

**Prudhoe Parish Church**  
**St Mary Magdalene**  
**2022 Wedding Brochure**



A Guide to Your Marriage Service  
at St Mary Magdalene

*Revised Jan 2022*

Prudhoe Parish Church

# St Mary Magdalene

## 2022 Wedding Brochure

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## Introduction

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage. We hope and pray that your wedding day will be a joyful and memorable occasion for you, your families and friends.

Preparing for a wedding can be a pleasurable activity but we know that with so many things to think about and so many arrangements to put in hand, it can be a stressful period too. We shall do our utmost to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible both before and during your wedding as far as the legal and service arrangements are concerned, but there are certain things for which we must rely on you to help us.

This guide contains what you need to help plan your wedding service, but if we've missed anything (or you wish to have further information about any particular item) please do not hesitate to contact one of us; our telephone numbers and email addresses are below.

If you experience any problems before the ceremony, please contact the minister responsible who will hopefully be able to help. Likewise, the minister conducting the wedding is available to provide *confidential* help and advice on spiritual or other personal matters at any time, before or after the ceremony.

All this may sound rather daunting and you may forget one or two things during the preparations. Nevertheless, remember this one thing above all else:

**God loves you and wants you to be happy and fulfilled. In all things, let Him be your guide. Trust Him, Love Him, Honour Him in all things and He will repay you a hundredfold.**

May God's blessing be upon you both, now and in your future life together.

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# Planning your Marriage Service

This first section will walk you through a few basic decisions that you will need to make in order to personalise your church service. The minister will talk through all of this when you meet together but it always helps to have thought about your ideas in advance.

## 1. The Order

Below are two basic outlines of the marriage service. It doesn't matter which one you choose so go with the one which you think will make you most comfortable. *(If you're concerned about feeling nervous, you may prefer the alternative option – the marriage happens earlier!)*

### The Traditional Order

- *A few notices from the Vicar*
- Entry of the Bride
- Welcome
- Hymn
- Some words about marriage
- Declarations
- Bible Reading
- Talk
- Hymn
- **The Marriage** *(vows, rings, kiss and the blessing)*
- Prayers – ending with the Lord's Prayer
- Hymn
- Final Blessing
- Registration of the Marriage
- The newly married couple leave

### An alternative...

- *A few notices from the Vicar*
- Entry of the Bride
- Welcome
- Hymn
- Some words about marriage
- Declarations
- **The Marriage** *(vows, rings, kiss and the blessing)*
- Hymn
- Bible Reading
- Talk
- Prayers – ending with the Lord's Prayer
- Hymn
- Final Blessing
- Registration of the Marriage
- The newly married couple leave

In **Appendix 1** you will find a full text for the marriage service. This includes all the words you will say to each other and provides a brief explanation of the various elements of the service. Do read it – especially the vows.

Note: Whilst it is possible for couples to **add** their own vows, these can only be *in addition* to the vows described in this booklet – otherwise you won't be legally married! Please talk to the minister about adding extra vows.

## 2. Music

Your choice of music is a very important way in which to make your marriage service really personal to you. You'll need to decide on the music you wish to have to accompany:

- 1) the arrival of the bride
- 2) the signing of the marriage document
- 3) the exit of the bride and groom (*at the end of the service*)

We would strongly recommend that you use the services of our organist at your wedding and in **Appendix 2** you will find some suggested pieces of music. Please note that it's also possible to include recorded music in any of these parts of the service.

If you are considering having other musicians at your wedding, we would ask you to bear in mind that space in church is limited and that you will need to take full responsibility for co-ordinating any other musical input to the service beyond the church organist.

Please discuss with the minister, in the first instance, any music you are considering using.

The other music you need to choose for your service will be the **hymns**. Although both orders above include *three* hymns, you might prefer to sing just *one* or *two* – particularly if your friends and family are not used to singing in public. Some suggested hymns are also set out in **Appendix 2**, but there are many other great options! If you hear a hymn you really like when you come along to hear your banns read, why not include that?

## 3. Bible Reading

Because it is a service of Christian Marriage, you'll also need to choose at least one **Bible reading** and this is another important way of making your Marriage Service personal to you. The minister will discuss your choice of reading during your meeting and then say a few words about this passage during the service.

In **Appendix 3** you will find a small selection of suggested readings. Read through them together and see if any of them stand out to you. There are many other great passages in the Bible which speak about God's love for His people and how human marriage paints a beautiful picture of that. If there is another passage from the Bible which you particularly want read at your wedding, please do mention it to your minister.

You might also like to include a poem or a reading from a book other than the Bible. This may well be possible – but please do discuss this with your minister.

## Practical Arrangements

### 1. Flowers

If you wish to have flowers at your wedding, you will need to be responsible for their delivery and arrangement. Please speak to your minister to discuss arrangements for access to the church for your florist.

Please note: Flower arrangements and 'pew-ends' may only be attached to woodwork by ties. No form of adhesive (including *Blu Tack*) or pins may be used.

### 2. Verger

It is **essential** to have a verger for your ceremony. We can arrange an experienced verger for your marriage service for an additional charge which is listed in the table of fees on p9.

If you do not wish to use one of our vergers, you will need to provide someone to be at the church at least half an hour **before and after** your service to carry out verging duties. (These include – *but are not limited to* – setting out furniture, operating the sound system, welcoming latecomers, handling incidents during the service and clearing up the church ready for the next service.) Ideally, your verger would also attend the wedding rehearsal.

### 3. Parking

The church is located on a residential side street with limited on-street parking. Wedding guests may not park on the single yellow line immediately in front of the church – this must be kept clear to allow the bridal car to pick up and drop off from the Lych Gate.

For ushers and anyone with limited mobility there are a few spaces on Kepwell Bank Top. In general, guests should be directed along the street behind the Dr Syntax or to the Co-op.

Thank you for helping us to maintain good relationships with our neighbours by ensuring that your guests park considerately during your wedding ceremony.

### 4. Toilet Facilities

There is a toilet at the church, which is situated in an outbuilding just behind the main church building. Access is through the vestry and down some steps. (The steps are steep but there is a handrail.) Please convey this information to anyone in your party who may be affected by this.

## 5. Confetti

Confetti is allowed on two conditions: it is biodegradable (*none of the metallic or tinsel variety please!*) and it is only thrown outside the Lych Gate at the bottom of the church path. We also ask that your guests dispose of the boxes considerately.

## 6. Video and photography

Everyone wants good photographs of their wedding day and we want to give you every opportunity to have some wonderful photographic memories. However, the marriage ceremony is also an act of worship so there are certain guidelines for photography at St Mary Magdalene which we would be grateful if you would pass on to your **photographer** and **videographer**.

- As far as the service is required, we are happy for your **family and friends** to take photographs in the church:
  - as the bride enters
  - during the signing of marriage document
  - as you both leave

However, once the service has begun, only the official photographer will be allowed to take photographs.

- **Official photographers** are asked not to use **flash**; to keep their movements to a minimum; and not to take photographs during any prayers.
- Video:  
If your wedding ceremony is videoed, either professionally or informally by a member of your family, the appropriate form needs to be completed in advance.  
The minister will be happy to chat with the videographer about the siting of the equipment either at the wedding rehearsal or before the service begins. Once again, movement needs to be kept to a minimum.
- We are keen to maintain good relationships with photographers as they provide an important record of your special day. However, in the (*hopefully rare*) instance of any photographer deliberately flouting these guidelines then we would reserve the right to ban them from photography at future weddings at the church.

## 7. Use of Data Projector and Screen

We have a data projector and screen, which you may like to use for the words of hymns, rather than the traditional hymn books. We make a charge for this service (also in the fees table on p9), which may offset the cost of printing the words of hymns if you choose to have your own printed 'Order of Service' produced. Please discuss this with your minister when booking your requirements.



## Legal Stuff

### Banns of Marriage

In order to be married legally in the Church of England, a wedding couple usually have their banns called (within three months of their wedding day) at their local parish church and the church where they will be married. What this means is: We announce your forthcoming marriage and give people an opportunity to object, if they know a *legal reason* why you should not marry. Don't worry, objections only happen in films. I usually explain that it is cheaper to have banns called than to be married by licence, so it's a good thing!

**Note:** If you don't live in the parish you are being married in, banns need to be called in more than one church! This article will help you find out:

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/how-do-i-find-my-parish-church-for-reading-banns/>

Banns are normally called at St Mary Magdalene at our 10.00am service on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays two months before your wedding. Do **come along** to hear your banns read – we would love to meet you and pray for you in the run-up to your wedding day!

If either of you are resident in another parish (*and the marriage is not by licence*), then it is **your responsibility** to contact the minister of that parish for banns to be called and obtain from him/her a banns certificate to pass on to the minister conducting your wedding.

Please note that this is a **legal requirement**. If a banns certificate is not obtained in time, a licence would have to be obtained for the marriage to go ahead. (The cost of this license is currently around £300.)

There is a fixed charge of around **£30** to have your banns called, and a small additional charge (around **£15**) if a certificate needs to be issued. (If your banns are called in the same church where you will be married, there is no need for a certificate.)



## Wedding Fees

**A deposit of £100 is payable at the time of booking to secure your wedding date.**

- At your first meeting with your minister, usually at least three months before your wedding date, you can make your choice of the options available.
- Following the meeting, once all decisions have been made, we will send you an invoice for the final costs.
- This must be settled at least **one calendar month** before your wedding.

Payment should be made by BACS (Direct Transfer), to the following account

Name: Prudhoe Parochial Church Council, Account number 3073 3512, Sort code 20-40-09.

If you can use reference format (day)(month)(name) it helps us to ensure we know you've paid.

Eg. 0611Smith for a wedding on the 6<sup>th</sup> November with surname Smith. Just let [vicar@prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk) or [treasurer@prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@prudhoeparishchurch.org.uk) know that you've made the payment.

We appreciate that weddings are costly affairs and we are prepared to accept payment of fees in three stages if discussed at the time of booking, however, full payment **must** be made at least **one calendar month** before the date of the marriage.

If full payment is not settled four weeks before your wedding date, your service may be cancelled. If you cancel less than six weeks before your wedding day, we cannot guarantee the refund of the fees.

## Fees for marriage by banns during 2022

If your wedding is another year the statutory Church of England fees may increase slightly

<b>Statutory Fees for Basic Wedding</b> <i>includes Publication of Banns but <u>no music</u></i>	<b>512</b>
<b>Additional Fees</b>	
Verger	35
Heating ( <i>Sept – April usually</i> )	<u>30</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>577</b>
<b>Optional Extras:</b> <i>(to be booked at meeting with your minister at least <b>three months</b> before service)</i>	
Organist	80
Administration ( <i>if church produces worksheets</i> )	20
Permission to Video	50
Use of Projector and Screen ( <i>inc. person to operate</i> )	50

## Appendix 1 – The Elements of the Marriage Service

To help you understand the structure of the service a little better, we have set out a few notes for your consideration.

**The Welcome** - *The minister welcomes the people.*

### Preface – The Meaning of Marriage

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are [born and] nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in

bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of Almighty God.

*N* and *N* are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

*There is an alternative preface that can be used if requested.*

## The Declarations

*The minister will ask if anyone knows any legal impediment to your marriage and will then ask you the same question, but in a slightly different form: "The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now."*

*The minister says to the bridegroom:*

*"N, will you take N to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?"*

*He answers: "I will."*

*The minister says to the bride*

*"N, will you take N to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?"*

*She answers: "I will."*

*The minister says to the congregation*

*"Will you, the families and friends of N and N, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?"*

*They answer: "We will."*

## The Collect

The Collect is a special encompassing prayer that God will pour out His blessings upon you both for your married life together.

## Reading(s)

A selection of readings from Scripture may be found later in this booklet. If you would prefer some other Bible reading, please ask the minister. Likewise, if you would like to choose someone to read the passage or additional other suitable material, please ask the minister.

## The Address

The minister will say a few words based on the Bible Reading which has been chosen.

## The Vows

*The minister may ask: "Who brings this woman to be married to this man?"*

*The bride's father (or another member of her family or a friend representing the family) gives the bride's right hand to the minister who puts it in the bridegroom's right hand. The bride and bridegroom face each other.*

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says*

"I, N, take you, N,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow."

*They loose hands. The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says:*

"I, N, take you, N,  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow."

## The Giving of Rings

There is no legal requirement for two rings to be exchanged. If only one ring is used, then the bride's response will be different.

*The minister receives and blesses the ring(s).*

*The bride and groom place a ring on the fourth finger of the other's left hand and, holding it there, say in turn*

"N, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

## The Proclamation

*The minister proclaims you husband and wife, before inviting you to join hands, after which he says: "Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder."*

## The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife may be asked to kneel for a prayer of thanksgiving and praise followed by a blessing on the marriage.

## Prayers

The minister may use a selection of prayers for you, followed by the Lord's Prayer, said by all.

## Registration of the Marriage

At the end of the service, you will both need to sign the marriage document along with two witnesses. Witnesses should be over 18 years of age.

Following the Registration, the **Final Blessing** will be given (*if it has not been said already*). The wedding party then processes from the church to your choice of music.

## Appendix 2 – Music for your wedding

(With [links](#) to these pieces of music on YouTube – all links ok on 23/03/18)

If you choose to have an organist play at your wedding, here are some suggested pieces of music which have proved popular at weddings in the past.

**Entry Music:**            [Bridal Chorus](#) from *Lohengrin* – Wagner  
                                   [Canon in D](#) – Pachelbel

**Exit Music:**            [Wedding March](#) from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – Mendelssohn  
                                   [Trumpet Voluntary](#) – Jeremiah Clarke

Unless you have a specific request, the organist will also play their own selection of music before and after the service and during the signing of the marriage document.

Remember that it is also possible to use recorded music.

**Please speak to the minister in plenty of time about any special requests for music.**

### Hymns

A selection of popular hymns for weddings, although there may be others that you'd prefer!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <a href="#">All things bright and beautiful</a>                                       | 16. <a href="#">Lord, the light of your love is shining</a><br>(Shine Jesus shine) |
| 2. <a href="#">Amazing grace!</a>  | 17. <a href="#">Love divine, all loves excelling</a>                               |
| 3. <a href="#">Be thou my vision</a>   | 18. <a href="#">Make me a channel of your peace</a>                                |
| 4. <a href="#">Come on and celebrate</a>   | 19. <a href="#">Morning has broken</a>   |
| 5. <a href="#">Give me joy in my heart (Sing Hosanna!)</a>                               | 20. <a href="#">Praise my soul, the king of heaven</a>                             |
| 6. <a href="#">God is our strength and refuge (Dambusters March)</a>                     | 21. <a href="#">Seek ye first the kingdom of God</a>                               |
| 7. <a href="#">Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father</a>                            | 22. <a href="#">Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord</a>                    |
| 8. <a href="#">Guide me o thou great Jehovah</a>   | 23. <a href="#">The Lord's my shepherd (a modern version)</a>                      |
| 9. <a href="#">Hallelujah! Sing to Jesus</a>   | 24. <a href="#">To God be the glory</a>  |
| 10. <a href="#">How deep the Father's love for us</a>                                    | 25. <a href="#">You shall go out with joy</a>                                      |
| 11. <a href="#">I danced in the morning when the world was begun</a> (Lord of the Dance) |  |
| 12. <a href="#">In Christ alone</a>  |  |
| 13. <a href="#">Jerusalem</a>  |  |
| 14. <a href="#">Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us</a> (Living Lord)                 |  |
| 15. <a href="#">Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy</a>                             |  |

It's very important to double check the words of the hymns with the minister before you print your 'Order of Service'.

**Hymn texts downloaded from the internet are often inaccurate or contain verses that are not usually sung.**

## Appendix 3 – Readings from the Bible

### 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

### 1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



## **Ephesians 3: 14-21**

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

## **1 John 4: 7-12**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

## **Mark 10: 6-9,13-16**

Jesus said, "At the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female'. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

## **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour:

If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.