

Ferryhill Parish Church

Important information for

Your Wedding Day

Congratulations on deciding to get married! The Church celebrates the commitment of two people to each other in marriage and we look forward to being able to help you make the most of your day and your future together.

Contents correct as of September 2021



Practical Details

Arranging the Date

*As soon as the provisional date has been chosen for the wedding, the Minister should be consulted. This is very important, and should be done **before making final arrangements for the reception.** Please telephone and make an appoint-*

Notice of Marriage

*About six weeks before the wedding date, you must give notice of your intention to marry to the local Registrar. **This is a necessary legal requirement.** You will be told to collect the **Marriage Schedule** during the week before the wedding. **Please note that without the Schedule the marriage cannot take place.** It is a good idea to bring the Schedule to the church for the rehearsal.*

Music for the Service

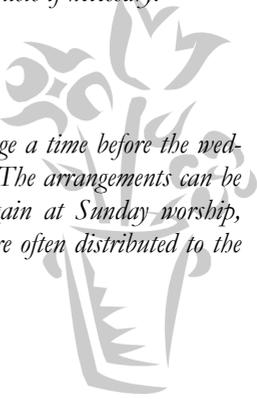
You should discuss the choice of hymns and processional music with the minister and organist. It is advisable to do this well in advance so that hymn sheets, if required, may be printed. Please see back page for organist's contact information. It is advisable to contact an organist as early as possible. The Director of Music and Organist (Kevin Haggart) will be able to advise of other possible organists if necessary.

Flower Arrangements

Please contact the church office (01224 213093) to arrange a time before the wedding for the flowers to be placed / arranged in the church. The arrangements can be left in the church following the wedding to be enjoyed again at Sunday worship, please let us know if that is your intention. The flowers are often distributed to the sick or recently bereaved following Sunday worship.

Enjoy the Day!

And remember this is the first day of your married life together. Try not to worry too much about the preparations for the day. The day is fun and enjoyable, but it is the time after the wedding, your married life, that is far more important.



Practical Details

Fees

Fees are payable for the use of the building, organist, beadle and operators of the audio visual system. The total fee, in addressed envelopes, should be handed to the Minister at the time of the rehearsal, addressed to the Treasurer. Cheques should be payable to 'Ferryhill Parish Church'. These are:

Use of the Church	£200	
Beadle	£50	
Organist (if service video recorded)	£70	(£140)
Operator of Audio System	£50	
Operator of Webstream (if required)	£50	

Photographs and Video Recordings

To avoid any distractions, the official photographer may take pictures from one location during the service. There should be no additional lights or noise. A video recording of the service may be taken from a fixed position, but please note an additional fee will be payable for the organist in this case. The photographer and video recordist should consult with the Minister before the service begins.

Wedding Rehearsal

The Minister will arrange for a rehearsal prior to the wedding. Apart from the Bride and Groom, the Bride's Father or guardian, the Best Man, the Bridesmaid(s) and any other interested parties are invited to meet at the Church to rehearse the procedure at the service. **The Marriage Schedule and hymn sheets should be taken to the Church at the time of the rehearsal with the relevant fees.**

Wedding Reception

When you make arrangements for your wedding, the Minister will ask if you wish him to come to the reception. There is no obligation on your part to invite him, the question is simply to know how much time to set aside for the wedding day. There may be occasions when the Minister cannot attend due to other commitments. If the Minister attends it is usual for him to say Grace before the meal. On some occasions he may also chair during the toasts and speeches.

The Wedding Day

Bridegroom, Best Man and Ushers

Ushers should arrive around 40 minutes before the service starts, welcoming guests, providing an order of service and showing guests to their seats. The Bridegroom and Best Man should come to the Vestry about 30 minutes before the service is due to begin. They may want to welcome guests at the door, but should make their way to the Vestry at least 20 minutes before the service to wait with the Minister until the Bride arrives at the Church.

Bride, Bridesmaids and Flower Girls

The Bride will enter the Church at the main door where the Beadle will be in attendance. After all photographs have been taken, the Beadle will inform the Minister, who will lead the Bridegroom and Best Man to the foot of the Chancel steps facing the Communion Table. The Minister will then go to the vestibule to meet the Bride. The processional voluntary will then be played while the Minister and Bridal party enter the Church and proceed to the Chancel. The Bride will be on the right arm of her father or guardian. When the bride reaches the front of the Church, her father or guardian will leave her and take his place in the front pew. The Bridesmaid(s) and Flower Girl(s) stand to the left and slightly behind the Bride. The bride will pass her bouquet to the Chief Bridesmaid once she has arrived at the front of the Church.

Signing the Marriage Schedule

This takes place following the marriage ceremony (see Order of Service on following pages). After a short pause the Minister will move from the Chancel followed by the Bride and Bridegroom, Best Man and Chief Bridesmaid. Any other Bridesmaids and Flower Girls will bring up the rear of the procession, and may be escorted by Groomsmen or Ushers. The parents of the Bride and Groom will follow the procession into the Memorial Chapel where the Marriage Schedule is signed.

Leaving the Church

After the signing of the Marriage Schedule and the taking of any photographs, the organist will play processional music and the Bridal Party, led by the Bride and Groom will process across the Church to the far aisle so that everyone has a chance to see you.

Order of Service

Welcome

Opening Praise/Hymn

Introduction

We are here in the presence of God
to witness the vows of A..... and B.....
as they give themselves to each other
in Christian marriage.

We offer them our continuing support and love
in their covenant with each other.

We rejoice in the uniqueness of their marriage,
and seek with them God's blessing.

Marriage is to be entered upon
thoughtfully and reverently,
and with a deep awareness
of its sacred and enduring nature.

Marriage is honourable and holy.
It is founded in the loving nature of God.
It is part of God's purpose for humanity,
and was provided by him
for the comfort and happiness
of man and woman
and for the welfare of human society.

It was hallowed by our Lord's gracious presence
at the marriage in Cana of Galilee;
and is consecrated as the symbol
of the union between Christ and his Church.

Today as A..... and B.....
become husband and wife,
we are confident that this deepening
of their commitment to each other
will lead to enrichment and joy in their lives.

Prayer

Gracious God,
we give you thanks and praise
for all your gifts of goodness and grace.

We praise you for your gift of love,
uniting our families,
blessing our lives,
enfolding us all our days.

Especially we thank you
for the love which dwells and grows
in the hearts of A..... and B.....,

Order of Service

and for the happiness and trust
that has led them here.

As they seek now in marriage
to confirm that happiness and deepen that trust,
may your Spirit of love
sanctify their joy and enrich their love.

Guide them by your grace,
surround them with your presence,
and keep them in your love;
through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Exchange of Vows

Will the congregation please stand.

The minister says to the Bridegroom and Bride:

As a seal to the vows you are about to make,
will you join hands and face each other.

The Bride and Bridegroom turn and face each other, and join hands.

They make their vows by (1) repeating them after the Minister or by (2) answering the questions put to them.

Jesus said,
"This is my commandment:
love one another as I have loved you."

(1) *Either partner may make the vow first.*

The Bridegroom says:

***Before God
and in the presence
of our families and friends,
I, A.....,
declare my love
for you, B.....
and I give myself to you
as your husband.
I promise you my love,
my loyalty, and my trust
for as long as we both shall live.***

The Bride says:

***Before God
and in the presence
of our families and friends,
I, B.....,
declare my love
for you, A.....
and I give myself to you
as your wife.
I promise you my love,
my loyalty, and my trust
for as long as we both shall live.***

(2) *Either partner may answer the questions first.*

To the Bridegroom:

Do you, A....., before God
and in the presence
of your families and friends,
declare your love for B.....
and give yourself to her
as her husband?

To the Bride:

Do you, B....., before God
and in the presence
of your families and friends,
declare your love for A.....
and give yourself to him
as his wife?

Order of Service

Do you promise your love,
your loyalty, and your trust
for as long as you both shall live?

I do.

Do you promise your love,
your loyalty, and your trust
for as long as you both shall live?

I do.

Giving and Receiving of the Ring(s)

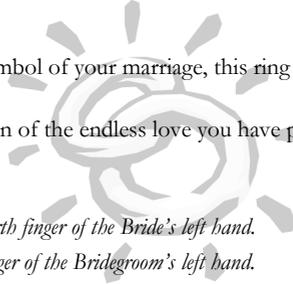
As a token of these promises and as a symbol of your marriage, this ring [these rings] is [are] given and received.

May this ring [these rings] be to you a sign of the endless love you have pledged to each other this day.

Either partner may give ring first.

The Bridegroom places a ring on the fourth finger of the Bride's left hand.

The Bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the Bridegroom's left hand.



Declaration of Marriage

The Bride and Bridegroom join their right hands and the Minister places his right hand upon their joined hands.

A..... and B.....,
you have declared your love for each other
before God and your families and friends.
You have pledged that you will live together
in Christian marriage,
in the words of your promises
and in the symbolism
of the joining of hands and the giving of rings.
I therefore declare you to be husband and wife.
In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

To the congregation:

Those whom God has joined together, no one must separate.

Marriage Blessing

The Husband and Wife kneel.

A..... and B.....,
may the blessing of God rest upon you
in the keeping of the promises you have made.
May his holy presence sanctify your love
and dwell richly in your lives.
God guard you on every side.
God guide you in truth and peace.
God gird you with faith and love. Amen.

The couple stand. The Bride's veil may be lifted, and the couple may kiss.

Scripture Readings

Order of Service

Address

Prayer

Gracious God, for the promise,
for the hope,
for the love of this day,
we praise you.

Bless your children now
with the strength of your Spirit,
that they may build a life
of joy and fulfilment
on the foundations of commitment
and love.

May they be sustained by the love and
support that now surrounds them.
May they always remain open-hearted,
courageous and strong.
Give to them generosity of spirit,
understanding of each other,

warm and loyal friendship.

Grant that they may go forward
from this day delighting in their love.
May their love grow,
and in time to come may it prove
able to heal and to help,
to overcome difficulties, and
to bring reconciliation.

So may all see in them
a symbol of your love
from which nothing can separate us
and which nothing can overcome.

Be with them now
and remain with them for ever.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Closing Praise / Hymn

Blessing

Signing of the Marriage Schedule & Final Procession



Contact Information

Minister

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Director of Music/Organist

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Church Office

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Local Registrar

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