



Getting Married

at

Holy Trinity Church

Devonport

**Some information for
the Bride and Groom**

A WELCOME FROM HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH



As you make plans to be married I want to wish you both every blessing. My duty as Vicar is to help you make this the most wonderful occasion for you and your life's partner, and your respective families.

It is gratifying to me to hear quite frequently from newly marrieds or their parents as to how much they enjoyed and appreciated their Marriage Service at Holy Trinity. You are always most welcome to come along and "sit in" on a Marriage Service to give you a first hand experience of how it all happens, and how it feels.

In the following pages I have listed some of the more important details which you will need to consider and which would normally be discussed with me in the course of making your Marriage arrangements.

All arrangements relating to getting married in Church must be made through me, and nothing is to take place within the Service or the Church without the Vicar's prior agreement.

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions.

WHERE DO I START? MAKE A BOOKING

The first and most important action is to contact the Vicar and check the date and time which you would like to book for the Wedding. Once entered into the Vicar's "Wedding Book" this then becomes definite. Should you wish to change your mind regarding date or time, or even to cancel the booking altogether, or should your address or phone number change, PLEASE contact the Vicar in the

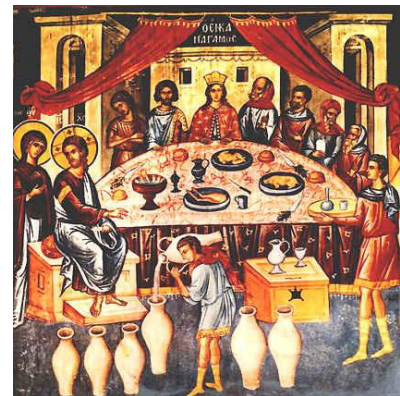
first instance.

ARRANGE A MEETING

Approximately three or so months before the Wedding Day, (or earlier if you wish) please contact the Vicar in order to arrange a meeting (usually lasting about 1+ hrs) during which time all the specifics of the Wedding Service, and details relating to that, will be thoroughly covered. At this time there will also be arranged the date and time for two Evenings of Wedding Preparation/Discussion and also the Wedding Rehearsal date and time. Any questions about any of the details are fully covered at this time.

WEDDING PREPARATION SESSIONS

There are normally two pre-marriage sessions of 1½- 2 hours (each session) with the Vicar or a trained, competent assistant, together with other couples like yourselves, where we discuss informally (and with a lot of fun) some of the basic, important areas you will be facing in married life. While this is not compulsory it does provide a great opportunity for the couple and the Vicar to get to know each other so that the Wedding Day becomes a more personal occasion to all concerned.



WEDDING REHEARSAL

Normally a wedding rehearsal will be arranged for the day or evening immediately before the wedding day as many of the Bridal Party as possible should be present. This is usually fairly informal. Without a rehearsal, mistakes can easily be made which can spoil the DAY!

ORDER OF SERVICE

You are free to choose from either of the authorised Anglican Orders of Service, either the older Prayer Book Service or the more modern Order of Christian Marriage. No alterations to the wording of the Service are permitted. The emphasis in the Marriage Service is on the nature of Christian Marriage and this is reflected in the wording of the Service and in our preparation beforehand.

MUSIC

The music you choose for your Wedding Day will have a major influence on the Service itself. You will need to consider which style of music you would like to have, whether traditional or more modern. Bear in mind that the church is of a traditional architecture and does suit the more traditional style of music. You will also need



to consider whether you wish to have any hymns, items, or other special music (perhaps for playing during the signing of the Marriage Licence). We have very competent and professional organists in the Parish and they are available to add their special touch to your Marriage Service with their music.

Their service includes music before the Service commences (as the guests are arriving) during the Service (if required for any special items etc), hymns if requested, music during the signing of the Register and special Bridal music.

All matters regarding your choice of music and hymns will be discussed with the Vicar and will naturally be in keeping with the nature and dignity of the Service. The Organist's fee, as approved by the Organist Association is \$100.

Please seal this in an envelope marked "Organist" and give to the Vicar at the time of delivering the Marriage Licence.

OUTSIDE WEDDINGS

Many a Wedding Ceremony, held outside, has been devastated by inclement weather or inconsiderate neighbours. Both Holy Trinity and St. Augustine's churches are beautiful in their own right and it is fitting that a Service of Christian Marriage be held in the place associated with worship. Anglican clergy are now permitted to conduct Weddings outside of the church buildings.



FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church are arranged free of charge by our ladies of the Sanctuary Guild who have had many years experience in suitable and appropriate floral decoration. Most Brides choose to put some money in an envelope (usually a minimum of \$120) together with a note regarding their preferences for colour, flower type etc. and are happy for our ladies to purchase the flowers and attend to all the arranging. This saves the Bride having to worry about floral arrangements. It is assumed that the flowers will remain in the church following the wedding.

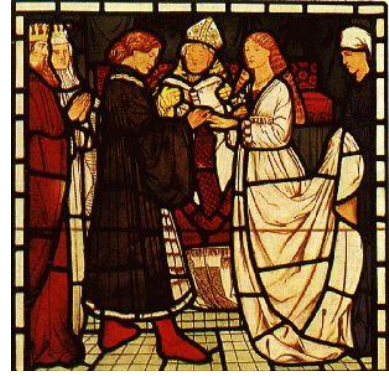


Alternatively, the Bride may have access to flowers, in which case we are happy to use the flowers you provide.

There is no objection to having bows or other decorations on the ends of the pews, provided they are not fastened with pins or sellotape. Either tying with ribbon or securing with rubber bands is the quickest and easiest. Ask the Vicar about any concerns you have in this area, or other options.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from a relevant section of the Bible on the nature of Christian love and marriage is normally part of the Marriage Service. The suggested reading from 1 Corinthians 13 outlines the nature of Christian love in action. Other appropriate readings from secular sources are also permissible and the Vicar can give you some samples for your consideration.



WEDDING CANDLE

A very nice additional touch to a Wedding Service is the lighting of a Wedding Candle symbolising the joining of two lives together. The Vicar can supply the names of various sources for this.



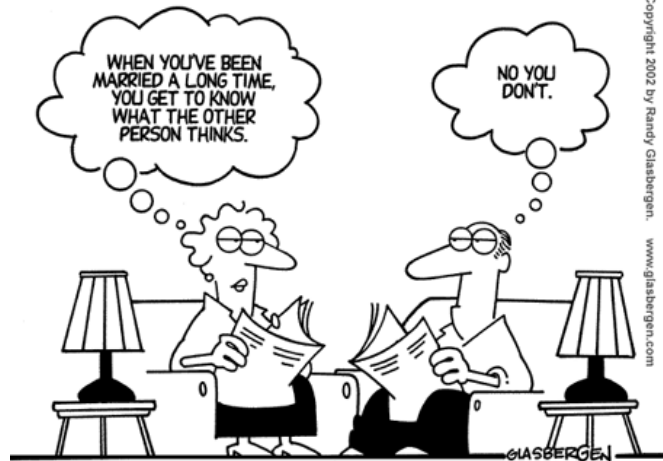
PHOTOGRAPHS & VIDEO

The only photos to be taken during the Service are by arrangement between the Vicar and the official Bridal photographer. If you are having the service video-recorded please discuss these matters with the Vicar before making any special arrangements. **NO** flood lights or “Sun-guns” are to be used in the Church.

RE-MARRIAGE

The Anglican Church does allow the re-marriage of divorced people.

However, when either or both the Bride and/or Groom has been previously married they should give careful consideration to whether or not they have adequately dealt with any unresolved issues remaining from the previous relationship.

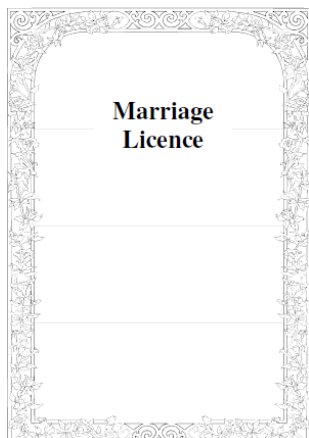


It is assumed that both partners of the intending marriage desire to abide by the life-long nature of Marriage, and that the partner from a previous marriage regrets that those solemn vows made before God in the previous marriage, were not kept.

Marriage vows made to God are extremely important and not lightly regarded by the Church.

MARRIAGE LICENCE

Before a Marriage can be “solemnised” a Marriage Licence must be obtained from the Registrar of Marriages. The cost is \$120 and is payable upon application (which can be made by either party) to the Registrar. The application form can be downloaded from the Government website. Go to www.bdm.govt.nz and select Marriages, where you can choose the applicable form for Notice of Intended



Marriage. A number of family details are required so it may be easier for both to make the application. There is a statutory delay of about 4 days between applying for and receiving the Licence, so don't leave it until the last day! Once issued, the Licence is valid for 3 months. It is preferred that the Marriage Licence be delivered to the Vicar as soon as possible after it is obtained.



USE OF THE CHURCH BY OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Request is sometimes made for couples to be married in the Church by their own Ministers or Pastors of other Christian denominations using their own orders of service. Regretfully, this is not permitted.

CONFETTI

Yes! We allow it. The use of confetti outside the Church door can

make the job of keeping the Church clean very difficult, especially in wet or windy weather. While some Churches place a total ban on the use of confetti, we consider that rather drastic.

We would prefer, if confetti is to be used, that it be thrown when the Bridal couple have moved away from the immediate entrance area – usually onto the lawn.

DONATIONS / CONTRIBUTIONS

Most couples desire to make a financial contribution both for the use of the magnificent Church and facilities, and for the considerable time and expertise given in all the preparation involved in making this an extra special day. Donations towards the ministry time are usually in the vicinity of \$400.

In addition, the suggested contribution towards the actual running expenses (power, cleaning, organ maintenance, lawns etc) is \$200.

Nearly 8 hours of the Vicar's time is given to each Wedding which includes the initial meeting, two preparation evenings, rehearsal and the Wedding Service. We suggest that the contribution towards "running expenses" be sealed in an envelope marked "EXPENSES", and the donation towards the use of the Church and the Ministry be sealed in an envelope marked "CHURCH & MINISTRY". It is best if

both envelopes be handed to the Vicar at the time of handing over the Marriage Licence.

USHERS

It would be of assistance if one or two people could be chosen to act as Ushers to welcome guests, and to hand out Service books at the door, and then to collect these from around the pews after the Service.

RIGHT OF REFUSAL !!!

This has never happened – BUT – if a situation arises where it would be out of keeping with the nature of Christian Marriage to proceed with either the arrangements, or even on the day (shock horror!) - the Service itself, then the Vicar reserves the right to cancel the proceedings. Such drastic action would only be precipitated if any member of the Bridal Party were under the influence of alcohol or drugs or acting in a way inappropriate to a Christian Service. (This has never yet happened, although there have been one or two times where it was very close!).

INTO THE FUTURE

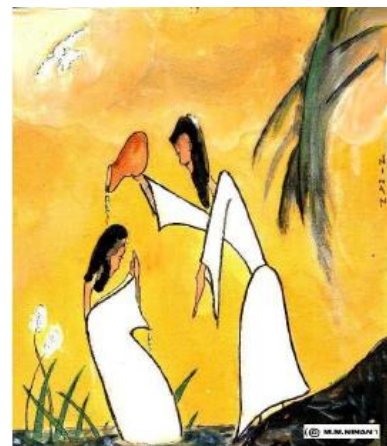
BLESSING OF A HOME

There is something very special about the first home that a couple share as husband and wife. The Church recognizes the importance of this and has a brief and appropriate service for the Blessing of a Home. Please feel free to ask the Vicar more about this.

BAPTISM (CHRISTENING) OF CHILDREN

Once a family begins to arrive it is natural to think in terms of their admission into the on-going life of the Church and the opportunity to give thanks to God for their safe arrival.

The Anglican policy on this matter of where a child should be Baptised is that this should normally take



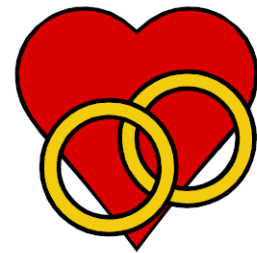
place in the Parish Church where the parents are involved in its life, worship and witness. In this way the child is welcomed into the active life of the local Church where it will be growing up and becoming part of the normal life of that congregation.

CONCLUSION

My intention is to make your Wedding Day the happiest and most memorable occasion of your life. My desire is to see not only the Bride and Groom adequately prepared and equipped for a lasting and enriching married life together, but also to create in the Service an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness when your friends and families will truly rejoice with you in the celebration of your marriage in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.

Please don't hesitate to ask about any matter which you may not be sure of. I am here to help.

With every blessing for your arrangements and the future.



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