

# Helpful Wedding Planning Information

The parishes of St Mary Selattyn and All Saints Hengoed with Gobowen

## *The Service*

**Music:** It is normal to have 3 hymns but you can have more or fewer. For information and advice on what hymns, music and readings to have, please ask us or visit the Church of England wedding site, <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org>

Three further pieces of music need to be chosen: for entry of the bride, the signing of the register, and the exit of the couple at the end. The organist can play these if in their repertoire, or you can provide your own musicians or use the church CD player. Please note these play conventional CDs only, not computer files.

**Readings:** A Bible reading should be included but you are welcome to have other readings too, e.g. a poem. A selection of suitable readings will be discussed with the vicar at a preparation session so feel free to ask for advice. See <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/bible-readings-for-your-wedding/>

**Choice of vows:** Most people today use the modern service, officially known as 'common worship'. Older versions of the service are still legal, but please note that they have notions of marriage that may sound strange to the modern ear. Please note that if the modern service is used the bride has the option of varying the line 'to love and to cherish' to 'to love, cherish and obey.' For more information please see <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/wedding-ceremony-words/>

The vows used in the modern version of the service can be found at <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/wedding-vows/>

**Rings:** The giving of rings is an important part of the service. They are a symbol and reminder of the promises you are making to each other. You can either have one ring (given to the Bride by the groom), or each give and receive a ring.

## *General Information*

**Confetti** may be thrown in the churchyard provided it is biodegradable.

**Flowers** and other decorations may be put in church on the morning of the wedding or the day beforehand if the church is free- please check this with the administrator.

**Bells:** In Gobowen a set of bells is chimed by a single ringer. In Selattyn there is a set of individually rung bells. However, we do not have our own team of bell ringers. All are based at other churches. There is therefore no guarantee that they will be available for your wedding. If they are unavailable, then a tape recording of bells projected by loudspeaker from the tower can be played on your entry and exit from church free of charge.

**Photography and videos:** Your service may be photographed or videoed but they must be as discreet and unobtrusive as possible. Wedding guests must refrain from flash photography during the service. Please may the photographer make contact with the clergy before the service.

**Parking:** In Gobowen the small field belonging to the church next to the church hall may be used for parking by guests. The churchyard can be used for the bridal/bridesmaids' cars and guests who have a disability or suffer serious difficulties in walking. Selattyn owns no parking land. Please use the public roads. Please note that parking in the Cross Keys pub car park is not permitted unless the landlord has given you explicit permission.

## Service Booklets

There is no requirement to produce service booklets but some couples like to produce them as a souvenir for guests. The service can work well without them and most hymns are available in the church hymnbooks. Please check if your hymns are in the books with the administrator before confirming your hymns if you are not having a booklet printed.

If you are producing your own separate order of service for guests to take away as a souvenir, it should follow the following template:

*As the bride enters ... (name of music) ... is played*

**Welcome**

**Hymn or song (print words)**

**Declarations**

*Including this response:*

*Will you, the families and friends of N and N, [insert your first names here]*

*support and uphold them in their marriage*

*now and in the years to come?*

*All: We will.*

**[# Optional space for additional reading]**

**Reading**

*[insert reading] ... read by...\**

**# Hymn or song (print words) (if having three hymns)**

**Marriage Promises**

**Hymn or song (print words)**

**Reading**

*[insert reading] ... read by...\**

**Address**

**Prayers**

*# You may wish to include the Lord's Prayer here.*

*(Please insert either the traditional or contemporary version from here:*

*<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/going-church/lords-prayer>)*

**Signing of the Register**

*During the signing of the register ... (name of music) will be played.*

**#Hymn or song (print words) (if having four hymns)**

**The blessing**

*As the wedding party leaves church ... (name of music) is played.*

Please note:

\* No need to mention this if vicar is reading, but you might like to if a guest is reading

# These items are entirely optional. There is no need to sing lots but feel free to discuss options with the vicar.

If you have particular requests for music or readings in the service, the order can be adjusted so just ask to discuss options.

# Information about our wedding service

Bride.....
Groom.....
Church.....
Date of Wedding.....
Time .....

Please give the following information about what you would like in the service:

## *Music*

Entry of Bride .....

Hymns: .....

.....

.....

.....

Signing of register.....

Exit of Bride and Groom .....

Do you require an organist for the service? .....

## *Other Service Choices*

Readings (and person reading them if not the vicar):

.....

.....

Form of service used:

- Traditional language service
- Modernised language 'Common Worship' Service

Form of Bride's vows:

- "to love and to cherish"
- "to love, cherish and obey."

*Key People*

Who, if anyone, will 'give bride away'? .....

Number of bridesmaids and their ages if under 18 .....

.....

Number of best men and names, including who will act as ring bearer .....

.....

Number of rings (see above).....

Page boys or flower girls- numbers and ages .....

.....

(please be prepared for very young children to behave unpredictably- contingency plans to manage that situation are needed)

Number of ushers.....

Witnesses (two adults as legal witnesses of your marriage vows who will sign the register with you):

.....

*Other Details*

Are you having the service:  Photographed?

Videoed?

Do you want bell ringers if available? .....

Are you having a separate printed order of service? .....

How many guests do you expect to attend? .....

Will any of your guests need disabled access? .....

What arrangements to you plan to make regarding flowers/decorations in church?

.....

.....

Are there any other special requests or things we need to know? .....

.....

Please return this form to the administrator for weddings, Mrs Barbara Leonard (01691 658498, barbaraleonard51@outlook.com, Polmear, Daywell, Gobowen, Oswestry, SY10 7EJ.)

She will arrange for a priest to take the service, fix a rehearsal, discuss legal preliminaries and issue an invoice.

# The Marriage Service

## *Introduction*

### **The Welcome**

***Minister:*** God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All:** Amen.

### **[Hymn]**

### **Preface & The Declarations**

#### ***The minister says to the congregation***

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

#### ***The minister says to the couple***

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?  
All: **We will.**

**The Collect**

**(Additional Reading)**

***The Marriage***

**[[Hymn]]**

**The Vows**

***The bride and bridegroom face each other.  
The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his.***

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.

***They loose hands.***

## **The Giving of Rings**

***The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, says***

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.

***If rings are exchanged, they loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says***

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.

***If only one ring is used, before they loose hands the bride says***

N, I receive 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 Blessing of the Marriage**

**[Hymn]**

**Readings**

*At least one reading from the Bible is used. A selection of readings is found [here](#).*

**Sermon**

**Prayers**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All: **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Registration of the Marriage**

**[Hymn]**

**The Dismissal**



## Suggestions for Bible Readings for Weddings

### Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

### Song of Solomon 2:10-13, 8:6-7

<sup>10</sup> My lover spoke and said to me,  
"Arise, my darling,  
my beautiful one, and come with me.

<sup>11</sup> See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.

<sup>12</sup> Flowers appear on the earth;  
the season of singing has come,  
the cooing of doves  
is heard in our land.

<sup>13</sup> The fig tree forms its early fruit;  
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.  
Arise, come, my darling;  
my beautiful one, come with me."

<sup>6</sup> Place me like a seal over your heart,  
like a seal on your arm;  
for love is as strong as death,  
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.  
It burns like blazing fire,  
like a mighty flame.

<sup>7</sup> Many waters cannot quench love;  
rivers cannot wash it away.  
If one were to give

all the wealth of his house for love,  
it would be utterly scorned.

### Matthew 5:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### Matthew 7:21, 24-end

<sup>21</sup>"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

<sup>24</sup>"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

<sup>28</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

### 1 Corinthians 13

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

( <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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.

<sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.)

### **Ephesians 3:14-end**

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

### **Ephesians 5:21-end**

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing <sup>27</sup>her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### **Philippians 4: 4-9**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son <sup>10</sup>into the world that we might live through him. <sup>11</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice <sup>12</sup>for our sins. <sup>13</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>14</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.