

Planning a wedding at **Christ Church Clifton**



Congratulations! Thank you for considering Christ Church as your wedding venue. Firstly, before you begin planning your wedding here please ensure you have read our booklet '**Getting Married at Christ Church Clifton**' *before* reading this booklet. You can download it from our website at www.ccweb.org.uk. '**Getting Married at Christ Church Clifton**' has been written to help answer many of your questions about having a Church of England wedding. It is essential you confirm that you are able to marry in a Church of England, and here in our parish, before reading this booklet—that booklet will help you determine this.

We count it our privilege to do all we can to support you in the exciting process of planning your Big Day. We want you to enjoy all the excitement of planning a truly wonderful day, and so aim to ensure that the church arrangements are as straightforward as possible. In this booklet we have numbered the key elements of your wedding service that you need to read through and make choices on. In your first meeting with one of our clergy they will go through this booklet with you. If you have any questions as you read this booklet please contact our church office at [office@ uk](mailto:office@uk) or call 0117 973 6524.



1 A sample order of service

Music for the Entrance of the Bride

- *can be played live on the organ or by a band, or via Spotify*

Welcome – normally given by the officiating minister

Hymn 1 – choose something well known and rousing

Reading – one of your readings must be from the bible

The Vows – see below

Hymn 2 – this hymn can be a little more reflective

Reading 2 – if required

Address

Hymn 3 – if required

Prayers

Hymn 4 – again, something rousing to finish

Blessing

Signing of the Registers

Music for the Departure of the Wedding Party (See section 6 of this booklet)

- *can be played live on the organ or by a band, or via Spotify*

2 Possible Organ Music for the Entrance of the Bride

It is also possible to come into church to a piece of music, whether classical or contemporary, played via Spotify

Bridal Chorus	Wagner
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary	Stanley
Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke
Arrival of Queen of Sheba	Handel
Hornpipe (from the Water Music)	Handel
Procession (from the Water Music)	Handel

3 Possible Bible Readings

At least one reading must be from the Bible – but you can then add other readings from any other source of your choice.

Genesis 1:26-28

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.'

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labour:
if either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep
warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.



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.

1 Corinthians 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 wrong doing, 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-end

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.

Ephesians 5:21-end

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.

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 3:18-end

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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.'

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these

that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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.

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

4 Possible Hymns

Be thou my vision
Come Down, O love divine
Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Guide me O thou great Redeemer
King of Glory, king of peace
Lord of all hopefulness
Love divine all loves excelling
O praise ye the Lord
O worship the King
O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Praise my soul the King of Heaven
Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord

5 Possible organ music for the Signing of the Registers

You can also organise for live music to be played at this point (a jazz singer, a string quartet – either friends or commercially arranged) or have something played on Spotify.

Air (from the Water Music)	Handel
Minuet (from Berenice)	Handel
Canon	Pachelbel
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach



6 Possible organ music for the Departure of the Wedding Party

It is also possible to leave the church to a piece of music, whether classical or contemporary, played via Spotify.

Wedding March	Mendelssohn
Toccata	Widor
Grand Choir	Guilmant
Nun Danket	Karg-Elst
Fanfare	Lemens
Sortie	Lefebvre-Wely

7 The Wedding Vows

The Preface

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of **N** and **N**, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together 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 as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that N and N are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose 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?

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?

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?

We will.

The minister says

Who gives this woman to be married?

The bride's father responds

I Do.

The Vows

The bridegroom takes the bride's hand in his

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.

The bride takes the bridegroom's hand in hers

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.

The Rings

The minister receives the ring(s) 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.

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.

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.

Or, if only one ring is exchanged, 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 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 left hands together and says Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

The bride and groom may kiss

The Blessing

The husband and wife may kneel

The minister says the blessing

8 Everything else!

Flowers

There are always flowers on the Communion Table. If you would like flowers in addition to those on the Communion Table you are very welcome to use one of the following florists or to arrange your own flowers: Lisa Elliott Floral Design of 1&2 Waterloo Street, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4BT (tel 0117 973 2440), who holds a key to the church. If you are going to arrange your own flowers you, or your florist, will need to arrange with the Church Office for you to collect the church key between 9am and 5pm the day before your wedding. Please note that nothing should be pinned, screwed or stuck on the pews. All pew end displays must be removed after the wedding service, otherwise we'll assume you are OK with us disposing of them. On the day of your wedding the church will be open approximately one hour before the service and your florist will be able to gain entry to the church during this time for any last minute details etc.

Photography

We have a few guidelines for your photographer to ensure you get the best photos and the ceremony is not disturbed. Your photographer is very welcome to take a photo from the gallery during the singing of a hymn without using a flash. As you come down the aisle at the end of service they are welcome to take a photo with a flash. You may also like them to take pictures discretely from the Side Chapel or on the opposite side, near the organ, during the service and during the signing of the register.

Video

Video cameras may be positioned in either the gallery or the Side Chapel or opposite the Side Chapel near the organ, but NOT any further forward than you (the wedding couple yourselves) as this can be intrusive. Please ensure that your video operator understands this. We must also ask that you check whoever is making your video programme is aware of the law of copyright, so permission must be sought from holders of copyright material prior to the recording.

Confetti

This should only be used outside the church at pavement level and be biodegradable.

Music

You may like to have music from Spotify playing when you enter and leave the church, which can easily be arranged, just let the Church Office know. If you wish to have live music then please also discuss this with the clergy at your wedding

planning meeting and inform the Church Office too. We have organists whom you can hire to play at your wedding if you would like. If you want to have a band play then you will need one of our sound technicians to operate our sound desk. Please contact the Church Office for costs for an organist and sound operative.

Refreshments

You are welcome to have a time for refreshments after your service. You may choose to hire an external caterer to provide these or you might like to bring our own cakes for this time. If you would like us to then we are able to provide tea, coffee, squash, water and biscuits, paper cups and napkins for a minimal cost. We do charge another minimal figure for the refreshment time simply to cover the additional time our vergers will be on duty overseeing it and then clearing up once you have left for your wedding reception. Please can you also ask 3-4 friends to volunteer to help our vergers to set up, serve and clear up your refreshments, if you are not hiring an outside catering agent.

Access to the church

On the day of the wedding the church will be unlocked about one hour before the service. Though this can be earlier if you arrange it with our Church Office. If you require access at other times simply contact the Church Office to arrange to pick up a key.

Heating

If your wedding is between the months of October and March we recommend paying for heating in the church so that your guests aren't cold as the church is a very old building!

Fees

The fees will be due in full a couple of weeks before your wedding. Please contact the Church Office for the exact figures but the elements you will need to pay for are:

Standard wedding fee: set by the Church of England (which includes supplying you with one marriage certificate which can be applied for following your wedding day).

Vergers to oversee the operations of your ceremony and the church building.

Refreshments: for tea & coffee supplies; for our vergers to oversee this time.

Heating

Organist

Sound technician: to run the sound desk if you want a band to lead the songs/hymns at your wedding.

What next...

What a wonderful journey you are on! It is an honour for us to walk it with you, and we look forward to meeting you. Please contact the office to discuss your wedding service with one of our clergy if you have not already made an appointment.

And finally, we pray abundant blessings upon your relationship as you grow towards a lifelong, strong marriage that honours each other and God at the centre.



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