

# **ST ANDREW'S EATON**

## **GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MARRIAGE SERVICES**



**St Andrew's**  
**EATON, NORWICH**

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## Getting Married at St Andrew's - Notes on the Order of Service

Several options are available in choosing a marriage service in the Church of England. This leaflet describes a typical order, but there is an alternative order with the wedding vows later, described below. You can plan your service in consultation with the minister taking your wedding.

The Groom and Best Man sit together in the first pew on the right hand side of the Nave, and, at the entry of the Bride, take their allotted places in front of the Chancel steps.

The Minister meets the Bridal Party (Bride, Bride's Father/Mother/Guardian, and Bridesmaids/Page Boys) in the church porch, and, when they are ready, comes to the front of the church, welcomes the congregation and gives the notices (about confetti, mobile phones, photography). The organist begins the wedding march (or other music), at which point the congregation stands. The Bridal Party processes to the front of the church where the Groom and Best Man are waiting.

The Minister says an introductory prayer.

An Opening Hymn is sung, during which time the Bride's veil is lifted, if she is wearing one, and her bouquet is passed to the Chief Bridesmaid.

The minister reads the Preface, explaining the Christian understanding of marriage. The couple make their Declarations and the service continues with a reading from the Bible. A listing of suggested Bible readings and psalms can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/qa5obw> Usually friends or relations will read the readings.

The service then proceeds with the Vows, the Giving and Receiving of Rings, and the Proclamations.

The Couple then kneel for their own personal Blessing, after which there may be a second hymn before the minister takes the couple to Sign the Registers. Two witnesses also sign the registers.

During the signing of registers there is normally music played by the organist. Your photographer is allowed to take photographs of the registration if you would like this.

At this point there is usually a second Bible reading, though some other appropriate reading(s) may be used as well. There is then a short address of about five to ten minutes.

After the address, the couple kneel at the front of the church for the Prayers. It is possible for a friend or relation to lead the prayers if there is someone suitable who has experience of leading prayers in church.

The prayers usually include the following:

- A prayer of thanksgiving
- A prayer for spiritual growth
- A prayer for faithfulness, joy and love
- A prayer for the gift of children (if appropriate)

The congregation may be invited to make a response after each section. The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

A final hymn is sung and the minister gives a final blessing on the whole congregation.

The couple are joined by the whole bridal party, which then processes out through the church to the main door for photographs. The congregation may take photographs of the final procession.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR PRINTED ORDER OF SERVICE**

It is usual to give information about the music to be played for the entrance of the Bride.

### **Welcome**

#### **Opening Hymn**

Please print all the verses that are to be sung.

#### **Introduction and Declarations**

It can be helpful to print the congregational response:

The minister says to the congregation:

'Will you, the families and friends of [Name] and [Name], support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?'

All reply: We will

#### **First Reading**

Please give details about the reading and the person doing the reading.

#### **The Exchange of Vows and Rings**

## **The Proclamation and Blessing of the Marriage**

### **Second Hymn (optional)**

Print all the verses that are to be sung.

### **Registration of the Marriage**

It is usual to give information about the musician(s) and music to be played during the signing of the registers.

### **Second Reading**

Give details about the reading and the reader.

### **The Address**

It is usual to name the person who will be giving the sermon, for example, The Rev Philip Rodd, Vicar.

### **The Prayers**

It can be helpful to print the congregational response in the prayers, for example:

When the minister says: 'Lord of life and love'

All respond: Hear our prayer.

It is also helpful to print the Lord's Prayer for the congregation.

### **Closing Hymn**

Print all the verses that are to be sung.

### **Final Blessing**

It is usual to give information about the music to be played for the exit of the bridal couple and the bridal party.

## **ALTERNATIVE ORDER**

It is also possible to have a different order, with the vows coming after the readings and the address. This may give extra meaning to the vows and the proclamation - but it does mean that there is longer for the couple to wait for their key moment, the Vows, and this may make them more nervous! This alternative order of service and notes can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3srs7>

You can discuss which order you prefer with the minister taking your wedding.