

*Getting Married*  
in the Parish of Frindsbury  
with Upnor and Chattenden

*A Couple's Guide*



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# **Your Wedding in 2017**

## **Introduction**

We are delighted that you have booked your wedding at Frindsbury or Upnor. We pray that it will be a day that you will remember fondly for the rest of your lives.

This booklet, together with our Service Planner, will help you with the practical aspects of getting married in Church. Almost everything you need to know is in this booklet so please take some time to read it over a glass of celebratory fizz. If you cannot find what you are looking for – don't panic – help is only a phone call or email away and we know rather a lot about celebrating weddings!

## **What does it mean to be married in Church?**

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon solemn, public and life-long vows between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

The Marriage Service is a solemn and joyful ceremony laid down by the Church of England and conducted by its ministers here with reverence and joy. It is not 'Hollywood' nor 'Bollywood' but we will help you prepare with true joy!

The website [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org) is the Church of England's website for weddings. It contains some useful information but please note that there are different ways of conducting weddings and this site chooses some where we choose others. Therefore, the minister here will help you to prepare your order of service for you to have printed based on the Service Planner you will be given.



One of many advantages of being married in Church is that we will pray for you. You will always be welcome at worship, and indeed we encourage you to join us in Church, to help you prepare for your 'big day' and your new journey together. God is the source of love, which is one of the reasons weddings are special.

'God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.'  
1 John 4:16b, The Bible

With love and prayers on behalf of the congregations of  
All Saints, Frindsbury and St Philip & St James, Upnor

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicholas", with a horizontal line underneath.

The Reverend Nicholas Cooper  
*Vicar of Frindsbury with Upnor and Chattenden*

# Wedding Checklist

## **Eight months before the wedding...**

If you are establishing a Qualifying Connection through regular attendance at worship, are you on course to complete this two months before the month of your wedding? If you think not, or are not sure, speak to the Vicar urgently.

## **Four months before the wedding...**

Check that the information you supplied on your application form is still correct. If not, contact the Vicar.

If you live in a parish different from the one where you are being married, contact the minister of the parish(es) in which you live and make arrangements to have the 'away banns' called there (page 8 to 9).

Dates of Away Banns (*if applicable*) \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Home Banns \_\_\_\_\_

## **Three months before the wedding**

Arrange to meet with the Vicar to discuss the Marriage Service (pages 10 to 13)

Date of first meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Two months before the wedding**

Read the Wedding Service Planner and arrange to meet with the Vicar to complete it. You will find the following sections helpful:

- Readings (pages 17 to 20)
- Music (pages 14 to 16)

When you have completed it after the meeting, email it to the Vicar so that he can produce the draft order of service.

Date of second meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the Vicar to arrange the rehearsal date.

Our rehearsal date is: \_\_\_\_\_

As soon as you have the away Banns Certificate scan or photograph it and email it to the Vicar so that he can check it.

Contact the Parish Office if you need any further help.

## **Six weeks before the wedding**

Give the photographer the **Photographers' Guide 2017**.

Have you applied for a Video Copyright Licence? (*if applicable*)  
(page 26)

Have you shown Nicholas Cooper the Video Copyright Licence  
(*At least 2 weeks prior to the wedding*)

## **Flowers**

Please contact the Flower Arranger to discuss flowers (page 24)

## **(At least) Four weeks before the wedding**

### **Fees**

Have you paid? (pages 21-23)

Contact the Parish Office if you need any further help.

# Marrying Legally

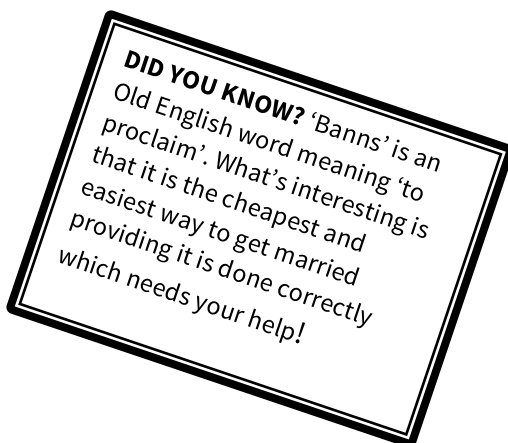
It is important that we complete the legal preliminaries to your marriage correctly. To do this it is essential that you give us accurate information, keep us informed of any changes and tell us if you change where you live after you completed the application form.

## Qualifying Connection

To be married in one of our churches you will need to have a Qualifying Connection. These will have been explained at application. It may be that you have not proven the Qualifying Connection or that you must attend worship to establish it before you are married. This is *your* responsibility and any wedding dates booked are subject to you establishing and proving the Qualifying Connection. If you do not, we may not be able to marry you.

## Calling of Banns

Public notice of those to be married is given through the 'Calling of Banns'. Banns are called at the main service in the church you are to be married in and the church(es) in whose parish(es) each of you live, usually on three consecutive Sundays.





### ***If you both live in this parish...***

Then Banns will be called in the Church where you will be married. In this parish we call Banns on the first three Sundays of the calendar month two months prior to your wedding (for example, if you have a wedding in August, then the Banns would be called on the first three Sundays in June.)

If you are getting married at All Saints, Frindsbury the Banns will be called at the 10.30am service; if you are getting married at St Philip & St James, Upnor then Banns will be called at the 9.00am service.

### ***If either or both of you lives outside of this parish...***

Banns will need to be called in the church here where you are to be married in **and** in the parish(es) where you live. You will need to contact your local Church of England Parish Church to organise this. It is better to arrange this a few months ahead. The 'away' parish will charge you to call Banns and will give you a certificate, after Banns are successfully called.

This certificate(s) **must** be seen by the Vicar.

Please present the physical certificate **at least two weeks** before your proposed wedding date. We strongly suggest you scan or photograph it and email it to us for a preliminary check.

Organising your Banns and obtaining your certificate(s) is **your** responsibility and is a legally required preliminary to your marriage. If you are being married by common or special licence, or by a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate different rules apply and banns are not called.

Church contact details can usually be found at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) but do please call or email the Parish Office and ask for help if you need to.

# The Marriage Service

(A Typical Outline)  
Entrance of the Bride

Welcome

Hymn (1)

The Declarations

Exchange of Marriage Vows and Rings

Blessing of the Marriage

Bible (or Other) Reading

Hymn (2)

Bible Reading

Sermon

Prayers

Hymn (3)

Signing of the Registers

Blessing

Exit of the Bride and Groom



**GOOD TO KNOW!** We will produce a draft of the order of service for you, once you have completed the Service Planner.

# The Exchange of Vows and Rings

## The Declarations

These are the statements you make to declare that there is no legal reason that you may not marry and that you enter into marriage, willingly, intending to live a faithful life towards each other until death.

Groom:

*N* will you take *N* to be your wife?

Will you love her, comfort her, honour her and protect her,  
and forsaking all others,  
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Bride:

I will.

Bride:

*N* will you take *N* to be your husband?

Will you love him, comfort him, honour him and protect him  
and forsaking all others,  
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Groom:

I will.

Minister:

Will you, the family and friends of *N* and *N*, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

The Congregation:

We will.

## Marriage Vows

We use the modern language form of the vows, which matches the rest of the service.

The bride and bridegroom face each other. The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his and says:

I, *N*, take you, *N*,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold  
for this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death do us 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  
for this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish, [*or to love, cherish and obey*]  
till death do us part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands.

## Giving of the Rings(s)

Usually bride and groom give each other a ring, but it is only required that the groom gives a bride a ring.

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.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The ring that is given is a sign of the love and faithfulness of the one who gives it. The ring that you wear, that was placed on your finger by your spouse on your wedding day, does not represent your commitment to your marriage, your love for your spouse, your faithfulness to this relationship and to the vocation God has called you into. It represents the commitment, love and faithfulness of your spouse to you.

# Choosing the Music

## Which hymns?

You do not have to have any hymns but it would be unusual not to. Looking at the preceding outline:

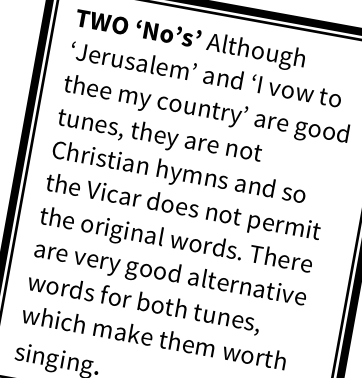
- If you choose one hymn, it is sung at Hymn (1),
- If you choose two hymns, they are sung at Hymn (1) and Hymn (3)
- If you choose three hymns they are obviously sung at Hymn (1), Hymn (2) and Hymn (3).

Hymn words may be printed on your own service sheet or our hymn books used. To ensure that copyright requirements are met, you must keep the CCLI licence declaration on the order of service we send you.

The lyrics and small extracts of the following hymns are available at:

[www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/hymns-for-your-wedding/](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/hymns-for-your-wedding/)

All Things Bright and Beautiful  
Amazing Grace  
As man and woman we were made  
At Cana's Wedding long ago  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
Come to a wedding  
For the beauty of the earth  
Give me joy in my heart  
God in the planning and purpose of life  
Great is thy faithfulness  
Lead us Heavenly Father  
Lord and lover of creation  
Lord of all hopefulness



**TWO 'No's'** Although 'Jerusalem' and 'I vow to thee my country' are good tunes, they are not Christian hymns and so the Vicar does not permit the original words. There are very good alternative words for both tunes, which make them worth singing.

Lord of the dance  
Love Divine all loves excelling  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Morning has broken  
One more step along the world I go  
O praise ye the Lord!  
O worship the King  
Praise my soul the King of Heaven  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
Tell out my soul  
That human life might richer be  
The grace of life is theirs  
The King of Love my Shepherd Is  
The Lord's my Shepherd  
We pledge to one another

## **Processional Music**

Organ music is played at the following points:

- Entrance of Bride
- Signing of Registers
- Exit of Bride and Groom

Our organists at All Saints and at St Philip & St James are happy to play the classical music you would like providing they are able to play it (!) and if they have not got a copy of the music you will get it for them in good time to practise. Traditional music includes:

## ***Entrance of the Bride***

- Bridal March from Lohengrin by Richard Wagner
- (traditional entry)
- Prince of Denmark's March by Jeremiah Clark
- Trumpet Tune by Henry Purcell
- Trumpet Voluntary by John Stanley
- Minuet from Berenice by George Frederick Handel
- Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel

## ***Signing of the Register***

- Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring by Johann Sebastian Bach
- Panis Angelicus by César Franck
- Ave Maria by Franz Schubert
- Ave Maria by Johann Sebastian Bach/Charles Gounod
- Gabriel's Oboe by Ennio Morricone
- Air on a G String by Johann Sebastian Bach

## ***Exit of Bride and Groom***

- Wedding March by Felix Mendelssohn (traditional exit)
- Toccata from 5th Organ Symphony by Charles-Marie Widor
- Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by George Frederick Handel
- Hornpipe from the Water Music by George Frederick Handel
- Te Deum Prelude by Marc-Antoine Charpentier
- Now thank we all our God by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

**DID YOU KNOW?** The pieces that have become 'traditional' entrance and exit pieces at weddings were those chosen by Queen Victoria for the wedding of her daughter Victoria. However, Wagner was rather amused that his piece was adopted since he did not believe in marriage and the wedding in the opera Lohengrin does not have a happy ending!



# Choosing the Readings

## **How many Readings?**

At a marriage service in the Church of England there are usually two readings. Subject to the minister's agreement the first may be a poem, or similar, instead of a Bible reading. The second reading must be from the Bible. Please find below some Bible readings that are frequently used. If you have difficulty choosing, you can ask the minister taking the service to choose one.

### ***Genesis 1: 26-28 & 31***

Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

### ***Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11***

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under heaven:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil?

I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

### ***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.

### ***John 2: 1-11***

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, They have no more wine.'

‘Dear woman, why do you involve me?’ Jesus replied, ‘My time has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water’; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, ‘Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.’

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, ‘Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.’

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

### ***1 Corinthians 13:1-13***

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there

is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

### ***1 John 4: 7-12***

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

### ***Further Readings***

Old Testament

Genesis 2:18-25

Psalms 23

Psalms 121

Psalms 127

Proverbs 31:10-31

New Testament

Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

John 15:9-12

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 5:21-33

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 4:7-12

# Costs

It is our joy and privilege to conduct your wedding at Frindsbury or Upnor. We pray you will remember it fondly for the rest of your lives and do not want financial hardship to stop you being married here (please speak to the Vicar, in confidence, if this might be the case).

The fees are in three groups.

- The Statutory Fees (set by the Church of England and Parliament) to provide the Church and Minister
- Additional Fees to provide organist, bells etc.
- Donation to cover the real cost of your wedding here.

## Statutory Fees

Marriage service	£424.00
Banns read here	£28.00
Banns read in another church and certificate	£41.00

## Additional Fees

These fees (except for the Wedding Certificate) are paid directly to the people who give their time and skills to perform their respective tasks. Part of the Bell Tower fee is kept specifically for maintenance of the bells. You ***do not need to have*** bells, flowers, organist or even a wedding certificate to be legally married.

Wedding Certificate	£4.00
Verger	£40.00
Organist	£80.00
Bells	£120.00
Flowers	Cost of Flowers + £50.00
Heating (Oct – Apr)	£50.00

## **Donation**

The statutory legal fees do not cover the real costs of conducting weddings in these beautiful listed buildings. We receive no income from central or local government. Instead, the running and maintenance costs are met by those who worship here Sunday by Sunday out of their own personal and sacrificial giving.

To help secure the ministry of this church for future couples wishing to get married (as others have before you, so you can be married here) we would be grateful if you could make a contribution towards the real cost of your wedding. If you are financially unable to do this, please do not feel obligated; either consider making a smaller contribution or accept the gift of others a reminder of God's generosity to each of us. However, if you are able to make the contribution, please accept our thanks in advance. (If either of you is a tax-payer, you can Gift Aid it, making it even more valuable to us, at no cost to you – please ask for details).

Contribution to the real cost	£100.00
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This will be used to pay for the improvement and maintenance of the church and churchyard for your big day.

## **The Total Cost**

As you can see, the total cost of your wedding here will depend upon the legal preliminaries necessary and the choices you make. A typical wedding, including the full contribution to the real cost, is about £900.

### Example:

Church and minister	£424.00
Marriage Certificate	£4.00
Banns	£69.00
(Couple living together in another parish)	
Verger	£40.00
Organist	£80.00
Flowers	£125.00
(allowing a typical £75 for the cost of the flowers)	
Bell Tower & Ringers	£120.00
Contribution to real cost	£100.00
 TOTAL	 £962.00

***Please note*** flowers, bells, an organist and even the marriage certificate are not needed to have a legal and joyful wedding.

The balance should be paid at least four weeks before the wedding. The invoice will contain details of who the individual cheques are to be made payable to.

We encourage people not to borrow or go into debt in order to fund a wedding. However, if you must borrow then the Diocese of Rochester encourages you to think about using a Credit Union, since the interest charged is much lower than other lenders. They are also available to help you save for your big day and provide some sound financial advice. Useful websites are:

[www.toyourcredit.org.uk](http://www.toyourcredit.org.uk)

[www.kentsavers.co.uk](http://www.kentsavers.co.uk)

[www.gbcreditunion.com](http://www.gbcreditunion.com)

[www.medwaycreditunion.co.uk](http://www.medwaycreditunion.co.uk)

[www.lewishampluscu.co.uk](http://www.lewishampluscu.co.uk)

# Miscellaneous

## Contacts

We hope that this guide has answered most of your questions. The subjects that do not fit neatly anywhere else are gathered together here. However, if at any time during the coming months you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Sue Jones, Parish Administrator (Tuesday – Friday mornings)

Phone: 01634 296050

Email: [pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk](mailto:pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk)

The Revd Nicholas Cooper, Vicar (Rest Day, Monday)

Phone: 01634 717580

Email: [vicar@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk](mailto:vicar@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk)

Our website: [www.allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk)

## Flowers

Mrs Brenda Varney (01634 305734) is in charge of our flower arrangers. If you would like flowers other than, or in addition to, our church flowers (for example, if you would like to order a specific colour) please contact Mrs Varney. The cost is £50.00 + cost of flowers.

## Rehearsal

The rehearsal will usually take place on the eve of the wedding at about 6pm. Whilst the Vicar will make every effort, Friday rehearsals may not always be possible.

At the rehearsal it is desirable to have: the bride and groom, best man, chief bridesmaid, an usher and the person giving the bride away. Readers, family and the other bridesmaids are also welcome.



Please bring the Order of Service to the rehearsal. The fees should already have been paid and the banns certificate / Superintendent Registrar's Certificate given to the Vicar.

## Notices

About ten minutes before the bride arrives, the Vicar will give the 'housekeeping notices'. These include reminders:

- about the location of toilet facilities
- to turn off mobile phones
- that no photographs may be taken during the service except by the official photographer
- about where confetti may be thrown
- the retiring collection

## Punctuality

Your wedding is booked for a particular time. Whilst the bridegroom and congregation will go on to the reception it is likely that the minister and others will have other Church duties after your wedding. Contrary to folklore, there is no tradition for the bride to be late. We therefore ask for the bride to be at the Church door at the time the wedding is booked for. That probably means arriving five minutes **early** since it can take that long to get out of the car, adjust your dress and have photographs taken. Please understand that If you are late the minister may have to shorten the service, or in the worst case, defer it until later in the day.

**DID YOU KNOW?** In 2014 the Vicar spent one working day waiting for late brides... Then there was the organist, vergers and bell ringers... Nine working days waiting for brides. Please don't be late 😊 Thank you.

## **Confetti**

Usually the official photographer will co-ordinate a 'confetti throw'. We would be grateful if this is done at the main church gate, to avoid confetti blowing back into the Church. Please *only* use bio-degradable confetti.

## **Photography & Videography**

We allow one official photographer and one official videographer, to take photographs and videos during the service. A separate sheet is available which we ask you to give it to them and ensure that they comply with the instructions. Greater flexibility may be granted if the photographer or videographer attends the rehearsal.

# A Prayer for Those to be Married

Eternal God Creator and Redeemer  
from you comes every good and perfect gift,  
fill this couple with the riches of your grace.  
Send upon them the gift of love  
that puts no limit to its faith and forbearance.  
Sow in their lives the joy that comes from sharing  
and grows with giving.  
Give them patience with their failures  
and persistence with their hopes.  
May their kindness, born of a gracious heart,  
be shown to others in a generous spirit.  
Let goodness flower with forgiveness  
and be the fruit of their married life.  
In gentleness let them be tender with each other's dreams  
and healing of each other's words  
For your love's sake. Amen.