

Your Wedding at St Matthew's, Haslington



We have booked your wedding at

on

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT.

We at St Matthew's are glad you have decided to have your wedding in church and we will be praying for you as you prepare for your wedding and your married life together.

There are lots of things to think about when you are planning a wedding. I hope this information pack will help you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time. My telephone number is: 582388

I look forward to getting to know you over the coming months.

Revd Jules Walker

Vicar of Haslington and Crewe Green

PRACTICAL INFORMATION TO HELP BEFORE THE WEDDING DAY

How much will it cost?

We do our best to keep the cost of weddings as low as possible. The cost usually goes up slightly in January of each year. For your wedding the fee should be about £660 (slightly more if you decide to video your wedding).

Banns

Banns are a public announcement that you intend to get married. I will read your banns at the main morning service for 3 weeks about 2 - 3 months before your wedding. I will contact you to let you know when this will be. **If one or both of you live in another parish it is very important that you contact the Vicar of the parish you live in 3 months before your wedding** and arrange for your banns to be read in that parish. I cannot marry you without a certificate to say this has been done.

Marriage Preparation

I promise this will be worthwhile and enjoyable! There is so much to think about when you are planning a wedding that it is easy to focus on the wedding day and forget what comes after that. Spending a couple of hours thinking about your marriage now will prepare you for a lifetime of marriage to each other.

Shortly before your wedding I will invite you to come and spend some time answering some questions together about your hopes and expectations for your marriage. I promise that you won't be embarrassed. Anything you say to each other will be between the two of you.

Service Sheets

Whether you are producing your own service sheet, or arranging for someone to produce it for you, please use the template sheet you were given in this pack to see how the service sheet should be laid out. **Please let me have a copy to check that the layout is suitable before you print off final copies.** This will save inconvenience to your guests and embarrassment to you.

You will almost certainly need more service sheets than you think. It might sound excessive, but you probably need to print about 25% more of these than you have guests attending. After all, you will need a copy yourselves, the Vicar will need a copy and so will the organist and choir members. It is also worth remembering that a wedding service is also a public event which anyone who wants to come can attend. Only the reception is a private event which people attend by invitation only. You may well find that people who know you well will come to the service even if they have not been invited to the reception.

Flowers

We are not able to provide a flower arranging service, but there are always flowers in church. If you want to have a florist, family member or friend to arrange flowers for you they need to contact me at least 3 days before the service so that arrangements can be made for them to come into church to arrange the flowers. This will need to be a mutual arrangement at everyone's convenience so it may help if your florist has a number of options available. If you are arranging for the railings outside church to be decorated, **Please remember what goes up has to come down and** make sure your florist, a member of your family or a friend knows it is their responsibility to remove the flowers or decorations from the railings immediately after the wedding.

An important note about Flowers

The Vicar is allergic to highly scented flowers such as lilies. **Please avoid highly scented lilies such as stargazers and longiflora lilies.**

If it is important to you to have highly scented flowers, it may be possible to arrange for someone else to take the wedding service for you, but you must ensure that all scented lilies are removed from church immediately after your wedding service.

A special note about Flower Girls

You are welcome to have Flower Girls. However we are not able to allow petals to be scattered as removing petals afterwards is extremely difficult and time-consuming owing to the fixed position of the pews.

Choir

We have an enthusiastic choir who are delighted to join you to make your Wedding day special. I will talk to you about your choice of hymns and music about 2 months before your wedding. Our Organist Christine Dannel is also happy to discuss your choice of music with you.

The Rehearsal

A rehearsal will be arranged at a convenient time during the days before your wedding (usually during the week before). This is not the kind of rehearsal where you have to remember everything. We try to make this a relaxed run through so that you have an idea of what will happen on your wedding day. It is also an opportunity at a busy time to pause and to re-focus on the most important part of the wedding day.

The only people who need to be present at the rehearsal are the Vicar and yourselves as Bride and Groom. It is, however, useful for the Best Man, Chief Bridesmaid, other Bridesmaids and Bride's Father to come to the rehearsal. But don't worry, everyone taking part in the wedding will be guided through the service on the day, whether they have been to the rehearsal or not.

THE WEDDING DAY

Bridegroom and Best Man

Please make sure you arrive at church not less than 30 minutes before your Wedding and are seated in church at least 10 minutes before the service is due to begin. Ask your photographer to take photographs before that. Come and sit on the pews at the front of church on the right hand side.

Photographs

Many photographers/ videographers are happy to come to the rehearsal and I would encourage this. If this is not possible, please make sure they see me not less than 30 minutes before the service to arrange where they can stand to take photographs during the service. This is a relatively small church and we ask you not to have more than one stills photographer and one video camera so that photography remains discreet.

Registers

The Bridegroom will be asked to make a careful check of the registers. Every detail must be correct - mistakes can be corrected easily before the service. I will ask you before the wedding about who will be signing the Registers. This is often the Best Man and the Chief Bridesmaids or the Fathers of the Bride and Groom, although there are no legal guidelines on this and you can ask other people if you wish. If you do ask others, please bear in mind the limited space available in the vestry where the Registers will be signed. Asking someone not automatically in the Bridal Party (Best Man, Bridesmaids, Parents of the Bride & Groom) may mean that the Bridesmaids are not able to come into the vestry for the signing of the registers.

The Best Man

Please keep the rings in your pocket, not in the box or pouch. You will be guided through your part in the service.

The Bride

Please don't get out of the car until I have spoken to you. When the photographer has finished, come to the church door. The verger will meet you and signal to the organist when you are ready. Walk **slowly** up the aisle when the verger indicates to you and stand to the left of the bridegroom.

The Bridesmaids and Page Boys

Please follow the bride into church. The **chief bridesmaid** walks on the left; she will assist with the bride's veil, hold the bride's flowers during the service and take them to the table at the signing of the registers. The bridesmaids will sit on the left.

The Service

You will be familiar with the service from your rehearsal; I will tell you exactly what to do or say as the service goes along. Getting everything right is my job; I will worry about that. **Your job is to relax and enjoy it.** If you're nervous, you won't be the first. So far every wedding has been great - and yours will be too.

Car Parking

Car parking is available on the Church Hall car park on Park Road and on the free public car park on Waterloo Road. Please ask your guests to respect the fact that the car park behind the Co-op and The Hawk is for people using the Co-op and The Hawk. It is very important that spaces are available in this car park for that purpose.

Want more information?

There is a vast amount of information, tips and stories of other couples' experiences of church weddings at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

A Typical Order of Service

Procession In

The Welcome

First Hymn

The Marriage

Bible Reading

The Address

Second Hymn

The Prayers [to include the Lord's Prayer]

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Third hymn [if required]

Signing of the Register

The Blessing

Procession Out



Hymns often used at Weddings



All Creatures of Our God and King - a very rousing, triumphant hymn with repeat "alleluias" - a good one to celebrate the joy of the wedding day.

All People that on Earth do Dwell - slow and solemn, very traditional, another hymn that is good for celebrating the joy of a wedding.

All Things Bright and Beautiful - quite often chosen for weddings for those opening words and because it is dimly remembered from school, but to be honest it can be a bit tedious. Only go for this if it's a personal favourite. There are two tunes, the more common *All things bright and beautiful* and slightly less common, *Royal Oak*.

Amazing Grace - slightly more informal but likely to be widely known, the words aren't actually ideal for a wedding, but it remains popular.

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind - dramatic hymn with words that might remind us that the marriage will have good bits and bad, but with help we can make it work

Father Lord of All - one of the harder hymn tunes recommended for weddings, but the theme of creation works well in a wedding setting.

Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer - rousing hymn with probably the best known of the great Welsh hymn tunes, incorporating that Rugby crowd echo towards the end. A good choice - popular.

Lead Us Heavenly Father, Lead Us - again a reminder that marriage will have problems as well as easy parts, and we need God's help to get through.

Lord of All Hopefulness - sung to the attractive Irish folk hymn tune *Slane*, the positive feel of this hymn works well in weddings.

Lord of the Dance - really not appropriate as a wedding hymn because of the focus on the crucifixion, but sometimes chosen for the "dance" word or because it's remembered from school.

Love Divine - probably the classic wedding hymn, a joyous "love" based hymn. Watch out, though - there are two popular tunes which influence how the words should be printed in your order of service. If you choose *Blaenwern* as the tune, there are only half as many verses as when you choose Love Divine - *Blaenwern* is twice as long, and pairs of the short verses are combined.

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace - lovely words with an acceptable modernish tune, an increasingly popular choice.

Morning Has Broken - one of the better choices for a wedding and increasingly popular, the tune is familiar to many and the pleasant folk feel works well.

Now Thank We All Our God - a stately hymn that has a good celebratory tone.

O Jesus I have Promised - a general, well known hymn that is fine for weddings. Confusingly it has several separate tunes in the UK.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven - another well-known, slow but celebratory hymn. Choirs have a habit (because that's how it's often written) of singing the third verse with women's voices only, which can be a slight surprise.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - slightly more upbeat in tempo but still very traditional and positive hymn

Tell Out My Soul - this is a version of the Magnificat, the song that Mary sang when she found out she was going to have Jesus. It's a song of celebration of the greatness of God.

The King of Love My Shepherd is - perhaps surprisingly, this hymn version of the 23rd psalm is popular at both weddings and funerals.

The Lord's My Shepherd - like "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" a setting of the 23rd psalm that is popular both at weddings and funerals.

Bible readings suitable for a Wedding Service

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance.



Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

John 15:9-12

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue in my love. If you keep my commandments, and abide in his love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment: That you love one another as I have loved you.

Psalms 128:1-4

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

Mark 10:6-9

But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submit yourselves one to another as the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the

church, his body, and is himself its Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.