

WEDDING BOOK

St Mary the Virgin &
St Mary Magdalen, Tetbury

St Mary the Virgin,
Beverston

Holy Trinity,
Long Newnton

St John the Baptist,
Shipton Moyne

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Welcome

Many congratulations on your engagement, and we are delighted to welcome you to one of our churches for your marriage service. Weddings are normally taken by the Rector, or a member of the Ministry Team (the Associate Priest, Curate, or a retired clergyperson from the benefice). In this booklet the person taking the service is referred to as "the Minister".

This book is intended to help you prepare for the marriage service. It includes the Order of Service, together with suggested hymns and readings (these are a guide only – you are welcome to request others).

Wedding Preparation Day

It is important that you prepare carefully, for both the service and for your life together. Between booking your wedding date and the day itself we would like to invite you to find just one day to spend thinking about the future of your marriage. Even if you have been together some time, from experience we know that this day of reflection will give you some tools and strategies that will help you build a strong and lasting relationship. The day, which usually runs between 10.30am – 2.30pm, with lunch provided, helps couples to talk freely between themselves, in private, about their future relationship together. It is also a great opportunity to chat to our wedding team about the practicalities for your church wedding (flowers, music etc). You will receive an invitation in due course.

What happens now?

Read this booklet together, and discuss the choices you can make about the service and arrangements for your wedding day. Also read the order of service carefully, and talk about what the declarations and vows will mean to you both.

You can also go online to look at the resources on the Church of England Wedding Project website: <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

About four months before your wedding, we will contact you to arrange a meeting with the minister. You will be reminded about the things you need to discuss before you meet the minister, and then talk through the plans for your wedding day.

There is a list of the current fees at the back of the booklet.

Please note

You should receive this leaflet after you have completed a banns form, and we have accepted the booking for your wedding in one of our four churches. This will be on the basis that (1) you live in one of our four parishes or (2) you have a "qualifying connection".

If this is *not* the case, please visit our website for information about completing a banns form and application for booking.

Banns

It is a legal requirement that “banns” are read before a marriage. This means the names of the couple are read during the main church service on three consecutive weeks during the three months prior to your wedding. People are asked to declare if they know any reason why you should not marry. It is also an opportunity for our church congregations to pray for you as you prepare for your wedding. The minister will confirm the dates when your banns will be read, and do please join us on those Sundays if you can.

If you live in the parishes of Tetbury, Beverston, Long Newton and Shipton Moyne: we will read your banns in the church in which you will be married.

If you live outside the parishes of Tetbury, Beverston, Long Newton and Shipton Moyne and are marrying by “qualifying connection”: we will read your banns in the church in which you will be married. BUT you must also have your banns read in the parish church(es) where you live, and then collect a Banns Certificate from the church to confirm this has happened. **We must have the Banns Certificates prior to the wedding otherwise it cannot go ahead.** It is very simple, but absolutely essential – and it is easily forgotten.

Rehearsal

The minister will arrange a rehearsal in the church just before the wedding. You will need to check with the minister who, besides yourselves, should attend. Please bring the printed orders of service to the wedding rehearsal.

Timings

Please ensure you plan the day so that the groom arrives at least 30 minutes before the service and the bridal party arrives promptly. Late arrival causes considerable inconvenience to guests, the officiating minister and to all those supporting you on your wedding day.

Music

Music can be a important and wonderful part of your marriage service. Here is information about the organist, choir and hymns

Organist

The organist for all parishes is Mr Jonathan Adkins (07891074878). If he is unavailable, we have deputies who are also talented and capable musicians.

Choir

A choir maybe available by special arrangement and subject to availability. There is also a robed choir at Beverston Church. Please contact Juliet Browne (01453 860710).

Verger

Any weddings with 150 guests or more, will need two vergers on duty (and you will be charged accordingly).

Access

Please note that St Marys’ Tetbury, Holy Trinity Long Newton & St John the Baptist Shipton Moyne all have ramp access and St Mary the Virgin Beverston does not have steps to enter.

Choosing hymns

It is usual to have three hymns at a wedding. Try and choose hymns that will be familiar and also reflect what is happening during the service: a cheerful, bright hymn to start and end with and a more gentle, reflective hymn in the middle of the service before you make your solemn vows. Here are some suggestions. These are the first lines of the hymn which you can use to google the words and tunes.

Bright well-known hymns to start the service

- ◆ Praise my soul the king of Heaven
- ◆ Now thank we all our God
- ◆ All things bright and beautiful
- ◆ Morning has broken (for morning weddings!)
- ◆ For the beauty of the earth
- ◆ I danced in the morning
- ◆ Love divine, all loves excelling

Reflective, gentle hymns for the middle of the service

- ◆ Dear Lord and Father of mankind
- ◆ Father, hear the prayer we offer
- ◆ Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
- ◆ Be still, for the presence of the Lord
- ◆ Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
- ◆ The King of Love, my shepherd is
- ◆ The Lord's my shepherd
- ◆ Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
- ◆ Make me a channel of your peace

Uplifting, thankful hymns for the end of the service

- ◆ And did those feet in ancient times ("Jerusalem")
- ◆ Great is thy faithfulness
- ◆ Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
- ◆ Guide me, O thou great Redeemer
- ◆ Immortal, invisible, God only wise
- ◆ Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
- ◆ Let all the world in every corner sing
- ◆ Now thank we all our God
- ◆ O Jesus, I have promised
- ◆ Shine Jesus Shine
- ◆ O worship the King, all glorious above

Flowers in church

After meeting with the minister, please liaise with the following people about flowers. They can arrange for the flowers to be done for you for a fee, or arrange access for your own florist. As church communities, we are working to find environmentally-friendly approaches to all we do. We would encourage couples to consider using flowers that are locally grown and in season (rather than imported flowers), plus to try to avoid florists using oasis. This is your personal choice, of course, but we would be grateful if you would give this some thought. Thank you.

Previously, we asked for couples to leave an arrangement of flowers in the church for our Sunday Service (except in Lent and Advent when we ask you to remove all flowers). However, this is under review, so please ask your minister for updated guidance.

Bells

We can usually arrange for the bells to be rung at Tetbury, Shipton Moyne and Long Newnton. However, some bell ringers ring at more than one church, so they do get very busy on Saturdays in the summer, and need to be given plenty of notice. The sooner you can tell us, the more likely it is that the bells can be rung at your wedding.

Photography

Please see the separate policy on photographs, which seeks to balance the need for the church to give a warm welcome to all and for you to have great photos in the context of a meaningful marriage service.

Videography

We permit video-recording of the service, provided we are notified in advance. The recordist will have to sign the disclaimer, and must comply with the instructions given by the minister. They must be static throughout the service. We strongly recommend that you hire a professional recordist, but whoever does it, an additional fee is payable to comply with copyright law. Please ensure that the recordist has a copy of the disclaimer form and has completed and returned it to the minister before the wedding.

Confetti

It is not permitted to throw confetti in church or within the church grounds, with the exception of St Marys', where high quality biodegradable confetti/petals are permitted. Please check with your minister if you are at all unsure.

Marriage Document

Following the rule changes on May 4th 2021, we no longer issue you with your wedding certificate. You will no longer sign a marriage register or be given a Marriage Certificate during the ceremony instead you will sign a Marriage Document. This is a one-page document which contains the details of both people getting married which are needed to register a marriage. The Marriage Document will be issued by the Minister at the Church where your marriage is taking place and will contain all

the details required to complete a marriage registration. In addition to father details, other parent details will be able to be recorded ie mother, step-parent. Please keep us up to date with your details. **The registrar has asked me to let you know of the complexity and £99 fee for applying for a correction at a later date.**

Couples will be able to apply for certificates online: Marriage certificates can be ordered online at the Gloucestershire Registration Service website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/births-marriages-deaths-and-civil-partnerships/order-certificates/> for dispatch within 7 calendar days. Certificates will be sent via Royal Mail 2nd class delivery service.—the current charge for this is £12.50 (as of January 2025)

Service booklet

You will probably want to produce a service booklet (“order of service”) for your guests. The minister will supply you with a soft copy of the outline order of service. You can then fill in the details of the music, hymns, readings etc. **You should show a draft copy of the completed booklet to the minister before printing.** Please print enough for all your guests and also welcome but uninvited friends, and for the choir if needed. Please bring all the service booklets to the rehearsal, so we have them in church ready for your wedding day. If someone is writing you a poem, then please bring a copy for the Minister to see beforehand.

Ushers

The ushers will be supported by our “Wedding Verger” (s/he is a member of our church community who is experienced in providing help and support at weddings). The Verger will be in the church 45 minutes before the start of the service, and the ushers should arrive at the church at least 30 minutes before the service begins. They should make themselves known to the Verger. At Tetbury we recommend that one usher is available to stand outside the gate ensuring that cars do not obstruct the traffic flow.

Ushers should greet the guests as they arrive at the church, give them service booklets and show them to their seats. It is helpful if guests can be in their seats a few minutes before the service.

There is a ramp to aid access at Tetbury and Shipton Moyne (the entrance to Beverston is on the level) and there is space for wheelchairs if required. Please let us know in advance if assistance is needed, and speak to the verger on the day for advice and help.

If you decide to have a bride’s side and groom’s side, the SEATING is usually:

Bridesmaids	Groom / best man
Bride's parents	Groom's parents
Grandparents	Grandparents
Close relatives	Close relatives
Distant relatives & friends	Distant relatives & friends

When the bride's mother arrives at the church, one of the ushers should escort her to her seat.

At the end of the service, the ushers should make sure that all guests' belongings are taken out of the church, spare Orders of Service are removed and the church is tidy.

Witnesses

Choose two people to be witnesses, to sign the marriage document with you. The minister will need a note of their forename and surname before the day. There are no requirements about the gender or age of witnesses, or their relationship to you, but preferably over the age of 16.

The Marriage Service



Introduction

The Welcome

The minister welcomes the people using these or other appropriate words

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you

All

and also with you.

Hymn

Preface

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.

The Declarations

The minister says 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

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?

All

We will.

The Collect

*The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept
and the minister says the Collect*

God our Father, from the beginning,
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon N and N,
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Readings

Sermon



The Marriage

The couple stand before the minister.

The Vows

The minister introduces the vows

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

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says

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.

They loose hands.

The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, 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.

They loose hands.

The Giving of Rings

The minister receives the rings, and says

Heavenly Father, by your blessing,
let these rings be to *N* and *N*
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.

All

Amen.

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

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.

They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says

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.

The Proclamation

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
N and N 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 husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

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

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you have created joy and gladness,
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing
upon N and N in their new life together.
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts,
and a crown upon their heads.
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;
awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death.
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet
where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The minister says to the couple

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

All

Amen.

Registration of the Marriage

Hymn

Prayers

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

All

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

The minister says

God the Holy Trinity make *you* strong in faith and love,
defend *you* on every side, and guide *you* in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

All

Amen.

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SUGGESTED READINGS

These readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, but you can choose other versions—and other readings.

1 Corinthians 13: The Gift of Love

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

Genesis 1 v 26-28: God creates man and woman to look after the earth

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.' (Copyright: NRSV)

Song of Solomon 2 v 10-13: A love poem

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

Song of Solomon 8 v 6,7

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

Matthew 5 v 1-10: The Beatitudes

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

John 2 v 1-11: Jesus at the Wedding at Cana

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

Colossians 3 v 12-17: Building a loving relationship

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

Ephesians 5 v 21-33: Committing to each other

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

Philippians 4 v 4-9: Seeing the good side

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

1 John 4 v 7-12: God Is Love

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. (Copyright: NRSV)

Fees for weddings 2026

Marriage Service	£566.00
Publication of banns	£39.00
Verger (up to 150 guests)	£62.00
Verger x 2 (over 150 guests)	£124.00
Organist	£127.00
Clerk	£12.00
Optional Costs	
Choir (if available)	£189.00
Video musician's fee	£127.00
Bells (Tetbury, Long Newnton & Shipton Moyne only)	£189.00
Heating - Tetbury	£100.00
Heating – Beverston,	£55.00
Heating—Long Newnton & Shipton Moyne	£75.00
Lighting Chandeliers (Tetbury only)	£75.00
Cleaning—(Long Newnton only)	£30.00

Please note:

- ◆ Once you have made all the arrangements for the day with the minister, we will confirm the fees due.
- ◆ Fees must be paid at least 1 month prior to the wedding.
- ◆ You can pay by BACS credit

The bank details are as follows:

Tetbury PCC – Lloyds 30-80-95

Account name – Tetbury PCC - number 4 account

Account number 40728268

Thank you!