

## MARRIAGE AT ST DAVID'S

You have enquired about getting married at St David's. This is a short introduction to what this will entail, how you should go about it, and what it will cost. In addition I have added some questions that you might like to consider, both individually and jointly, to help you understand what you are letting yourselves in for! The church is able to conduct the marriage of anyone who lives in the parish, and does not have a former husband / wife still living ( in those instances we can often offer services of prayer and dedication).

### 1. **BANNS.**

To get married in church you need either a certificate of banns, or a special license (usually when one or other of the couple lives abroad). These are to ensure that the couple getting married can do so legally - that they are not already married, are brother and sister etc! It is much easier to get married by banns. This involves a declaration being read out in church to the effect that you are intending to get married and that if anyone knows a reason why you should not be allowed to they must declare it. The banns must be read out in the parish church(es) where either of the couple lives, and the church where you are due to be married. For those living already in Moreton parish this means only in Moreton. The banns will be read out on three consecutive Sundays some weeks before the wedding is due to take place. So long as nobody comes up with a valid objection, you are then free to be married!

For the banns you need to fill out an application form – from which also we will draw up the wedding certificate and registers. I should give you the banns application form at the first meeting. Please return it as soon as you can, giving any details of when you might like the banns read, although we usually read them on the first three Sundays of the month at St. David's. We would expect to do this the month before the wedding itself.

### 2. **SERVICE.**

The service we use is the standard Anglican service to be found in the Common Worship Book. If you have any doubts as to what this is, all will be explained! The service takes on average between 35-40 minutes, but when you include the bride's arrival (often a little late!), and the signing of the register, it is wise to allow about an hour (not including the photographs afterwards). You can choose anything from 2 to 4 hymns, and the organist and vicar will provide any help you might need in choosing them. It is usually sensible to stick to well-known hymns unless the congregation is likely to be familiar with church music. There will be a full rehearsal of the service sometime in the week before the wedding, but it is extremely simple, and the minister will talk you through it all on the day.

### 3. **MUSIC.**

You will need to spend a little time with the organist working out what hymns and music you want for the service. It is possible to have a choir brought in for the service - at an extra cost.

### 4. **COST.**

Sadly, getting married is not cheap these days, and there is a cost for the church service. These fees are reviewed every year by the Church of England, and we at St David's have no say in them. As from the beginning of 2017 the costs are as follows,

Publication of Banns	£28.00
Certificate of Banns	£13.00 (only necessary for banns read elsewhere)
Marriage Service	£424.00
Marriage certificate	£4.00 (an extra certificate costs £10)

These cover the costs of the minister, and the use of the church. An invoice will be sent out to you a couple of weeks before your wedding by the Church Administrator, and payment is expected by the time of the rehearsal in the week of the wedding. All cheques should be made payable to St. David's Church PCC.

In addition there are other items which you will probably wish to have as well.

Organist	By arrangement	Ring Paul Webber on 01608.650949
Bells	£150.00	Ring Margo Stansbury on 01608.650240
Flowers		Ring Carole O'Neill on 01608.650762

These payments should be made to the people concerned, and are expected again before the wedding.

Please too could you make sure to notify the people doing the bells if you expect your service to run over the hour. They will ring before the service, then again at the end as you leave the church. If the service and / or the photos outside the church take a long time, it can mean a long wait for them!

## **5. PHOTOGRAPHS**

The photographs form an important part of the day, but, unless you are careful, the photographer can easily take over, so, be warned! We allow photographs to be taken at the door, the occasional one during the service, during the signing of the register, and walking down the aisle at the end. We ask others to refrain from taking photos during the service to avoid distraction. We discourage videos, except in exceptional circumstances, and if they are used they should not use lights, or move around (professional video people usually fully understand and are cooperative). Can you ask the various photographers / video folks to arrive early, and check up details with the minister before the service. Furthermore, if you are having a video, you must be careful that you do not infringe copyright - ask the organist!.

## **6. CONFETTI**

Since confetti tends to leave a lot of mess in the churchyard and is very hard to clear up, we ask people to desist from throwing confetti in the church grounds.

## **7. WHAT NEXT?**

After meeting you for the first time, I try to arrange another meeting nearer the day in order to make sure everything is on track, and to pick up on any questions you might have, either on the wedding itself, or in response to the questions at the end of this paper. We do not expect payment until the week before the wedding, although you are welcome to pay earlier if it is easier for you. The Church Administrator will send you out two letters – first to confirm the wedding is in the diary, and give you advance warning about the cost, then about two weeks before the wedding, with final instructions and a reminder about payment.

## **8. PREPARATION**

Many people have never had the chance to talk through marriage and what it entails before their wedding day, and appreciate the opportunity of doing so. It is not my intention to pry into people's lives, but I believe it is right to ask some important questions about your expectations, and under-

standing before the day itself. In my experience it is far better to have thought them through beforehand, than to be caught unawares afterwards.

Can I also say that is never too late to back out if you believe you might be making a mistake. However hard it is to admit something might be wrong, it is far worse to find yourself in a marriage which you know was wrong at the outset. If you have serious doubts - and very few couples approach marriage with no doubts at all! - it is best to air them early on!

### Questions for discussion

The purpose of these questions is to make you think about the different areas of marriage, help you understand the different perspectives you might both hold, and enable you to work through them.

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother, cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* Genesis 2.24

#### LEAVING

1. Which aspects of your parental home do you want to carry over into your own home - and which not?
2. Have you any major hurts from your past to share, talk through and leave behind?
3. What kind of relationship do you have with your parents? How do you think marriage will affect this?

#### CLEAVING

1. How easy do you find it to share emotions, feelings, hurts? What is the most difficult area to talk about with your partner? How can you learn to communicate better?
2. How good is your partner at communicating his / her love for you? How can you learn to communicate love and caring more effectively?
3. How will you maintain good communication in your marriage?

#### COPING WITH CONFLICT

1. In what areas have you experienced conflict in your relationship so far? What was the root cause of it? How did you express your differences? And resolve them?
2. How do you and your partner differ in dealing with your conflict? Do you instinctively avoid confrontation or seek it?
3. Are you aware of unresolved conflict in your relationship at present? Where do you see conflict arising in the future? How would you cope if you reached deadlock? Where would you turn?

#### SEX

1. Have you discussed your sexual past with your partner? How might experiences from the past affect the physical side of your relationship?

2. What method of contraception (if any) do you intend to use? Are you both happy with this?
3. What would you do if you were having major difficulties in your sexual relationship? Who could you talk to?
4. How do you feel about having children? How would you react if you were unable to have them?

#### AUTHORITY

1. What assumptions have you made about your respective roles in marriage?
2. Which one of you is the stronger personality? How will you guard against dominating your partner?

#### FAILURE AND FORGIVENESS

1. Do you find it easy to admit failure and weakness to your partner? How do you react to his / her weaknesses?
2. Do you find it easy to forgive? Can you imagine your partner doing something which you cannot forgive?

#### SPIRITUAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever discussed spiritual things with your partner? Do you see things the same way? How important are your beliefs to you?
2. If you have children will you want them baptised? Why?

#### HOME

1. What aspects of your family home will you want to bring into your married home?
2. What about your standard of living? How plush or simple do you want your home to be?

#### MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

1. Who will manage the financial side of your marriage? Are you both happy with this?
2. Are you open with each other about money? Do you both have the same priorities in spending it?
3. What do you feel about the following?
  - joint or separate bank accounts.
  - giving to charity.
  - saving versus spending.
  - holidays.
  - running into debt / mortgages / overdrafts.
  - hobbies and recreations.
  - family presents.