

St. James' Church Styvechale

Seeking to love God with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves



Your Wedding at St. James'

This pack contains all you need to know about the practical arrangements for your wedding. In addition to this letter it contains:

1. A front cover with the date and time of your wedding entered on it. This is your written confirmation of the booking.
2. A letter from me to help you think through the issues of *being* married – so easy to forget in all the excitement of *getting* married!
3. A detailed explanation of the cost of your wedding, of how and when to pay.
4. A form with details of the arrangements for copyright in case you want to video the service. (This applies whether the video is done professionally or by a friend).
5. A map of how to get to St James' for you to photocopy and send out with your invitations. Please encourage you guests to use the car park shown on the map.
6. A copy of the Marriage service booklet, for you to use in preparation for the wedding, and as a souvenir afterwards (perhaps even to renew your vows together each anniversary).
7. Some notes on where you might find help in case of problems, our 'After Sales Service'.

So what happens next?

There are some things you will have to do:

BANNS: These are a legal requirement for which you are responsible.

Your Banns will automatically be read here at St James' two months before your marriage. We read Banns on the first three Sundays of the month at the 10.00am service. If either of you lives outside St. James' parish, or is on the Electoral Roll of another church, you will need to arrange for Banns to be read in the other church(es). Find out which parish(es) you need to apply to (our church office may be able to help if you are unsure) and do so straightaway, or at the very latest three months before the wedding. You will be charged a fee by each other church involved, and you will be given a certificate once the Banns have been read. Without this certificate, I cannot marry you; please bring it to the rehearsal.

If neither of you live in the Parish of St. James, in addition to the above you will need to have your name(s) entered on our church Electoral Roll (list of church members). Before you can apply it will be necessary to attend regular worship here (i.e. most weeks) for a minimum period of six months prior to the reading of Banns. There is a book on the table in the porch, with a page dedicated to you. You should ask the Service Leader to sign your page each time you attend. You will receive a letter from us within the next couple of weeks, which you should read carefully, sign the tear-off reply and return to the office.

FLOWERS: Please contact Mrs Sheila Butler on 024 76419275 in good time before the wedding about arranging the flowers you may want to provide for the service. You pay the cost of the flowers themselves direct to Sheila. If there are other weddings on the same day you may want to get in touch with the families concerned so that ideas and the cost can be shared between you all. I can give you their phone numbers. Please make sure you have contacted Sheila a month before your wedding, otherwise we cannot be responsible for your flowers.

PASSPORT: If you are going abroad on honeymoon, it is possible for the wife to get a passport in her new name postdated to the date of the wedding. Ask at a Post Office for forms PD 1, 2 and 3, and also form C if she has an existing current passport which simply needs the name changing. Bring these forms to the parish office and I'll sign them and post them on to your home.

PREPARATION: Early each year (usually February or March) we hold a short "Marriage Preparation Course". Most people feel slightly reluctant about attending such a course, but here are some comments after a recent course.

"I enjoyed the course and found it most useful and relevant"

"Informative – i.e. considering each others needs..useful advice"

"Informal - made to feel at ease"

"Good course to share other peoples thoughts, ideas and views on Marriage and the Wedding Ceremony."

PLANNING: approximately three months before your wedding day, if I have not already contacted you, please ring me to arrange a session for us to plan the service together, although if you would like to do this at an earlier stage (for example because you want printed service sheets) don't hesitate to ring. It would help if before that session you had given some thought to things like music to come in and to out to, two or three hymns, a Bible reading (the service booklet has a selection for starters), and so on.

REHEARSAL: At the planning session we will fix a date for a rehearsal in Church, which should be attended by everyone who has a part in the service; you two, best man, bridesmaids, and whoever is giving the bride away. I normally try to do this on the Thursday before the wedding, in the early evening. It takes about half an hour, and we will walk through the service, and settle any last minute details. I will also collect money then, and take the Banns certificate(s) from the other churches). If it is not me who is to take the service (Vicars need holidays too!) then I will give you the number of whoever it is for you to arrange your rehearsal with them.

THE GREAT DAY: probably seems so far away now, but will creep up on you if you're not careful, so prepare early and get ahead. As far as the service is concerned DON'T WORRY! If the slightest thing is bothering you, ring up and ask, rather than get in a stew about it. Enjoy the day, and enjoy your life together.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you in due course.

With all our best wishes as you prepare

Revd John Mills

Vicar: Rev'd John Mills Tel: 024 76416074 Email: john@stivichall.plus.com
Parish Office, Knoll Drive Coventry, CV3 5BT Tel: 024 76692299 Email: pat@stjameschurch.org.uk

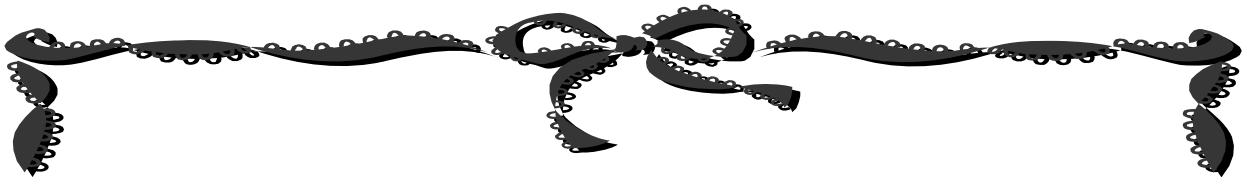


Please read and talk about it together.

Your Wedding
at
St. James' Church Styvechale

-----and-----

Date----- Time-----



Banns will be read at the 10.00am Service on:

Getting Married and Being Married

Congratulations on your engagement! You are planning to take one of the biggest steps in your life, and we at St James' are aware of the privilege it is for us to be a part of it. But we do want to help you think through what it means to *be* married. At the moment it's probably difficult for you to think very much beyond *getting* married, but now is the time when you can build good foundations for the future.

You are no doubt aware that what you are about to do is very risky. One third of all marriages in this country fail (that means about 8 of those we take each year at St James'). Of course it will be someone else's, not yours, but all the same how can you minimise the risk? Understanding the different components of marriage, and how they build on one another, can help to prepare you to work at them.

The most basic building block is Commitment.

COMMITMENT

If you're going into marriage thinking that you'll give it a try and see how it works out, forget it now. Read the vows you make to each other (page 290). You will be promising to stick together whatever comes your way, and that death is the only thing to end that. A third of couples break those vows, and they often do so because they didn't really mean them in the first place. Marriage without commitment is a nonsense. That's why living together is so popular – it doesn't require any commitment at all. When you get fed up, you just move out. This commitment allows security to grow together both in easy times but also in the hard times, which can be the most creative for a relationship.

Built on commitment must be your communication

COMMUNICATION

COMMITMENT

The way you relate to one another is the most important part of your marriage, and it will take you a lifetime to learn to get it right. But it will only ever be as good as the foundation it is built on. How can you be totally open and honest with one another without the certainty that you'll be accepted whatever? Good communication is not easy in our pressured lifestyle. It requires regular quality time, and choice. Women are usually better at sharing their feelings and thoughts – sometimes men have to learn how to.

The final brick in the building of your marriage is consummation, in other words your sexual relationship.

CONSUMMATION

COMMUNICATION

COMMITMENT

Again, it will only be as good as the foundations it's built on. Nowadays many, probably most couples, are already having sex regularly before they get married. Don't be surprised, whether or not you are already sleeping together, if your sex life as a married couple takes some working at. So does everything worthwhile. But within committed marriage, and in the context of good communication, it can and should be the crowning glory.

The secret of a good marriage is to get the three building blocks in place, and never to try to make one of them work without checking that those below it are OK.

Where does God fit in?

You have chosen to get married in a Christian Church, and so you have God involved in your service. Take the opportunity before the wedding to talk together about your faith or lack of it. Are you satisfied with what you do or don't believe? If you come to St James' to hear your Banns, what did you make of the service? (I would be glad to have feedback, as a useful piece of market research!) As a Christian I believe that God is pleased with marriage – after all, he invented it. But I also know that to get the best out of life we have to face the fact that we were made with a spiritual part to us, which longs for a relationship with someone bigger than ourselves. The good news is that God wants that relationship as much as we do – a lot more, in fact. As you begin a new life together, God longs to be involved with you too. We at St James' can help you discover that friendship, a friendship which can put your marriage on really solid foundations. You won't be immune from the knocks of life, but you will have supernatural help in coping with them. Don't leave God out of your wedding – or of your marriage.

Finally

I cannot tell you how to have a successful marriage. We are all Learners at it. This sheet is almost hopelessly inadequate to prepare you for marriage, but I think it does at least raise some issues for reflection and discussion. The Marriage Preparation Course will allow more opportunity for this, in a helpful environment.

St. James' Styvechale

Wedding/Banns Fees 2008

(1) Wedding Fees:

Statutory Fees

(see 'Table of Parochial Fees' prepared by Church Commissioners available for inspection in the Church Porch and Parish Office)

Banns	22.00	
Marriage Service	247.00	
Marriage Certificate	3.50	
Church Fees	<u>160.00</u>	432.50
Optional Extras		
Organ	27.00	
Organist	<u>65.00</u>	92.00
Video recording permission & Copyright (see attached notice)		69.50
Church Flowers & Arrangers fee (see attached letter))		150.00

(2) Banns Fees:

If either or both of you live outside the Parish of St James you will need to arrange to have Banns read in each Parish and bring a certificate to your wedding rehearsal confirming this has been done

You will be charged a fee of £34 by the other church/es

The Church fees are those for the year stated and may increase slightly if your marriage falls into a subsequent year. You will be given an invoice at your planning session 6-8 weeks before your wedding date and fees will need to reach us two weeks before your marriage date

St. James' Styvechale

Recording Permission & Copyright information

Audio/Video recording of the service of marriage ofand
.....(insert names of couple) on(insert date)

There is a fee of £69.50 (in 2008) included in the total charges, which is for permission to video the Incumbent and the Organist and to bring recording equipment inside the church for the purpose of recording the above service, subject to the following conditions:

1. Camera(s) will be placed on a tripod and will maintain a fixed position agreed with the officiant
2. The operator is required to remain as still as possible beside the camera throughout the ceremony.
3. No additional lighting is permitted.
4. The positioning of microphones must be negotiated with the officiant.
If the operator is not professional, it would be beneficial if he/she attended the rehearsal.

The attention of the recordist is drawn to the following matters:

It is most important that it is recognised that neither the Incumbent, Organist or the Parochial Church Council has any authority to give copyright permission for the lawful reproduction or recording of any work – literary or musical – which is protected by copyright.

The Marriage Service:

Certain “blanket” arrangements have been made to facilitate the recording in church of the texts of the Marriage service. Without prior application having to be made to the copyright owners, copyright permission, subject to the following conditions, has been given for the recording on either audiotape or videotape The Marriage Service from *Common Worship: Pastoral Services*.

1. No rights in the recording and no copies of it shall be transferred or assigned in consideration of money or money's worth i.e. the rights in the recording and copies shall not be sold commercially except that the original recording and copies may be sold to the couple or parents who commissioned the recording.
2. No more than five copies of the recording shall be made
3. The recording, including an extract from it, shall not be exhibited in public.
4. The copyright owners of the Marriage Service, described above, charge no fee for this permission.

Music (sung and instrumental)

So far as copyright for music and lyrics are concerned, detailed advice on copyright is available from the European Copyright Licensing (ECL) Ltd PO Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 1BF (phone 01323 436111) www.videolicence.co.uk

If you wish family or friends to video your marriage you must purchase and produce a “Wedding Video-Recording Licence”. Please bring it to the Wedding Rehearsal together with this form signed by yourselves and your recordist. If you are employing a professional videographer he will probably have the appropriate licence – please bring a copy to the wedding rehearsal.

I have read this notice. I accept that the Incumbent and Organist have only given me permission to bring into and to use recording equipment inside the church subject to the conditions specified above. I acknowledge that the Incumbent and Organist have not given copyright permission or authorised the recording of any material or performance which may be protected by law.

Signed.....Recordist date

SignedBride or Groom date.....

Sheila Butler
66 Cannon Close
Coventry
CV4 7AS

Tel: 024 76419275
Email: sheilbutler@aol.com



Wedding Flowers

Floral arrangements can greatly enrich the atmosphere of the Church on your wedding day. At St. James' we are fortunate to have an experienced team of people to arrange Church flowers.

Because I have contacts with local wholesalers I am able to offer the following very reasonably package for Church flowers:-

Three Pedestals (1 in Porch + 2 on Chancel steps)	
£100.00	Flowers
£10.00	To decorate aisle with ivy and ribbons (optional)
£50.00	Arrangers Fee

If you have other ideas for flowers, please ask, because we can often accommodate different requests - although there may be an extra cost involved.

If there is another wedding on the same day, you will need to agree a mutually suitable colour scheme. If your schemes would clash with each other, might I suggest something neutral like cream/ivory plus greenery, which goes very well with the terracotta carpeting in the Church. I have photographs of arrangements from previous weddings to help you to decide. Obviously couples would share the costs.

If required, I can often offer advice, or help, with bouquets for the bride/ bridesmaids and reception venue. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss your floral requirements.

Sheila Butler



After-Sales Service

Whilst we don't offer a guarantee with our weddings (it's up to you to make it work, not us) we do hope you won't regard our part in your marriage as having finished once the strains of the Wedding March have died away. Unless your marriage is very exceptional you *will* have problems sooner or later, and it is important that you know where to turn for help.

The first thing to understand is that it is not a sign of weakness or failure to admit that you need help. On the contrary, having the guts to face your problems rather than pretending they're not there takes a tremendous amount of courage. If you are physically ill it's not clever to brush it under the carpet and soldier on – in fact it could be extremely dangerous, because you could allow the disease to progress to the point where it becomes untreatable. In the same way relationship problems are best faced and dealt with early, or else they have a habit of growing like a cancer and killing your love and your marriage. Sometimes you don't even feel there's anything wrong, but go to the doctor for a routine check-up; similarly it is helpful now and again to review your marriage with the help of an outsider even if things are going fine. There need be no stigma nowadays in seeking help; if more couples did so, there would be a lot less disasters about.

So where might you look for help? That depends on the nature of your problem. The most common marriage-breaker is debt or other financial tensions, and this is obviously one which responds best to early treatment. The last person you'd expect to talk to would be your Bank Manager, but he is likely to be very sympathetic and helpful, so face it together with him.

Sexual problems affect many couples, and your GP should be the first port of call. He/she may refer you for psycho-sexual counselling or sex therapy, which are more fun and less frightening than they sound. The Marriage Guidance Council, or "Relate" as they are now called, also run sex therapy clinics.

For more general counselling and help, or for a first approach in the case of sexual problems, you can contact Relate of Coventry 76225863, or another organisation called Marriage Care on 76220065. Your calls will, of course, be treated in strict confidence, and you will be in the hands of experts who have helped to save many marriages.

Finally, don't forget the Church. I and some of the members of St James' have training and a lot of experience in helping people like you. We won't sit in judgement over you, we'll just offer what help and care we can, and help you to find other sources of help if that seems appropriate. We won't ram "religion" down your throat, although of course we do believe that God can save marriages which humanly speaking have no hope. We'll just be there to listen, to care and to pray for you.

But, of course, we hope it won't come to that. May your marriage be happy, successful and fulfilling for you both, and may all your problems be little ones!

St. James' Styvechale

Do join us at any of our Sunday Services

8.00am	Each Sunday	Holy Communion
10.00am	1st Sunday	Family Service
10.00am	2nd 4th & 5th Sunday	Holy Communion
10.00am	3rd Sunday	Morning Worship
<i>(Crèche and Children's Groups at all 10.00am services)</i>		
5.00pm	Each Sunday	Traditional Evensong

