul

The King of love my shepherd is

The Lord's my Shepherd

## **Other words to 'MORNING HAS BROKEN' (NOT in hymn book)**

### **VERSION ONE:**

God of all living, Father we praise you, Full of thanksgiving, for so much love;  
Now in this wedding, Come down among us, Pour out your blessing, Heavenly Dove.

Perfect companion, God's gift in marriage, One true communion, Help on life's way;  
May we be mindful, in need and plenty, May we be faithful, Every new day.

With love's true splendour, Father delight us, Each giving honour, with faithfulness;  
And may the sharing, of this sweet union, Deepen our caring, with tenderness.

May there be children, fruit of our loving, True men and women, with faith beside;  
Grant us your keeping, in all our future, Your love caressing, Bridegroom and bride.

### **VERSION TWO (HAS TO BE LAST HYMN, AFTER VOWS!)**

Vows have been spoken, prayers have been offered, ring as a token placed on the hand.  
Now with elation, spirits are lifting, in celebration, joyful we stand.

Two lives are binding, each to the other, in your love finding they are one.  
Keep them and mold them, let joy enfold them, in your peace hold them till life is done.

Praise and thanksgiving, lips are now voicing, Lord of the living, God above.  
For all around us, hearts are rejoicing, as you surround us, with your love.

## **Bible Readings to choose from (or you could choose your own!)**

### *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

### *Tobit 8.4-8*

When the parents had gone out and shut the door of the room, Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah, 'Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy and safety.' So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe.

Tobias began by saying,  
'Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,  
and blessed is your name in all generations for ever.  
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you for ever.  
You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve  
as a helper and support.  
From the two of them the human race has sprung.  
You said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;  
let us make a helper for him like himself."  
I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,  
not because of lust,  
but with sincerity.  
Grant that she and I may find mercy  
and that we may grow old together.'  
And they both said, 'Amen, amen.'

### *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 3.14-21*

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. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

*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.

*Matthew 5.1-10*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

*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.

# NON-BIBLE READINGS (or you could choose your own!)

## Love is Giving

Love is giving, not taking,  
mending, not breaking,  
trusting, believing,  
never deceiving,  
patiently bearing  
and faithfully sharing  
each joy, every sorrow,  
today and tomorrow.

Love is kind, understanding,  
but never demanding.  
Love is constant, prevailing,  
its strength never failing.  
A promise once spoken  
for all time unbroken,  
Love's time is forever. (Anon)

## Marriage means being in love For the Rest of Your life

*By Chris Ardis*

Marriage is love walking hand in hand together.  
It's laughing with each other about silly little things,  
and learning to discuss big things with care and tenderness.  
In marriage, love is trusting each other when you're apart.  
It's getting over disappointment and hurts,  
knowing that these are present in all relationships.  
It's the realisation that there is no one else in the world  
that you would rather be with than the one you are married to.  
It's thinking of new things to do together,  
It's growing old together.  
marriage is being in love for the rest of your life.

## Marriage ( from "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran)

Then Almitra spoke again and said, And what of Marriage, master?  
And he answered saying:  
You were born together, and together you shall be for evermore.  
You shall be together even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness.  
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.  
Love one another, but make not a bond of love:  
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.  
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.  
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.  
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,  
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.  
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.  
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.  
And stand together yet not too near together:  
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

## The Art of Marriage

A good marriage must be created.  
In a marriage, the little things are the big things.....  
It is never being too old to hold hands.  
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once each day.  
It is never going to sleep angry.  
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.  
It is standing together and facing the world.  
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.  
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.  
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.  
It is not only marrying the right person – It is being the right partner.

### **A Bridge across Forever**

A soul mate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we're safe in our own paradise. Our soul mate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction. When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are we've found our soul mate.

### **What is Love**

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines, and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favourite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams.

Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who love.

### **What Costs Nothing?**

What costs nothing, but gives so much?  
What enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give?  
What takes but a moment, but the memory of it can last forever?  
No-one is so rich and mighty that he can get along without it, and no-one is so poor that he can be made rich by it.  
It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill at work, and is the countersign of friendship.  
It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, and sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

It cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something which is of no value to anyone until it is given away.  
If some people are too tired to give you this beautiful thing, give them one of yours.

- I talk of a smile, and no-one needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

### **North American Indian Blessing**

May the sun bring you new energy by day.  
May the moon restore you by night.  
May the rain wash away your worries and the breeze blow new strength into your being  
and all the days of your life may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be a shelter for the other.  
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now you are two persons, but there are three lives before you, his life, her life, and your life together.

Go to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your life together.

May beauty surround you, both in your journey ahead and throughout the years.  
May happiness be your companion to the place where the river meets the sun, and  
May your days together be good and long upon this earth.

### **"Because" by Steven Reiser**

Because we have things in common, we have the joy of sharing them  
Because we are so different, there is so much we can learn from each other  
Because we love each other, we look for the good in the other  
Because we are forgiving, we overlook the faults in each other  
Because we are patient, we give each other time to understand  
Because we are filled with kindness, we compliment the things we do for each other  
Because we can empathize, we know what it's like to stand in each other's shoes  
Because we have character, we enjoy each other's uniqueness  
Because we have faith, we believe in the best for the future

Because we are honest, we are comfortable to trust each other  
Because we are filled with loyalty, we always know the other will be there

### **Irish Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you; may you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back.  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home and may the hand of a friend always be near.  
May green be the grass you walk on, may blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you, may true be the hearts that love you.

### **Extract from *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo**

You can give without loving,  
But you can never love without giving.  
The great acts of love, are done by those who are habitually  
performing small acts of kindness.  
We pardon to the extent that we love.  
Love is knowing that even when we are alone,  
You will never be lonely again.  
And great happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved.  
Loved for ourselves,  
And loved even in spite of ourselves.

### **A Good Wedding Cake**

Author Unknown

4lb of love.  
1lb butter of youth.  
½lb of good looks.  
1lb sweet temper.  
1lb of blindness of faults.  
1lb of self forgetfulness.  
1lb of pounded wit.  
1lb of good humour.  
2 tablespoons of sweet argument.  
1 pint of rippling laughter.  
1 wine glass of common sense.  
1oz modesty.

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.

### **On Your Wedding Day - Anon**

Today is a day you will always remember  
The greatest in anyone's life  
You'll start off the day just two people in love  
And end it as husband and wife  
It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey  
With moments to cherish and treasure  
And although they'll be times when you both disagree  
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure.  
You'll have heard many words of advice in the past  
When the secrets of marriage were spoken  
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside

Where the bond of true love lies unbroken.  
So live happy forever as lovers and friends  
It's the dawn of a new life for you  
As you stand there together with love in your eyes  
From the moment you whisper "I do".  
And with luck, all your hopes, and your dreams can be real  
May success find its way to your hearts  
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys  
But today is the day it all starts.

### **Come Walk with Me – Judith Calver**

Come walk with me, my love,  
Along the paths of life.  
And keep up by my side, my love,  
As we walk with paths of life.

Stop for a while with me, my love,  
The path is growing steep,  
We'll sit by the poll of life, my love,  
Where the waters are so deep.

We'll follow the stream of life from whence it flows  
And seek its very source.  
Follow the stream of life, my love,  
We'll follow the stream of life.

Come climb these rocks with me, my love,  
And help me along the way.  
And together we'll reach the top, my love  
We'll stand at the very top.

Look down on the world with me, my love  
Look down on this world of ours.  
We walked though life together, my love  
Together we passed the hours.

And we'll continue walking onwards  
Through life's more peaceful paths.

### **A Walled Garden - Anon**

"Your marriage", he said, 'should have within it, a secret and protected place open to you alone.  
'Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which you only hold the key.  
'Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life.  
'Here you are yourselves – two people, who love each other.  
'Here you can concentrate on one another's needs.'

And so we made our walled garden  
Time that was kept for us alone.  
At first we went there often, enjoying each other's company,  
sharing secrets, growing closer.  
But now our days are packed with plans and people  
Conversation has become a message scribbled on a pad.  
The door into our garden is almost hidden by rank weeds of busy-ness  
We claim we have no time because we have forgotten  
Forgotten that love grows if it is tended, and if neglected, dies.

But we can always make time for what is most important in our lives.  
So take my hand and let us go back to our garden  
The time we spend together is not wasted but invested.  
Invested in our future and the nurture of our love

### **Foundations of Marriage**

Love, trust and forgiveness are the foundations of marriage. In marriage, many days will bring happiness, while other days may be sad. But together, two hearts can overcome everything.

In marriage, all of the moments won't be exciting or romantic, and sometimes worries and anxiety will be overwhelming. But together, two hearts that accept will find comfort together.

Recollections of past joys, pains and shared feelings will be the glue that holds everything together during even the worst and most insecure moments.

Reaching out to each other as a friend, and becoming the confidant and companion that the other one needs, is the true magic and beauty of any two people together.

Its inspiring in each other a dream, or a feeling, and having faith in each other and not giving up... even when the odds say so.

Its allowing each other to be vulnerable, to be himself or herself, even when the opinions or thoughts aren't in total agreement or exactly what you'd like them to be.

Its getting involved and showing interest in each other, really listening and being available, the way any best friend should be.

Exactly three things need to be remembered in a marriage if it is to be a mutual bond of sharing, caring, and loving throughout life:

Love, trust and forgiveness.

(Regina Hill)

### **Wedding Day** (*Adrain Lomas*)

This day of days

Your separate ways

Become one.

This ring, this vow,

Tell you that now

A new life's begun.

Two roads converging

Then, finally, merging

Under the sun.

Good luck holding

A future unfolding

That can't be undone.

### **Take Time**

Take time to think, it is the source of life,

Take time to play, It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time for silence, It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved, It is life's greatest gift,

Take time to be friendly, It is the road to happiness,

Take time to laugh, It is the music of the soul,

Take time for each other, it is time never wasted,

Take time to work, It gives a life shape.

Take time to give, It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to share your sorrows, it reminds us we can love.

Take time to celebrate, it gives us life.

### **From *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres**

Love is a temporary madness,

it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides.

And when it subsides you have to make a decision.

You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together

that it is inconceivable that you should ever part.

Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness,

it is not excitement,

it is not the promulgation of eternal passion.

That is just being "in love" which any fool can do.

Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away,

and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Those that truly love, have roots that grow towards each other underground,  
and when all the pretty blossom have fallen from their branches,  
they find that they are one tree and not two.

### **Love is**

Love is  
Being happy for the other person  
When they are happy,  
Being sad for the other person when they are sad,  
Being together in good times  
And being together in bad times  
Love is the source of strength.

Love is  
Being honest with yourself at all times  
Being honest with the other person at all times  
Telling, listening, respecting the truth  
And never pretending.  
Love is the source of reality.

Love is  
An understanding that is so complete that  
You feel as if you are a part of the other person,  
Accepting the other person just the way they are,  
And not trying to change them to be someone else.  
Love is the source of unity.

Love is  
The freedom to pursue your own desires,  
While sharing your experience with the other person,  
The growth of one individual along side of  
And together with the growth of another individual,  
Love is the source of success.

Love is  
The excitement of planning things together  
The excitement of doing things together  
Love is the source of the future

Love is  
The fury of the storm  
The calm of the rainbow  
Love is the source of passion.

Love is  
giving and receiving  
Being patient with each others needs and desires  
Love is the source of sharing.

Love is  
Knowing that the other person  
Will always be with you regardless of what happens,  
Missing the other person when they are away  
But remaining near in heart at all times  
Love is the source of security  
Love is the source of life.

## What is important to you?

You and your partner should **each** have a copy of this sheet!

Look at the list below and put a **circle** round the word(s) indicating the importance you attach to what is mentioned. You can then compare your form with your partner's!

<b>Being tidy and well organised</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Good Food</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Being Punctual</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Reading</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Sport</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Going out regularly</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>My own friends</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Family ties</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Inviting people home</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Having time to myself</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Showing affection</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Saying "I love you"</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Talking together regularly</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Keeping the peace</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Getting my own way</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Honesty</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Going to Church</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Keeping to a strict budget</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Buying surprise presents</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Saving</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Making careful decisions</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Having Children</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>My job</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Promotion</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Equal division of household tasks</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>
<b>Living in this area</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>fairly</i>	<i>not very</i>	<i>not at all</i>

*You and your partner should **each** have a copy of this sheet!*

Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Helping the priest get to know you**

**1) Describe how you met**

**2) What were your first impressions of each other? Were they accurate, or did you change your mind later?**

**3) Who proposed to whom – and where and how?**

**4) The two things you like MOST about your partner?**

a)

b)

**5) The two things you like LEAST about your partner?**

a)

b)

**6) The wedding day - what are you most anxious about?**

**7) The wedding day – what are you most looking forward to?**

**8) Are you having a honeymoon? If so, where are you going?**