



THE PARISH OF CHEADLE
WITH FREEHAY



Made in Heaven?



GETTING MARRIED...

In the Parish of Cheadle with Freehay

Your guide to getting your marriage off to a good start

Congratulations...



...On your forthcoming marriage.

We are very pleased to have a part in the planning of your 'big day'.

This booklet is designed to help you prepare for your marriage, to understand the words of the marriage service and to make sure that all the arrangements for your Wedding Service in Church go as smoothly as possible.

Reference

Please keep this booklet handy for reference as it contains the dates and details of your wedding and its rehearsal, the reading of the Banns of Marriage and of course the fees we are obliged to charge.

When you come to book your wedding date, it will be explained to you that, as well as having Banns read in our Church, you must also arrange to have them read in the Church of England Parish of the other partner, if one of you lives outside our Parish. Please get this arranged as soon as possible after you have settled with us the date of your marriage. After Banns have been read in the other Parish, it is essential that you bring us the Banns Certificate issued by that Parish, to certify that they were duly read. We ask that you bring this certificate either on a Sunday to worship or to your rehearsal evening.

In Touch

In the run up to your marriage, we hope that you keep in touch with us. The best way to do this is by worshipping with us on Sundays. Please feel free to contact us with any enquiries as they arise. The Rector and the wedding co-ordinators will be pleased to advise you on any matter.

Dates and Details

The arrangements we have agreed for your wedding are as follows: -

Reading of the Banns: 10.30am at the Parish Church on Sundays

Wedding Rehearsal:

Marriage Service

Please note the following requests and instructions carefully: -

1) BANNINGS OF MARRIAGE

By law you must give public notice of your forthcoming marriage. The normal way to do this when getting married in Church is to arrange for 'Banns' to be called at a main service of Public Worship in your Parish Church. These must be read on three consecutive Sundays within three months of the wedding itself. In this Parish, we shall aim to read your Banns on the first three Sundays of the month prior to your wedding.

2) WEDDING REHEARSAL

It is important for you to feel at ease about the wedding service itself. We therefore hold a wedding rehearsal, you will be informed about this in a letter. This really does help you to feel more relaxed about how things are going to work out on the wedding day.

If you wish you may bring the bestman, bride's father (or whoever is giving her away) and the chief bridesmaid to this rehearsal. They will then know exactly what they have to do in the service.

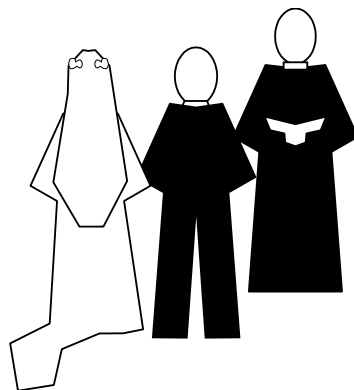
We ask that you pay the fees at least seven days before the wedding.

3) THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

All practical details and arrangements will have been finalised at the rehearsal, and this means you can arrive at Church on the big day all ready to enjoy the service.

The Groom and Bestman should arrive at the Church about 30 minutes before the start of the service. Also you should have at least two ushers to show guests to their seats and give out any service sheets if you choose to have them printed.

The Bride should aim to arrive on time! On her father's right arm for the procession down the aisle.



MARRIAGE IS GIVEN..



That a Husband and Wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given that they may have children and be blessed in caring for them and bringing them up in accordance with God's will to his praise and glory.

...So reads the Introduction to the Church of England Marriage Service. This introduction explains as briefly as possible the biblical teaching about marriage.

This teaching is something we hope you will think carefully about as part of your preparation for marriage. Having asked for a Christian wedding in a Christian Church, it is assumed that you really want a Christian Marriage. We believe that this is the very best thing you could possibly ask for in your new life together and we want to get off to the best possible start.

The introduction to the Marriage service draws out four major teachings from the Bible. We invite you to read them together and to think carefully about them and talk together about them.

A clear understanding of these biblical truths will undoubtedly give you a firm foundation on which to build your marriage.

TRUTH NUMBER ONE: Marriage is a Gift of God

The old saying 'Marriages are made in heaven' really isn't far wrong. No doubt you feel that you have been 'drawn together' not by chance but by the loving providence of God himself. God gave man the institution of marriage right at the beginning of man's existence. In the very earliest of chapters of the Bible we read that God declared 'It is not good for man to be alone' Genesis 2:18.

And so he gave man and woman to each other as husband and wife. Male and female find fulfilment in marriage, and so fulfil God's loving purposes by enjoying one another's company.

TRUTH NUMBER TWO: Married Love Reflects God's Love

The Bible tells us that God loves his people like men love (or should love) their wives. The New Testament actually calls the Church (i.e. God's believing people) 'the Bride of Christ'. God wants our love as married couples to be firm, steady and faithful just like his own love for us. In this way, from our experience of marital love, faithfulness and commitment, we come to understand more about God's love and commitment to us – although of course his love is far greater than we can ever fully understand.

TRUTH NUMBER THREE: Marriage Fulfils Three Good Purposes of God for Mankind

In the Bible, God tells us that he gave us marriage for three reasons:

1) to provide COMPANIONSHIP

Husbands and wives are to be first and foremost friends – friends for life, to support, help and comfort each other in all the ups and downs of life. Most of us feel the need for this kind of close, special and permanent companionship in life.

2) to channel and protect SEXUALITY

The Bible is very frank and very positive about this subject. It forbids sex outside marriage, not because sex is something evil to be restricted, but something good to be protected against our natural tendencies to follow instinct rather than conscience. The sexual aspect of marriage is something that God created and wants us to enjoy. However, contrary to what we're often led to believe by the media, sex is not the ultimate thing in life, but a God given way of expressing love and full commitment that only exists within marriage.

3) to produce and provide for CHILDREN

Societies that have experimented with abolishing marriage have had to go back to it in the end – for the sake of the children. Your own marriage preparation began, not when you started to read this booklet but the moment you were born. Our parents' marriage became from our earliest moments the model on which we base our relationship. Their contentment and security – or lack of it – had a very formative influence on our personalities.

A secure marriage is therefore the best environment into which to bring your children. God told man and woman right at the start 'Be fruitful and multiply' Genesis 1:28. Responsible parenthood is one of the joys God has prepared for those whom he calls into the married state. However, some couples have difficulty having children and many have come to terms with the pain of childlessness. Nevertheless the marriage itself is just as fruitful and profitable for the couple's own life and growth, even when not blessed with the gift and care of children.

TRUTH NUMBER FOUR: Marriage is for life

Despite the alarming divorce statistics, virtually every couple enters marriage with the highest hopes that their marriage will be 'till death us do part'. Jesus said about marriage 'That which God has joined together let not man divide', Matthew 19:6 – words we shall quote is solemnly pronouncing you husband and wife. Such close relationship as marriage inevitably comes under unique strains and pressures, arising from circumstances, children, family or our own emotional weaknesses. We believe that Jesus Christ offers you his daily strength to reinforce your marriage into a faithful, stable lifelong union. This

will be our prayer for you in preparation for marriage and in the marriage service itself.

FINALLY...

..Finally, we wish you every happiness in your new life together and God's richest blessing for the future.



Please remember that if there is any way in which we can be of help don't ever hesitate to contact us. It will always be a pleasure to meet up with you again.

SERVICE TIMES FOR SUNDAYS

8am The Eucharist (St. Giles)
9.15am The Eucharist (St. Chads)
10.30am The Parish Eucharist (St. Giles)

The Rector

Fr. Ian C. Thurston
The Rectory
Church Street
Cheadle
Staffs
ST10 1HU
www.cheadleparish.co.uk
Tel 01538 753337

Wedding Co-ordinator

Miss Jane Harrison 01538 750719



DO'S AND DON'TS

We respectfully offer the following advice for smoother running of your wedding.

1) Photography and video

We are perfectly happy for the interior of our Church to be photographed. However we do require a video cameraman/woman (official and unofficial) to be in a position agreed with the Rector in advance as it is important that filming does not intrude on the service. No flash photography is allowed during the ceremony.

N.B. There is a charge of £50.00 for the use of a videocamera and this should be positioned in the west gallery.

Please inform your photographer and your video recordist of these requests.

No cameras or videos to be used by guests/congregation during the service.

They may record and photograph any part of the signing of the Registers and your return down the aisle at the end.

If these requests are not honoured a penalty will be incurred.

The throwing of confetti is not allowed outside the Church, this is a Diocesan ruling not our own.



2) Music

a. Organ Music

Please discuss your choice of music with our Church Organist and Director of Music, Mr. David Stott. He will be happy to advise you about the music for your wedding and can be contacted after the Sunday service. The matter of whether or not he can comply with your requests will be at his own discretion.

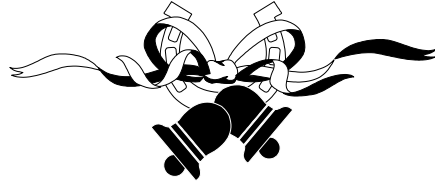
b. Hymn Music

Our own hymn books are available, or you may prefer to have your own hymn leaflets printed. If you are having them printed please check that your choice is agreed by the Rector.

We are always happy to assist couples with a choice of hymns. Some well known popular choices, suitable for wedding are given below. They are in our hymn books.

- Praise my soul the King of Heaven
- Love divine, all loves excelling
- The Lord's my shepherd
- Lord of all hopefulness
- Lead us heavenly Father, lead us
- O Jesus, I have promised
- O perfect Love
- Through all the changing scenes of life
- The King of love my shepherd is





Church Fees

The fees for your Marriage Service are set out below.

All fees are renewed annually and therefore can change from year to year.

St. Giles

Service only	£277.00
Service with bells & flowers	£417.00
Service with choir & flowers	£392.00
Service with bells, flowers and choir	£492.00



St. Chads

Service only	£257.00
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