



**The Parish Church of  
All Saints, Cleadon**



## **The Marriage Service**

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**If you have a hearing aid, set it to "T" during the service.**

## Welcome

Welcome to our Church and to this wedding. We hope you will enjoy the occasion and feel part of it.

A wedding is one of life's great moments. It is a time of solemn, life-long commitment as well as good wishes, celebration and happiness.

The bride and bridegroom will face each other, make their promises and seek God's blessing. You are witnesses of the marriage and express your support by your presence and your prayers.

Your support does not end today: the couple will value your continued encouragement in the days and years ahead and, in fact, during the service, you will be asked if you will "support and uphold them in their marriage" (page 5).

We read in the Bible that Jesus once went to a wedding, the occasion when he turned water into wine. He will be present with us today, by his Spirit, wanting to enrich this marriage and transform it into something special and sparkling.

Love is patient;  
love is kind;  
love is not envious or boastful  
or arrogant or rude.  
It does not insist of 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.

*1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 7*

An explanation of the layout of this service sheet

### ***A Heading***

A minister will lead the parts in this font style.

**The congregation join in with the parts in this font style.**

*This font style is for information*

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

*Or*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

## ***The Dismissal***

*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.  
**Amen.**

## Registration of the Marriage

*A hymn may be sung*

### Prayers

*These or other suitable prayers are used.*

Faithful God,  
holy and eternal,  
source of life and spring of love,  
we thank and praise you for bringing *N* and *N* to  
this day,  
and we pray for them.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,  
enriched by your presence and strengthened by  
your grace;  
may they bring comfort and confidence to each  
other  
in faithfulness and trust.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home  
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;  
may their love overflow to neighbours in need  
and embrace those in distress.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May they discern in your word  
order and purpose for their lives;  
and may the power of your Holy Spirit  
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

May they nurture their family with devotion,  
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit  
and come at last to the end of their lives  
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of  
heaven.  
Lord of life and love:  
**hear our prayer.**

## ¶ 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  
**and also with you.**

God is love, and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them.

*1 John 4.16*

*This prayer may be said*

**God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and  
love.**

**Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth  
nothing.**

**Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

## **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 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. The minister may  
use the following blessing*

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.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

## The Giving of Rings

*The minister receives the ring(s), and says this prayer*

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.

**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.

*If rings are exchanged, 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.

*If only one ring is used, before they loose hands  
the bride says*

*N*, I receive 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 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 parents of the bride and  
bridegroom*

*N* and *N* have declared their intention towards  
each other  
As their Parents,  
Will you now entrust your son and daughter to  
one another as they come to be married?

*Both sets of parents respond*

**We 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?

**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.  
**Amen.**

## **Readings**

*At least one reading from the Bible is used.*

## **Sermon**

*A hymn may be sung.*

## **¶ The Marriage**

*The couple stand before the minister.*

[Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

*The bride's father (or other person representing the family) gives the bride's right hand to the minister who puts it in the bridegroom's right hand.]*

## **The Vows**

*The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words*

*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.*

*These words are used*

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.*