Wedding Blessings at St Luke's and Christ Church

Welcome and congratulations! We are delighted you have decided to have your wedding blessing at St Luke's or Christ Church. We will do all we can to ensure your day is a very happy one and that your marriage begins on the firmest of foundations. This pack aims to introduce you to some of the options around wedding blessings. For more information, please contact the Parish Office and one of the clergy will be glad to speak with you.

Inside this pack:

FAQs: Important questions about having a wedding blessing at St Luke's or Christ Church 2

St Luke's and Christ Church Contact Details 5

Wedding Blessing Fees 6

Wedding blessing 'to do' checklist 7

Wedding Blessing music 8

Florists and Printers 14

Readings 16

Order of Service template 24

Photographers & Video 25

Marriage Preparation 26

FAQs: Important questions about having a wedding blessing at St Luke's or Christ Church

1. What is a wedding blessing, and what is the service?

For various reasons some couples choose or need to get married in a civil ceremony, and afterwards to have a service in church. When we meet you, we will talk through the words of the service of wedding blessing with you. It is important that the service reflects the fact that you are already married – so at some points, for example, we use the past tense to describe what you have already vowed to do, rather than asking you to vow something for the first time. But many parts of the service will look and feel quite similar to a wedding. Above all, marriage is a wonderful thing and we are delighted that you would like to mark and celebrate your marriage before God.

2. Do we need to have an Order of Service sheet?

Yes, but the printing need not be of the expensive kind: if you wish, you can simply issue a photocopied sheet. A sample is available to download. The Order of Service includes details of the music and readings as well as words of hymns and any prayers that the congregation will say. The two or three hymns you choose should be taken from those in the hymn books in the church. Words and the number of verses of hymns can vary enormously so please be careful of versions downloaded from the internet as they may be set to match different tunes. We can email you the words of hymns. Of your two readings, at least one must be from the Bible. The website www.yourchurchwedding.org provides lots of tips to help you plan your service. Do please remember to print extra copies for choir, organist and clergy. The final details of the service must be finalised in good time, at least two weeks before the service.

3. Who will be taking our service?

There are several clergy who conduct weddings blessings. About three months before the wedding, the clergy will decide who will be taking each wedding blessing and we will then let you know. The clergy generally take wedding blessings in turn depending on other demands in their diaries.

4. Can the bride be 'given away'?

We recommend against this in a wedding blessing. The service celebrates a marriage that has already begun, so it looks a little odd to have the bride given away when the couple have already begun married life together. We recommend instead that the couple meet one another just inside the entrance of the church and walk down the aisle together. If you have a strong reason why you would like to enact the symbolism of

'giving away' in your wedding blessing, please speak to the member of the clergy who will be taking your service.

5. Should we have ushers?
Ushers are needed to hand out service sheets and any buttonholes, to show people to their seats and generally to look after people. After the service they are needed to check that no cameras and other belongings have been left behind in the pews.

6. Can we have the church bells rung?
Yes, but they must be booked at least 6 weeks in advance because most of the bell-ringers have full-time jobs and other commitments.

7. Can we have a choir?
Yes. Again, please let us know at least six weeks in advance. A choir is not essential but can help lead the singing of the hymns, as well as singing an anthem (if you want one) during the signing of the registers.

8. Will there be a rehearsal before our wedding blessing?
Yes, usually during the same week of the wedding blessing. Generally speaking, only the bride and groom need to be present.

9. When should the husband, wife and ushers arrive?
The husband and best man should arrive at least twenty minutes before the service. The ushers should also arrive at least thirty minutes before the service to give out service sheets. While it is traditional for the wife's party to sit on the left and the husband's on the right, this does not have to be the case; it is usually easier to have everyone sitting together. The bride and bridesmaids, page boys etc. should arrive no later than five minutes before the service. This gives time for photos to be taken on arrival and to have a quiet moment in the porch to calm last minute nerves! If you are using cars between home and church, please check whether there are any additional hazards - such as Chelsea football teams playing at home.

10. Can photographs be taken during the service?
No. This is a very special and sacred moment in your lives and the flashing and clicking of cameras is distracting**.** Your official photographer must speak to the clergy half an hour before the service to agree where photographs are allowed. Once the service is over, photographs can be taken of you leaving the church and, of course, outside.

11. Are we allowed to have the service recorded by video camera?
Yes, but bear in mind that the fee doubles for *all* musicians (Director of Music, organist and choir). The video recordist should arrive in good time before the service so he or she can discuss with the clergy the best place to stand.

12. How long will the church service last?
Usually between 40 and 45 minutes, depending on how many readings and hymns you have. Great care is taken over the timing of services so it is extremely important that you arrive on time. Bell ringers, musicians and clergy often have other engagements to get to after the service so, if you are late, it may mean reducing part of the service!

13. Can our guests throw confetti?
Confetti must be bio-degradable like rice and rose petals because other kinds of 'confetti' are very difficult to sweep up! If you use these, they should be thrown outside well away from the church doorways.

14. Is there room for parking?
St Luke's
There is no parking available in the churchyard except for the 'wedding cars'. If you have disabled guests, please let us know so we can help with access. The nearest Underground stations are Sloane Square and South Kensington. Bus routes 49 and 211 stop outside the church.

Christ Church
Parking in the surrounding streets is very restricted. Parking restrictions finish on Saturdays at 1.30 pm around the church but not from halfway to the Kings Road. The nearest Underground stations are Sloane Square and South Kensington. Bus routes 11, 19, 22, 49, 211 & 319 all go near the church. Limited on-street parking is available on meters in the vicinity.

16. Anything else?
If you have any additional queries, do call or email the Parish Office.

St Luke's and Christ Church Contact Details

Clergy

The Reverend Lydia Cook
lydiacook@chelseaparish.org

The Reverend Baxter McRolston
baxtermcrolston@chelseaparish.org

The Parish Office,
St. Luke's Church,
Sydney Street, Tel: 020 7351 7365
London SW3 6NH parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

St. Luke's

Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly Mob 07956 801223
j.summerly@icloud.com

Christ Church

Director of Music: Gareth Wilson Tel: 07939 378759
nota1cambiata@hotmail.com

Florists for St. Luke's and Christ Church: *See separate sheet*

If you are in any doubt, please telephone or email:

Parish Office: Tel: 020 7351 7365
parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

Wedding Blessing Fees (2026)

FEES	
Deposit (to secure the date and deducted from final invoice)	£100.00
Church Fee	£950.00
Heating (seasonal)	£250.00

MUSICIANS' FEES *(payable by bank transfer in advance)*	
Director of Music (with choir)	£300.00
Organist	£250.00
Organist only (no choir)	£300.00
Soloist (number of soloists …. x)	£200.00
Choir (each singer) (number of singers …. x)	£115.00

BELLS (St. Luke's only) *(payable in cash in separate envelope at rehearsal)*	
Bells after service	£400.00
Bells before & after service	£640.00

Wedding Blessing fees should be paid no later than four weeks before the day (an invoice will be issued) by bank transfer. Fees for bell-ringers are payable by cash at the rehearsal.

Wedding blessing ‘to do’ checklist

By 6 weeks before the wedding blessing:

- Let us know whether you would like the choir.
- Contact the Director of Music to arrange a meeting about hymns and music for the service.

By 4 weeks before the wedding blessing:

- Get clergy to check the draft Order of Service.

By 3 weeks before the wedding blessing:

- Pay the wedding blessing fees.
- Check the date and time for the rehearsal.
- Give the Parish Office the name and details of your florist.

Week of the wedding blessing:

- Contact to office to arrange delivery of flowers before the wedding blessing.
- Bring printed service sheets to church.
- Bring in money (cash in separate envelopes) for choir and/or bell-ringers

Wedding Blessing music

Music is always a matter of personal taste. We are keen to help you choose music that is right for your wedding blessing. Whether you decide that the music should be simple, or more elaborate, the choice of hymns and other pieces are very much up to you in consultation with the Director of Music and clergy. If you have no idea what you want or are totally confused by what is available, we can suggest suitable pieces.

- Before the service starts, the organist will play between ten and twenty minutes of music as the guests arrive. Please let us know if there is something you would particularly like to be played at this point.
- We recommend that you choose a short processional piece for the entry of the bride and something suitably happy and jolly for when you leave the church.
- There are other places in the service where further anthems or solo pieces can be included. The Director of Music and clergy will be happy to discuss these with you.
- We include in this pack a list of hymns often used at weddings and blessings for you to look at and consider.

Music for your wedding blessing is co-ordinated at each church by the Director of Music at that church: at St Luke's by the Director of Music, Jeremy Summerly, and at Christ Church by Gareth Wilson. As part of your wedding blessing preparation, you will be given a consultation at the church to discuss music choices. You are encouraged to bring suggestions to this meeting, and they will also be able to suggest options which they can play in the church so you can get some idea of how they would sound on the day. You do not necessarily have to choose traditional pieces for your wedding blessing, although these are 'tried and tested' and work very well in the church building. We are very happy to accommodate other choices, wherever possible, and the Director of Music will be able to advise on their suitability. It is very helpful if you can contact the Director of Music before the meeting with your suggestions so that he can listen to them in advance.

The Musicians

The number of musicians that you have performing for your wedding blessing will depend very much on the music which you choose, the size of the event and your budget. It is always possible to find low-cost options which will work beautifully in the space.

- An organist is required to play the entry and exit pieces, accompany hymns and any other musical items. If you want your own organist to play (rather than ours) the full organist's fee is still payable to St Luke's and Christ Church PCC. Your choice of organist is subject to the approval of the Director of Music.
- In most cases, a conductor is required to direct the choir. Where there is no choir or where the music is simple, it is not always necessary to have a conductor. This is decided at the discretion of the Director of Music.
- A choir is often employed to lead the hymn-singing and/or at other points in the service. The church uses fine professional singers who are selected by the Director of Music. (Please note that at St Luke's the regular church choir, which consists of a group of amateur singers, is not available for weddings or blessings). A minimum of four singers is needed in the choir and, for most services, between 8 and 12 singers are sufficient. The number needed will depend on the type of music which you would like at the wedding blessing and on your budget.
- If you would like some solo music to be sung/played at your wedding blessing, you will need a soloist. The soloist can often be drawn from the choir, although that singer will need to be paid a soloist's fee.

The Director of Music will find and co-ordinate musicians for your wedding blessing, source music where necessary, and organise rehearsal time. You may have a friend or family member whom you would like to have perform at your wedding blessing, and we are happy to accommodate this where possible. Please ask the Director of Music about this at your consultation.

Above all, **enjoy** choosing your wedding blessing music. Don't be shy of having something that is well known or very different. We are here to help and to make sure your music enriches your wedding blessing service. Do please ask us for any help you may need.

Please note that, if you would like to make an audio recording of your wedding blessing service, the musicians' fees are increased by 50%. For videos, the fees are increased by 100%.

Hymns

To listen to a selection of hymns go to: www.yourchurchwedding.org. There are often various sets of words for hymns circulating on the internet; we use the words in the New English Hymnal. For details please contact the Parish Office.

Title	Number in New English Hymnal
Alleluya, sing to Jesus	271
And did those feet (Jerusalem)	488
Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart	339
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	353
Father, hear the prayer we offer	357
For the beauty of the earth	285
Glorious things of thee are spoken	362
Guide me, O thou great Redeemer	368
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us	393
Love divine, all loves excelling	408
Now thank we all our God	413
O Jesus, I have promised	420
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness	52
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven	436
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord	186
The King of love my Shepherd is	457

Anthems

Please do not worry if you are unsure on these options: the Director of Music from the relevant church will be happy to name a suitable piece.

Bach *Jesu, joy, of man's desiring*

Bach/Gounod *Ave Maria* (Soprano soloist)

Bruckner *Locus iste*

Byrd *Ave verum*

Clemens *Ego flos campi*

Daley *Upon your heart*

Duruflé *Ubi caritas*

Franck *Panis angelicus*

C. H. Lloyd *The Lord is my shepherd*

Mozart *Ave verum*

Mozart *Laudate Dominum* (Soprano soloist and choir)

Parry *I was glad*

Rutter *For the beauty of the earth*

Rutter *Gaelic Blessing*

Rutter *The Lord bless you and keep you*

Schubert *Ave Maria* (Soprano soloist)

Schubert *The Lord is my shepherd*

Stanford *Beati quorum via*

Tallis *If ye love me*

Walton *Set me as a seal upon thine heart*

Wesley *Lead me, Lord*

Organ Music

Please do not worry if you are unsure on these options: the organist from the relevant church will be happy to name suitable pieces.

Entrance

Bach *Gavotte (Suite no. 3)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C5bu_IV-NY

Brahms *St Antony Chorale* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0jAgdbw_0Q

Clarke *Prince of Denmark's March*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXAUxzrIAtQ

Handel *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ey_8VSD7fgc

Mendelssohn *Sonata no.3 (1st movt)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhMvETANi5o

Pachelbel *Canon in D* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvNQLJ1_HQ0

Wagner *Bridal March (Lohengrin)*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dApt_GGluPM

Wesley *Choral Song* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epCzH8IIeCY

Registration of the Marriage

Bach *Air (Suite no. 3)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuB104s0Yas

Elgar *Salut d'amour* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0Hl0CcM-A4

Handel *Air (Water Music)*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7U8YVsW9I8U

Massenet *Meditation (Thais)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luL1T1WQC2k

Mendelssohn *Duet (Op38, no. 6)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Uc65JADJOo

Schubert *Ave Maria* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90AOTrOrsuU

Schumann *Liebeslied* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCP27rIVJBw

Vaughan Williams *Rhosymedre* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwjHtc4JXtw

Exit

Bach	*Prelude in G (BWV 541)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ye0gOWJsxsk
Guilmant	*Grand Choeur in D* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb4W19EnZmo
Handel	*Hornpipe (Water Music)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1h4mAceHmrI
Lang	*Tuba Tune* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxfhKfLYyjo
Mendelssohn	*Wedding March* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Oo4z37OUEI
Verdi	*Grand March (Aida)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjNMT9oKVJQ
Widor	*Toccata (Symphony no. 5)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8vz1D_L_OE

Florists and Printers

Flowers at St Luke's and Christ Church

Flowers MUST be arranged by one of the following florists:

Sarah Phillipps – 07881 520933 sarahphillippsflowers@googlemail.com

Amanda Austin Flowers Ltd - 020 7351 3151 – 490a King's Road, Chelsea SW10 0LF www.amandaaustinflowers.co.uk

Sophie Hanna Flowers Ltd – 020 7720 0841- Arch 48, New Covent Garden, Vauxhall, SW8 5PP. 07973 814886 sophie@sophiehannaflowers.com – www.sophiehannaflowers.com

Mary Jane Vaughan Designs 020 7385 8400 - 6G Hewlett House, 5 Havelock Terrace, SW8 4AS maryjane@maryjanevaughan.co.uk - www.maryjanevaughan.co.uk

Joan Holdsworth – 020 7351 5932 – 10 Christchurch Terrace, SW3 4AJ (Christ Church only)

When you have chosen your florist please let the parish office know so that we can liaise with them regarding access to the church.

Notes for Florists

Flowers **must** be arranged by one of the florists on the above list (see 'Florists and Printers').

1. Please liaise in good time for access to the church by contacting the Parish Office on 020 7351 7365 or email parishoffice@chelseaparish.org
2. It is assumed that unless otherwise arranged, the flowers will remain in church for the following Sunday. However, in Advent and Lent, all flowers must be removed before the Sunday.
3. No flowers or extra candles are to be placed on the altar, the font or the pulpit.
4. Please ensure that aisles and passageways are not blocked and that those parts of the church used for the service are not obscured by flowers.
5. If the chancel walls at St Luke's are decorated, please do not let water spill on the stonework, and make sure that access to the lectern is not obstructed. Our troughs must be used. Flowers at this point need to be kept low so that the bride and groom can be seen at the altar.
6. No drawing pins are to be used
7. If candelabra are used, suitable matting must be placed underneath to prevent wax damaging the floors.
8. Do not attach anything inside or outside the churches that will damage their fabric in any way.

Printers

You may choose your own printers, but those listed below regularly do weddings, memorial services, etc. at St Luke's and Christ Church.

Kall Kwik – 020 7351 3133 - 376 King's Road SW3 5UZ www.kallkwik.co.uk/chelsea/

The Wren Press - 020 7351 5887 - 1 Curzon Street, London W1J 5HD wrenpress.co.uk/

Gee Brothers - 020 7228 4081 - 221 St John's Hill, Battersea, London SW11 1TH

geebrothers.co.uk/

Readings

There is a space in the service for two readings. At least one must be from the Bible. Couples can choose whether to have two readings from the Bible, or one biblical reading and one non-biblical. Here are some suggestions.

OLD TESTAMENT AND APOCRYPHA

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.'

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.

Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Tobit 8.4-8

When the parents had gone out and shut the door of the room, Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah, 'Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy and safety.' So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying:

'Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations for ever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you for ever.
You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself."
I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
not because of lust, but with sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together.'
And they both said, 'Amen, amen.'

NEW TESTAMENT

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 he 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 in the cause of 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: 1-14

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 nearby, 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 had tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (although 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: 1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

John 15: 9-12 (and possibly verses 16-17 also)

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 I 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.

You may also wish to read verses 16-17: 'You did not choose me, I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that my Father may give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my commandment to you: love one another.

Romans 8.31-35, 37-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who dies, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12.1-2, 9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

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 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 to be burned,
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 wrongdoing,
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.
So faith, hope, love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love.

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 reign 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.

Philippians 4: 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; and 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 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.

1 John 3: 18-24

Little children, let us love in deed and in truth, and not merely talk about it. This is our way of knowing we are committed to the truth, and are at peace before him, no matter what our consciences may charge us with; for God is greater than our hearts and all is known to him. Beloved, if our consciences have nothing to charge us with, we can be sure of this; that God is with us and that we will receive at his hands whatever we ask. Why? Because we are keeping his commandments, and doing what is pleasing in his sight.

His commandment is this: we are to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and we are to love one another as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him and he in them. And this is how we know that he remains in us: from the Spirit that he gave us.

1 John 4: 7-12

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. The one without love has known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: he sent his only Son to the world, so that we might have life through him. Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that he has loved us, and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

NON-SCRIPTURAL READING SUGGESTIONS

A good source of ideas for non-scriptural readings is Mark Oakley, *Readings for Weddings*, (SPCK, 2004), which is available cheaply second-hand online.

Ancient Sanskrit

Look well to this day for it is life, the very best of life.
In its brief course lie all the realities and truth of existence:
the joy of growth, the splendour of action, the glory of power.
For yesterday is but a memory, and tomorrow is only a vision;
but today, if well lived, makes every yesterday a memory of happiness,
and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day.

A Reading from *The Prophet* by Kahil Gibran 'On Marriage'

Then Almitra spoke again and said,
'And what of marriage, master?'
And he answered saying:
'You were born together,
and together you shall be, for evermore.
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness.
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Love one another, but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup but drink not from the one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous,
but let each one of you be alone.
Even as the strings of a lute are alone,
though they quiver with the same music.
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.
And stand together - yet not too near together,
for the pillars of the temple stand apart,
and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

A Reading from *The Prophet* by Kahil Gibran 'On Friendship'

Your friend is your needs answered.
She* is your field which you sow with love,
and reap with thanksgiving.
And she is your board and your fireside.

For you come to her with your hunger, and you seek her for peace.
When your friend speaks her mind,
you fear not the 'nay' in your own mind,
nor do you withhold the 'ay'.
And when she is silent your heart ceases not to listen to her heart;
for even without words,
in friendship, all thoughts, all desires,
all expectations are born and shared with joy that is unclaimed.
When you part from your friend, you grieve not;
for that which you love most in her may be clearer in her absence,
as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.
And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit.
For love that seeks aught but the disclosure of its own mystery, is not love,
but a net cast forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.
And let your best be for your friend.
If she must know the ebb of your tide, let her know its flood also.
For what is your friend that you should seek her with hours to kill?
Seek her always with hours to live.
For it is hers to fill your need, but not your emptiness.
And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures.
For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

**The pronoun 'she' or 'he' may be used, whichever you find most appropriate.*

Order of Service template

Please complete the items in red with your choices:

At the Entrance of the Bride
Music?

Welcome and Opening Prayer
The Revd ……

Hymn
?

The Preface

First Reading (Biblical or non-biblical)
?

?Music/Choral piece for reflection
?

Second reading (Biblical)
?

Homily
The Revd …….

Hymn
?

The Dedication

The Blessing of Rings?

The Prayers
Concluding with **the Lord's Prayer**

Hymn
?

The Blessing

Recessional Music
?

Photographers & Video

- Photography is only allowed before the service begins, at the registration of the marriage and as the bride and groom walk down from the altar at the end, and NOT AT ALL DURING THE SERVICE.
- Photographers must check with the clergy and/or the verger on where they can stand to take photos.
- Video or audio recording is not allowed unless prior arrangements have been made. If arrangements have been made the camera operator must check with the clergy and/or verger to ascertain where they can be positioned. On no account can camera operators move around the church during the service.
- If the service is videoed, Equity/Musicians Union requires that the musicians' and choir members' fees are doubled.
- If the service is sound recorded, Equity/Musicians Union requires that the musicians' and choir members' fees are increased by 50%.
- Other musicians' fees are negotiable depending on your requirements.
- Even if visiting clergy are conducting the service, or if you bring your own organist, the fees remain the same.

Marriage Preparation

A wedding lasts a day, but a marriage is for life. Whether you have already been married for 10 days or 10 months, you will know that relationships need care and attention so that they can continue to deepen and flourish as you face new challenges and stages of life together. Your engagement and the early period of your marriage is an excellent opportunity to take stock and to consider what it will take to sustain and enjoy a long and happy marriage.

To help you with this, we will invite you to an evening with a two-course dinner, during which we offer brief input and give you time as a couple to reflect on something other than your wedding planning! We also give you a book that you may like to read together as a stimulus for discussion.

There are also ample further resources available. In terms of books, we recommend:

- Gary Chapman, *The Five Love Languages*
- John Gottman, *The Relationship Cure: A 5 Step Guide to Strengthening Your Marriage, Family, and Friendships*

YouTube has numerous excellent videos available, including many by these two authors.

It is highly possible that at some point as a couple you will reach an impasse over a particular issue, and want to reach out for an external voice. Marriage counsellors and mutually trusted friends are excellent options; the clergy of the parish are also very happy to offer counsel and support in whatever situation you are facing.

ST. LUKE'S &
CHRIST CHURCH
CHELSEA

Couples' Agreement

We will offer you our best attention and the skill and experience of our clergy, musicians, vergers and office staff.

- In return we agree to participate as fully as possible in preparation for our wedding blessing.
- We understand and will comply with the directions about recording and photography during the service.
- We understand that if the service commences more than 30 minutes after the advertised time, due to late arrival of the wedding party, then the musicians and bellringers are free to move on to their next commitments. The Service will continue in a said format. (No musicians or bellringers fees will be refunded)
- We understand and agree that church fees should be paid after receipt of invoice, before the service and that fees for musicians and bellringers (in cash) will be paid on before the day of the rehearsal.

Please sign

…….. ……..
Groom Bride

…… Clergy