

Sunday Services

- 8.45am This is a formal style of service using traditional language. The service is normally Holy Communion except on the 5th Sunday.
- 10.30am Our main morning service which includes worship, prayer, Bible reading and preaching. Most weeks there are separate groups for children during the second half of the service. There is usually a Communion service on the 2nd Sunday and occasionally family services, baptism or other special service.
- 6pm The evening service begins with worship and prayer but a larger part of the service is devoted to teaching. After the service, and refreshment, there is an opportunity for those who wish to stay and discuss matters raised in the teaching or just interrogate the speaker.

Other activities

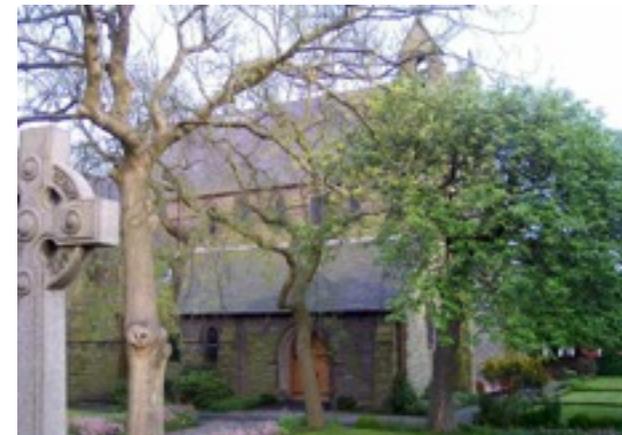
There are a range of midweek activities that take place at St. James' including Bible study groups, parent & toddlers, children's groups and prayer meetings.

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Your wedding at St. James' Chorley



"To win people for Christ and to build them up in Christ."
www.stjameschorley.org Registered Charity No. 1133725

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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation;

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

The King of love my Shepherd is

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

The following are pieces of music traditionally played for the entry of the bride, the final procession or during the signing of the register. However, the decision has to be made with the person playing for the service.

Fanfare for a Bride	Sir Arthur Bliss
Trumpet Tune	John Stanley
Trumpet Voluntary	Purcell
Trumpet Tune and Air	Jeremiah Clarke
Gavotte	William Boyce
March from Suite for Organ	William Watton
Allegro from Suite D	John Stanley
Air & Gavotte	Samuel Wesley
Tocatta from 5th Symphony	Wido
Organ Concerto Nos 1-4	Handel
Tocata and Fuge in D minor	J S Bach
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	J S Bach

I will sing the wondrous story

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;

Love divine

Love divine, all loves excelling
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us your humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown.

O praise ye the Lord!

O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word,
ye angels of light;

O worship the King

O worship the King,
all-glorious above;
O gratefully sing
his power and his love;

Praise my soul the king of heaven

Praise my soul the king of heaven
to his feet your tribute bring
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia! praise the everlasting king!

Introduction - Given by God

Marriage was established by God right from the beginning of creation, and is declared by God to be very good. As a consequence marriage is to be found in almost every, perhaps all, human societies. It is not just a relationship but a covenant, that is a special promise and bond, between a man and a woman. More than that, God tells us that this relationship has a deep significance because in marriage a man and a woman “become one flesh”. For all these reasons marriage is not something to be entered into lightly. If a wedding at St. James’ is right for you then we want your day to be special and memorable. But we also want to try to help you to enter into this relationship wisely so that you will be able to overcome the setbacks that will undoubtedly occur and so that your marriage will be a blessing to you and to those around you.

By asking to be married at St. James’ you are asking for a wedding conducted according to the practices of the Church of England. The wedding service reflects the teaching about marriage in the Bible but also contains some old customs.

Who can get married at St. James’?

The Church of England has some fairly complicated rules about who can and cannot be married in a parish church such as St. James’. The criteria are given on the back of the Wedding Details Form which accompanies this leaflet. The first requirement is that you be a worshipping member of St. James’ and on the electoral roll, OR that you live in the parish OR that you have a ‘demonstrable connection’ with the Church. You will be asked to complete a form when you make an enquiry about a wedding at St. James’. The Vicar, or possibly someone else appointed by St. James’, will check that you are entitled to marry here and will ask you to provide proof of birth, identity or address. If there is any uncertainty we will refer the matter to the Diocesan Registrar who is the chief legal officer for Anglican churches in this area.

Of course, it is also important to ensure that you are both entering into the commitment of marriage freely and are serious in the promises you are required to make in a church wedding.

In accordance with the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ marriage is

intended to be a lifelong commitment. Therefore, traditionally, the Church of England has not permitted a wedding in church where one or both of the couple has been previously married and has a previous spouse still living. In recent years the Church nationally has changed this approach and left the decision to the local Church and in particular the minister. At St. James' we believe that it is important in our public services to follow the teaching of Jesus. Therefore we continue with the traditional practice. If one or both of you has been married before we are willing to conduct a service in which you commit your new relationship to God (sometimes referred to as a Blessing Service), but the minister will want to understand something of the background before agreeing to do this and you will need to be married by a civil ceremony first.

Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman. A relationship between two men or between two women cannot be a marriage and is contrary to clear teaching of the Bible. For a similar reason a service of dedication of a same-sex relationship is not possible at St. James'. However, if you are in such a relationship and would like to talk about the teaching of the Bible and what God wants in your life then please do contact us.

Gender re-assignment does not change the fundamental nature of a person as created by God. Therefore we do not marry people at St. James' who have gone through such a re-assignment.

Preparing for your marriage

St. James' is not just the provider of an 'off the peg' service or a pretty venue. We hope that all couples who get married here will feel that St. James' is their church, full of people they know and with whom they will keep in contact. The best way of building your relationship with St. James' is to come on Sundays. We have a formal service at 8.45am, which uses traditional language and a more contemporary service at 10.30am. Our evening service focuses more on teaching and also includes an opportunity to ask questions or just grill the speaker. If you are not familiar with church services we know that it can be difficult for people to just turn up but you will be very welcome.

The Vicar will arrange to meet with you after the initial contact to confirm your details and explain the Christian teaching about marriage. If everything is in order a booking can then be made. He, or the minister officiating at the

However, there is normally a short delay once the bride has arrived for photographs and final adjustments to hair etc! When the bride is ready, the congregation will be asked to stand, and the service begins.

After the service ends, there is a brief pause while the registers are completed in the vestry. Then the bride and groom lead the congregation out of church and into the churchyard, where photographs are normally taken. In the event of wet weather, or if preferred, photos can also be taken in the church.

From this day forward...

Marriage is a gift from God – a unique combining of two people's lives for life. Do make time in the midst of the preparations to prepare yourself for the day and for the rest of your lives together. We will be praying for you and we trust that in this new relationship you will find rich blessings.

David Phillips, Vicar

Appendix Wedding hymns and music

Below are the first lines and words to some traditional hymns often used at weddings. However, more modern Christian songs are often sung and it is best to discuss this with the pianist who will be playing on the day.

Amazing grace

Amazing grace - how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me !

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

Fees

There are three components to the fees:

- The statutory fees which are set nationally for the whole Church of England. This includes the main fee, the banns and the certificate. Some of these go to St James church in respect of the use of the premises etc, some go to the Diocese of Blackburn in respect of the minister.
- The local fees for the vergers and music.
- Extras for flowers and heating if required.

A list of fees are available separately but these will most likely change at the start of each year. The fees for your wedding will therefore not be confirmed until they have been set for the year concerned.

An invoice will be issued about 3 months before the wedding day and this should be paid to the Treasurer at least 2 weeks before the day. Payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer as explained on the invoice.

The Wedding Day

Your wedding day will arrive quicker than you think and will be anticipated by all your friends and family who are invited to join in. So what should you expect from your day?

Family situations vary and although we have referred below to the parents of the bride and groom we know that often some or all of these may not be present or others may fulfil the particular role. Please let the minister know the situation and who is who so that he doesn't make wrong assumptions.

First to arrive should be the ushers, if you are having them. Their responsibilities stretch to understanding how to get your guests into the church and into their seats, directing guests of the bride and groom to their appropriate sides of the church (normally bride's guests to the left and groom's to the right looking from the back of the church) and the safekeeping of any presents left at the service. Please ensure that your ushers understand and embrace their responsibilities fully.

Traditionally, the groom and best man should be at the church at least 15 minutes before the ceremony.

Next to arrive will be the bridesmaids and the bride's mother followed by the bride and her father. There is a notion that the bride should be late – this is in practice somewhat inconsiderate to your guests and the church.

service will meet with you about three months before the wedding day to talk about the service and about the new relationship you will be entering into.

What you need to do

1. The first thing is to contact the Vicar of St. James' who will take some details and make an initial check that you are eligible to be married at St. James. The Vicar may not necessarily be the minister who conducts the service.
2. If you don't already have one, the Vicar will give you or send you the Wedding Details Form and he will arrange a meeting with you both. At this meeting he will check the details thoroughly and ask to see some proof of identity and address. He will also explain some of the options.
3. Once it is clear that everything is in order a date can be arranged. There are rules about when you can be married in a parish church but they are not very restrictive. However, we do need to ensure both that the building and a minister (normally the Vicar) are available. If there is already a wedding booked for the same day we also need to make sure that there is good gap between them.
4. Once a date is fixed we will give you the details of people at St. James' to contact about some of the practical details such as flowers and music. Some suggestions for music are made at the end of this leaflet but it is important to remember that this is a church and we will only be willing to have songs and music that are honouring to God and compatible with the teaching of the Bible.
5. At some point you will need discuss with the minister the service you are going to use and any options. Usually this would be 3 or 4 months before the wedding day. The minister will also talk about the new relationship you are entering into.
6. In most cases Banns of Marriage have to be read at St. James' and quite possibly in one or two other churches. This must be done in time for the wedding day and the certificates given to the minister. Banns are explained below.
7. About three months before the wedding day you will be sent an invoice and asked to ensure that the fees are paid at least 2 weeks before the wedding day. The fees should be sent to the Treasurer whose details will be

given on the invoice and should be paid by cheque to "St. James, Chorley, PCC only".

8. The minister will arrange to meet up with you a week or two before the wedding day for a rehearsal. It is helpful to have the key players available for this (bride and groom obviously, and normally the best man, bridesmaids and bride's father). The minister will check if any of the circumstances have changed from the original form because some of this information is used to complete the register. It is an offence to knowingly provide false information. If you have had banns read elsewhere the certificate(s) must be brought to the rehearsal or given to the minister beforehand.

9. We will be praying for you as you embark on this major step in your lives.

10. The day has arrived and by now everything should be organised so that it can run smoothly, but it may go past in a bit of a blur. We hope that the service will be special to you and it is an opportunity to reflect, to pray and to commit the days and years ahead to God.

11. The rest of your life together has begun. Marriage can be a rich blessing, but none of us are perfect, far from it. It takes commitment and effort to make marriage work and it is important to be realistic from the outset and to ensure that when problems arise they are dealt with. We hope that if you are living nearby you will continue to want to be involved in the life of St. James' and whatever your situation we want you to know that you can contact us.

Banns

Banns are a verbal, legal notice of your intention to marry. Banns exist to confirm that both of you are free to marry, in particular that neither of you are already married. In the past, the local community would have gathered every Sunday morning and the reading of the banns at church provided an opportunity for those who knew the individuals best to reveal any secrets! Nowadays it sometimes seems a bit quaint, but the reading of banns is still a vital legal preliminary to marriage (there are alternatives for emergencies and special cases, at greater expense). Banns are read on three successive Sundays at some point during the three months immediately preceding your wedding day.

Video photographer

An official video may be recorded by prior arrangement. The minister will advise the camera operator where he or she should stand to avoid being intrusive and a video of the whole service is permitted. Informal videos and photography during the service itself are not allowed. The minister will mention this at the beginning of the service.

An additional fee is payable to the pianist where their playing is to be recorded. In addition a licence is required. If a professional video cameraman is used then they are responsible for obtaining the necessary licence. Where a family member is making the recording and one of the couple is a regular member of St. James then the recording is covered by the Church's own licence. In other situations the couple must arrange for a Limited Manufacture Licence from www.prsformusic.com (search for the name). Their fees are modest (£15-£20 usually) but depend upon the length of music and number of copies made. You may be asked to demonstrate that you have the appropriate licence.

Parking

Parking around St. James' is not always easy. On the day of the wedding our Verger will reserve some space outside the Church on Brooke Street. However, this is only for the bridal party and if you are likely to have more than one or two special cars the Verger needs to be made aware of this. Others should be able to find parking on the streets round about.

Confetti

We don't permit confetti to be thrown in the church or churchyard and it is also an offence to throw it in a public place such as the road. Flower petals may be thrown in the churchyard.

Changing your name

If you are going on honeymoon immediately after the wedding and want to have the name on your passport changed beforehand you will have to complete a form which you obtain from the passport office. The Vicar or other officiating minister can sign the form but you will have to complete it in good time.

Flowers

Again, once the details have been checked, we will give you the name of the person who takes responsibility for the flowers at St. James. A number of things will have to be taken into account, including if there are other events on around the same time, possibly other weddings, and the season of the Church year. The options available include for you to pay to engage a professional florist, to make use of a family member or friend (who needs to be up to the task) or to ask St. James' to take on the flowers for which there will be a charge.

Photographer

You are free to use any part of the churchyard for photographs before and after the ceremony, with the exception of the Garden of Remembrance which is at the West end of the churchyard (this is where ashes are interred). Photographs may be taken as the bride enters and as the wedding party process at the end. However, photography during the service can be very distracting and can turn it into a spectacle rather than a service. For this reason we ask that photography is restricted to the official photographer and they are asked to be discreet. The minister will explain to them where is the best place to do this.

Couples often come back into church after the service to take pictures in situ. If you would like the minister in any such shots it is best to mention this beforehand but that should be possible.

An official photographer will be permitted in to the vestry. They are not permitted to take photos whilst the registers are being signed, but when that is complete they are free to arrange people and furniture for best effect. The photographer may also wish to give instructions to the wedding party and possibly the congregation for photos as the bridal party process out.

Please draw these guidelines to the attention of your photographer, as it is important that no misunderstanding arises which could disrupt the service. Please also ask your photographer to make time to see the minister before the ceremony starts. The minister will mention this at the beginning of the service.

An application to marry at St James' will ensure that banns are read here in due course. However, if either or both of you are resident in another Church of England parish you must also have your banns read in those parish churches. This is your responsibility to arrange. You need to apply direct to the vicar of the relevant parishes, who will require you to complete an application form. There is a fee for Banns to be published and for the certificate. After the banns have been called three times, you should collect a certificate from the parish: this must be produced at your wedding rehearsal.

The Order of Service

There are two forms of service that can be used and there are variations possible within each. In general other forms or variations are not legal.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the traditional language service which has been used in the Church of England, with a couple of brief interludes, since 1552. Some of its phraseology is well known and it is more robust in some of the things that are said.

Common Worship is the contemporary language service of the Church of England. It is now more widely used nationally and at St. James. There is a bit more flexibility in this service.

A typical service following the traditional BCP service would be:

- Groom arrives, meets the minister and checks the register.
- Bride arrive and enters
- Minister's welcome
- Opening Hymn (optional)
- Preface (what the Bible teaches about marriage).
- Final invitation to allege an "impediment" to the marriage.
- Declarations (this was originally a separate rite of betrothal and is the bit where you say "I will")
- The Giving Away (this is part of the traditional service but optional in the modern one).
- Vows ("I take thee...". In the BCP the bride promises "to obey", we explain why this is a good thing below.)
- The giving of a ring (but rings can be exchanged instead).
- The minister then prays, declares the couple to be man and wife and declares God's blessing.

- Bible reading.
- Address by the minister.
- Hymn (optional).
- Prayers.
- Signing of the registers in the vestry.
- The bridal party process out.

The address and prayers may be done the other way around and the signing of the register can be done slightly earlier in the service.

In the contemporary language service:

- The “giving away” can take place but this is not the norm.
- The bride can opt to “obey” but this is not the norm.
- An exchange of rings is the norm and there are words for the bride to say if only the groom gives a ring.
- The address and bible reading are normally before the marriage.
- The prayers may come at the end after the registration.

The minister will discuss the various options with you and will make suggestions unless you have a particular preference. However, the final decision does rest with the minister who also has to ensure that the service fulfils all the legal requirements.

Service Sheets

You will need to produce an order of service which contains at least the outline of the service and the parts which the congregation say including the hymns. Please make sure you check this with the minister before getting it printed.

Obeying and Worshipping

The traditional language service includes the phrase where a bride promises “to obey” her husband. The other side of this is that in giving the ring the husband promises, amongst other things, that he will “worship” his wife.

The promise to obey reflects the teaching in the Bible that in a marriage a man and woman are equal before God but have different roles. Marriage works best when we recognise these differences and work together so that

the marriage becomes stronger as a result. The Biblical teaching, which is reflected in the service, is that the relationship of a husband and wife reflects the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ to His people. The husband is therefore being called on to love his wife as Christ loves His people. This is true love, because the Lord Jesus Christ gave His life for His people and He said those words found on so many war memorials "greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Amazingly, Jesus also gave His life for His enemies.

A husband is called on to love his wife in this way, even being willing to die if necessary to protect her. If a man is willing to make that sacrifice it ought not to be difficult to make other smaller sacrifices to make a marriage work. A man who is willing to love like this will also want to put his wife first, to think of her needs rather than being concerned purely with his own. His promise to worship his wife may seem strange to modern ears, but it means to give proper honour and worth. A man values his wife as someone made by God, loved by God and entrusted by God to him in marriage. It is in this knowledge that a wife is asked to obey her husband, not fearing that such trust will be abused but recognising that such love, freely given and freely received, is liberating and powerful.

Music

Once all the details have been checked and a date for the wedding agreed the minister will inform the person responsible for music. We will also put you in contact with someone to talk about music and hymns. Some examples of music and hymns are given in the appendix. We do require that the music and hymns chosen be honouring to God and consistent with the teaching of the Bible. If there is any doubt the decision rests with the minister.

This also applies to any other music or songs requested to be used during the service. Whatever music is requested there are issues surrounding copyright and these are complicated further if a wedding is recorded on video.