

Wedding Service Planner

**for the Parish of Frindsbury
with Upnor and Chattenden**

There are many possible choices through which you can personalise your service to make it special and individual to you. To present you with all the choices would be rather overwhelming. If there is something you would particularly like to do / not do, please discuss it with the officiating Minister. They will usually be happy to help and even if they are unable to say 'yes' (perhaps because of a legal reason, or because previous experience has shown it not to work) they will usually be able to suggest alternative ways of achieving your objective.

YOUR DETAILS

Full Name of Bride and Groom:

Name of Church:

Date and time of wedding:

HOW TO COMPLETE

The Vicar will help you complete this form, but if you want to make a 'head start' you can. If a list of numeric options is provided, circle the one that applies. Don't forget to supply any additional information. If an option or statement has a '...' after it, it indicates that additional information is required.

NOTES

1. This planner is based on the modern language Common Worship service, so that your service is as accessible to as many people as possible. (The alternative is the Book of Common Prayer service from 1662, or the slightly modified form from 1928).
2. A helpful paperback book is *Church of England Marriage Services* which contains the text of all the services, together with selected hymns, readings and prayers, ISBN 978-0715142028 (£4.99). It is available from Amazon and Christian bookshops. The text of the service, readings and prayers is available free online at the Church of England. You may also like to look at www.yourchurchwedding.org
3. There is advice and suggestions for choosing readings, hymns and music in your 'Couple's Guide'. Please note that neither of our churches have a reliable means of playing recorded music. Pieces that are not religious are subject to approval by the Vicar.
4. We have access to some skilled organists and if something is not in their repertoire they are often willing (time permitting) to consider practising and performing the piece. We encourage live music e.g. harpists.
5. www.yourchurchwedding.org.uk places the exchange of vows and rings *after* the readings and sermon. An alternative, which most Vicars take (including the Vicar here), is to lead the exchange of vows and rings *before* the readings and sermons. The reason is that the bride, groom and others can relax after their speaking parts and enjoy the rest of the service in a less nervous frame of mind!

The Service

This section is all about the service itself and the information is used to produce the printed order of service.

BEFORE THE SERVICE

‘Housekeeping’ announcements will be made about ten minutes before the entrance of the bride. These include a polite reminder about mobile phones, confetti and photographs. Are there any other special announcements you would like made before the service?

1. No other announcements.
2. Please mention ...

THE ENTRANCE

Traditionally, the bride enters on the arm of her father.

However, there are often reasons why this is not possible and it is not a requirement. You may walk in together as a couple, the bride may enter on her own, or on the arm of another (usually male, but not required to be) relative / family friend.

Bridesmaids follow the bride and stand in the aisle until after the first hymn.

1. We will walk in together.
2. The bride will enter on her own.
3. The bride will enter with ...

What music will you have at this point?

Music (title and composer) ...

THE WELCOME

After the opening words and prayer, what hymn do you want to sing?

Hymn (including the tune name) ...

THE PREFACE

What names do you want to be called in the Preface, and for the informal parts of the service? e.g. you may prefer your 'usual' name rather than the full one, e.g. Chris and Jo rather than Christopher and Joanna.

For the bride please use ...

For the groom please use ...

THE MARRIAGE – GIVING AWAY

The traditional 'giving away' ceremony happens at this point. If she wishes, the bride does not have to be given away at all. If she does wish to be given away it need not be by her father, she can be given away by her mother, elder brother or someone else. As an alternative, you can use the joint declarations of entrusting, where both sets of parents respond to the following question:

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

1. The bride will be given away by ...
2. There will be the joint declarations of entrusting by both families.
3. We will use neither.

THE MARRIAGE – DECLARATION AND VOWS

Do you want to use just your first name or your Christian names in full at this point?

For the bride please use ...

For the groom please use ...

There are options to the vows, based on modern language (as is the rest of the service) or traditional language (from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer). Either form can include, or omit, the bride promising to 'obey'.

	Modern Language	Traditional Language
Groom's Vow	<p>I, <i>N</i>, take you, <i>N</i>, 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.</p>	<p>I, <i>N</i>, take thee, <i>N</i>, to my wedded 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 ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.</p>

**Bride's
Vow**

Modern Language

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, cherish and obey,
[obey may be omitted]
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God
I make this vow.

Traditional Language

I, *N*, take thee, *N*,
to my wedded 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, cherish, and to obey,
[obey may be omitted]
till death us do part,
according to God's
holy ordinance;
and thereto I give
thee my troth.

We would like:

1. Modern language vows without 'obey'.
2. Modern language vows with 'obey'.
3. Traditional language vows without 'obey'.
4. Traditional language vows with 'obey'

THE MARRIAGE – THE GIVING OF RING(S)

As a minimum, the Bride must receive a ring from the Groom. However, it is more common nowadays that both Bride and Groom give and receive a ring.

1. Only the Bride will receive a ring.
2. Both Bride and Groom will give and receive a ring.

THE READINGS

There must be at least one reading from the Bible but you can choose another biblical reading apart from those suggestions, if you wish and the Vicar agrees.

First reading ...

Read by ...

What hymn will you have between the readings?

Hymn (including the tune name) ...

Second reading (must be from the Bible) ...

Read by ...

THE PRAYERS

Many prayers are provided in the service book. Usually, the Vicar will choose a selection but you can ask for specific ones if you would like. You, a close friend or godparent may like to consider writing one and the vicar will be happy to advise.

1. We will leave it to the Vicar.
2. We would like the following prayers ...
3. We would like to write a prayer.

The Vicar will want to discuss with you as part of your marriage preparation whether you would like a prayer for the gift of children.

1. We would like a prayer for the gift of children.
2. We would **not** like a prayer for the gift of children.
3. We would like a prayer for our **existing** family (i.e. children already cared for by you).

What hymn will you sing after the prayers?

Hymn (including the tune name) ...

THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTERS

What music do you want whilst signing the registers?

Music (title and composer) ...

Who will your witnesses be? Although the law does not specify age, their purpose would be to give reliable testimony. Hence, over eighteen with mental capacity would seem wise. They may be relatives.

Witness 1 ...

Witness 2 ...

THE DISMISSAL

What music will you use as you walk out of church?

Music (title and composer) ...

The traditional order for leaving the Church is as follows:

Bride and Groom

followed by... Chief Bridesmaid and Best Man

followed by... Mother of the Bride and Father of the Groom

followed by...

Father of the Bride and Mother of the Groom

and finally...

the other Bridesmaids, baby Bridesmaids and Pages (practically this should also include the witnesses and any ushers who have forward for the signing of the registers)

However, this order is only customary and can be changed if needs be. It is worth giving consideration to issues of mobility, particularly of older parents, and of who should be included where re-marriage has taken place within families. A little tact and sensitivity may be required.

Other Considerations

Apart from the service there are some other areas which are worthy of your advance attention to help the day run smoothly.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Weddings are important life events and it is understandable that people want to capture it in some way. We genuinely want to be helpful, but weddings are primarily an act of worship – that is what makes them special. We do not want your day spoiled for you by feeling that you are constantly ‘on camera’. Therefore we do not permit any unofficial photography or videography and request you ensure your guests know this, perhaps by a reminder in the order of service. Guests may take photographs as you exit.

If you are using a friend rather than a professional as the ‘official’ photographer or videographer it is strongly suggested they attend the rehearsal. Please give the ‘Photographs and Videos at Weddings’ sheet to whoever will be capturing the images of your special day.

Name and Company of Photographer:

Name and Company of Videographer:

HOSPITALITY

It is important to think about welcome and seating of guests especially if you anticipate a large number attending the service.

1. Approximate number of guests:...

2. Advise the Verger and Officiating Minister of any guests with mobility difficulties and the extent of these.
Unfortunately our pews at All Saints are fixed but we will do our best to accommodate wheelchairs.

Are there any mobility difficulties? ...

3. Decide if you are going to keep Bride's and Groom's sides for seating friends and relatives. Traditionally the Bride's family and friends sit on the north (left) side of the church, whilst the Groom's sit on the south (right) side.
4. Prepare a simple seating plan with for the 'essential' guests i.e. close family and friends. Give the full names and plan to the ushers. Each pew can seat five people.

How many reserved pews on the Bride's side? ...

How many reserved pews on the Groom's side? ...

5. Ensure you print enough orders of service for the guests, minister, verger, organist and choir (if applicable). The latter can use photocopies.

The Rehearsal

This is usually conducted on the eve of the wedding at about 6.00pm. This is arranged with the Vicar, subject to their availability and the availability of the church. Please note:

- If you are being married by Banns, and you have not already given the original certificate to the Vicar, bring the Banns Certificate(s) to the rehearsal. This is **essential** your wedding cannot legally proceed without it / them.
- If you are being married by Superintendent Registrar's Certificate and you have not already given the blue forms to the Vicar, bring them. This is **essential** your wedding cannot legally proceed without them.
- Bring the Orders of Service. They are normally locked in the vestry overnight.
- Please be **punctual** for the rehearsal. Ideally the persons present should include: Bride & Groom, Ushers, Best Man, Bridesmaids, Readers, and whoever the Bride enters with/is given away by.