# http://fortinfamilyonline.com/Weddings/WeddingCartoon.jpgYOUR WEDDING or SERVICE OF BLESSING

# at EAST DEAN, FRISTON OR JEVINGTON

We hope the following will be useful as you think about planning your service, and give you some ideas. You should discuss these with the Rector, David Baker, or whichever Minister is taking the service, before finalising and producing your Order of Service.

**(1) A suggested order of service**

***(a) Printing***

It is your responsibility to arrange the printing of an Order of Service with a firm of printers. You should e-mail a draft of that printed order to the minister taking the service at the latest two weeks before the wedding service, and before you give the go-ahead for the final printing. This helps avoid any slips or errors.

***(b) Contents***

Typically, the running order for a wedding service will look something like what is listed below. However, considerable variation is possible should you wish that to be the case – do just ask. A Service of Blessing will include “the dedication” instead of “the marriage” and no signing of registers.

* Welcome – Revd David Baker
* Opening prayer
* Hymn *(some suggested hymns follow below in section* **5***)*
* The marriage *(which includes an Introduction, Declarations, Prayer, the Vows, the Giving and Receiving of Rings, the Proclamation and the Blessing of the Marriage – but it is not necessary to list all these items individually)*
* Hymn
* Bible Reading 1 *(some suggested readings follow in section* **6*.***  *It is helpful to print out the readings in full.)*
* Optional Hymn
* Bible Reading 2 *(which may be followed by some other suitable reading such as a poem which is compatible with Christian belief and marriage – please discuss your suggestions with the minister. It is usual for friends or family members to do these readings, although the minister can if you prefer.)*
* Talk – Revd David Baker
* Optional Hymn
* Prayers *(which may be led either by a family member or friend or by the minister.)*
* Hymn
* The Signing of the Registers
* Photography slot for photographer and then members of the congregation
* Final Blessing
* Departure of the Bride and Groom

Music coming in and out and during the signing of the registers: this can be played by the organist, or a CD can be operated by the churchwarden on duty.

You should have at least one Bible reading, preferably two.

***(c)* CHECKLIST OF ‘TO DO’ ACTION POINTS for you in relation to the Order of Service etc:**

❑ Please e-mail (or post) the Rector or other Minister taking the service a draft Order of Service from the printers at least two weeks (and preferably much earlier) before the day of your wedding, so that all the details can be checked through.

❑ Please phone the organist to let them know your choice of hymns, and any organ music required at the start or end of the service or during the registers, at least two weeks before your wedding. They will be happy to make suggestions to you if you would like that. You can obtain the name and number of the organist from our church administrator Becca Parke.

❑ Payment for the wedding should be made directly to the appropriate PCC, or church treasurer, two weeks before the day itself.

❑ If you require a CD to be played, please phone to let the churchwarden at least two weeks before your wedding. Again, Becca can tell you who your warden on the day will be, and supply you with their phone number.

❑ All the completed printed Orders of Service for your wedding day must be brought to your wedding rehearsal.

**(2) Other details of which it is useful to be aware**

❑ There is a toilet in East Dean Church but not yet in Friston or Jevington churches. There are also toilets at the Tiger Inn and Hikers Rest Cafe on East Dean village green, or at the Eight Bells pub in Jevington.

❑ Mobile phones are best switched off!

❑ To avoid distraction, we ask that photography is left to the professional photographer during the service itself until you walk down the aisle at the end, when it is fine for people to take pictures.

❑ Confetti should be bio-degradable (eg rose petals, but not plastic) and thrown outside the gate to the church.

You may find it helpful to circulate some or all of the details above to guests in advance, either via the ushers, or with your wedding invitations, or in the Order of Service itself.

**(3) The Wedding Rehearsal**

❑ Please bring all your completed printed Orders of Service to the wedding rehearsal; they can then be left at church.

❑ It’s greatly helpful to ensure if at all possible that you have in attendance (in addition to yourselves!) where appropriate / applicable the best man, chief bridesmaid, and father of the bride. Others, such as ushers, bridesmaids, parents are also very welcome.

❑ Please bring any CD you have told the churchwarden you wish to have played at the wedding.

❑ When the Registers are signed during your wedding, it is also required that one witness for the bride and one witness for the groom signs the registers. This is often (if not always) a parent. Please be ready to let the warden know the full names of those who will be acting as witnesses in this way, so we can keep a proper legal record.

**(4) Photography and filming**

A sheet is attached at the end of this handout. Please read this carefully, noting the details of what works and what doesn’t work, and please print out and give a copy of that page to your photographer / cinematographer as and when you make a booking with them, so they are clear on the sorts of things that go well in our particular church buildings. Thanks!

**(5) Some suggested hymns from which to choose**

The hymns printed out below on the next few pages all provide a rousing sing at your wedding together with words which relate meaningfully to the occasion. Do please have a look through them.

Favourites from school-days, such as *“All things bright and beautiful,” “Jerusalem,” “Lord of the dance,” “Swing low, sweet chariot,” “I vow to thee my country,”* and *“Give me oil in my lamp”* (or similar!) – while fondly remembered – are, to be candid, best avoided and left in the past at school assemblies rather than a marriage service between two grown-ups! We love it when, instead, couples give some real thought to hymns which reflect the joy and seriousness of a marriage in church. Happily, there are plenty of wonderful, moving and singable hymns which are really appropriate for a wedding, and we list seventeen of them below.

If the tune of *Jerusalem* is a favourite, then the hymn below (p) “Sing to the Lord a glad new song” is sung to the same tune Jerusalem, but has much better words, as is (q) “O World of God” which is also sung to that tune. Also there is another hymn (f) “We pledge to one another” among the selection below which is sung to another popular tune, the tune of *“I vow to thee my country.”*

We trust the selection which follows should provide plenty from which to choose for most couples:

***(a) O worship the King***

O worship the King all glorious above;

O gratefully sing his power and his love;

our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,

pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,

whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;

his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,

and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,

almighty, thy power hath founded of old;

hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,

and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?

it breathes in the air, it shines in the light;

it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,

and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,

in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end!

our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

O measureless might, ineffable love,

while angels delight to hymn thee above,

thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,

with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

William Kethe (fl.1559-1594), Robert Grant (1779-1838)

***(b) Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven***

Tune: Praise my soul

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,

To his feet thy tribute bring;

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

Who like me his praise should sing?

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour

To our fathers in distress;

Praise him still the same for ever,

Slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise him! Praise him!

Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;

Well our feeble frame he knows;

In his hands he gently bears us,

Rescues us from all our foes.

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise him! Praise him!

Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;

Ye behold him face to face;

Sun and moon, bow down before him,

Dwellers all in time and space:

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: H.F. Lyte (1793-1847). Copyright has expired. Permission to reproduce this text is not required.

***(c) Praise To The Lord, The Almighty***

Tune: Lobe den Herren

Praise to the Lord, the almighty,

the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him,

for he is thy health and salvation:

Come ye who hear,

Brothers and sisters, draw near,

Praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,

who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under his wings,

yea, so gently sustaineth:

Hast thou not seen

All that is needful hath been

Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,

who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!

Surely his goodness and mercy

shall daily attend thee:

Ponder anew

All the Almighty can do,

He who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord!

O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath

come now with praises before him!

Let the amen

Sound from his people again:

Gladly for aye we adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-80)

tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) and others

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***(d) O Praise Ye The Lord!***

Tune: Laudate Dominum

O praise ye the Lord!

Praise Him in the height;

Rejoice in his word,

ye angels of light;

Ye heavens adore him

by whom ye were made,

And worship before him,

in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!

Praise him upon earth,

In tuneful accord,

ye sons of new birth;

Praise him who hath brought you

his grace from above,

Praise him who hath taught you

to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord,

all things that give sound;

Each jubilant chord

re-echo around;

Loud organs, his glory

forth tell in deep tone,

And, sweet harp,

the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord!

Thanksgiving and song

To him be outpoured

all ages along:

For love in creation,

for heaven restored,

For grace of salvation,

O praise ye the Lord!

Words: H.W. Baker (1821-77) Copyright has expired.

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***(e) Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace***

Tune: Channel of Peace (St Francis)

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love;

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;

And where there’s doubt, true faith in you:

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope;

Where there is darkness, only light;

And where there’s sadness, ever joy:

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving of ourselves that we receive,

And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

Words to the above: Sebastian Temple

Dedicated to Mrs Frances Tracy

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***(f) We Pledge To One Another***

Tune: Thaxted – better known as “I vow to thee my country”

We pledge to one another,

before the Lord above,

entire and whole and perfect,

this union of our love —

a love that will be patient,

a love that will be wise,

that will not twist with envy,

nor lose itself in lies;

a love that will not falter,

a love to hold us fast,

and bind us to each other

as long as life shall last.

We pray that God will guide us

through all the years to be,

our lives be shaped by courage,

hope and serenity.

Through joy and celebration,

through loneliness and pain,

may loyalty, compassion

and tenderness remain,

that those who share the blessing

of love that cannot cease

may walk the paths of gentleness

into the place of peace.

Jill Jenkins (born 1937)

© Jill Jenkins, c/o Palmers Green United Reformed Church,

Fox Lane, London N13 4AL.

For queries, email: jilljx@supanet.com

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***(g) Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord***

Tune: Be still

Be still for the presence of the Lord,

The Holy One is here;

Come bow before Him now

With reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found,

We stand on holy ground;

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

The Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around;

He burns with holy fire,

With splendour He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight,

Our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord

Is moving in this place;

He comes to cleanse and heal,

To minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him,

In faith receive from Him;

Be still, for the power of the Lord

Is moving in this place.

Words: David J. Evans

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or call 01323 437712 for further information.

***(h) Amazing Grace***

Tune: Amazing grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,

I have already come;

'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,

His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,

And mortal life shall cease:

I shall possess, within the veil,

A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,

The sun forbear to shine;

But God, who called me here below,

Will be forever mine.

When we've been there a thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we'd first begun.

Words: vv.1-6 John Newton (1725-1807) v.7 Anon

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***(i) Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us***

Tune: Mannheim

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

o'er the world's tempestuous sea;

guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us

for we have no help but thee;

yet possessing every blessing,

if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;

all our weakness thou dost know;

thou didst tread this earth before us,

thou didst feel its keenest woe;

lone and dreary, faint and weary,

through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,

fill our hearts with heavenly joy,

love with every passion blending,

pleasure that can never cloy:

thus provided, pardoned, guided,

nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

***(j) Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

Tune: 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.

*Refrain:*

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed thy hand hath provided,*

*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-morrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain*

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm Music: William M. Runyan

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***(k) Love Divine***

Tune: Blaenwern

Love Divine, all loves excelling,

Joy of heaven, to earth come down,

Fix in us thy humble dwelling,

All thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,

Pure unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation,

Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,

Let us all thy grace receive;

Suddenly return, and never,

Never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,

Serve thee as thy hosts above;

Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,

Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:

Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation

Perfectly restored in thee;

Changed from glory into glory

Till in heaven we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before thee,

Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) Copyright has expired.

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***(l) Lord Of All Hopefulness***

Tune: Slane

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

Whose trust, ever childlike,

no cares could destroy,

Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,

Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,

at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,

Whose strong hands were skilled

at the plane and the lathe,

Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,

Your strength in our hearts, Lord,

at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,

Your hands swift to welcome,

your arms to embrace,

Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,

Your love in our hearts, Lord,

at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,

Whose voice is contentment,

whose presence is balm,

Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,

Your peace in our hearts, Lord,

at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-53)

from Enlarged Songs of Praise 1931.

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***(m) The King Of Love My Shepherd Is***

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The King of love my Shepherd is,

Whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am his

And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow

My ransomed soul he leadeth,

And where the verdant pastures grow

With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,

But yet in love he sought me,

And on his shoulder gently laid,

And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill

With thee, dear Lord, beside me;

Thy rod and staff my comfort still,

Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;

Thy unction, grace bestoweth;

And O what transport of delight

From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days

Thy goodness faileth never;

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise

Within thy house for ever.

***(n) Tell out, my soul***

Tune: Woodlands

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.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

his mercy sure, from age to age the same;

his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

to children's children and for evermore!

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***(o) As Man And Woman We Were Made***

*Love....*

As man and woman we were made

that love be found and life begun:

the likeness of the living God,

unique, yet called to live as one.

Through joy or sadness, calm or strife,

come, praise the love that gives us life.

*Joy....*

Now Jesus lived and gave his love

to make our life and loving new

so celebrate with him today

and drink the joy he offers you

that makes the simple moment shine

and changes water into wine.

*Hope....*

And Jesus died to live again

so praise the love that,

come what may, can bring

the dawn and clear the skies,

and waits to wipe all tears away

and let us hope for what shall be

believing where we cannot see.

*Peace....*

Then spread the table, clear the hall

and celebrate till day is done;

let peace go deep between us all

and joy be shared by everyone:

laugh and make merry with your friends

and praise the love that never ends!

(nb the headings “love”, “joy” etc are not sung).

Tune: Sussex Carol

Words: Brian Wren (born 1936)

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***(p) Sing to the Lord a glad new song***

Tune: **Jerusalem**

Sing to the Lord a glad new song

Children of grace your praises bring

Worship and praise to God belong

With hearts and voices let us sing

Sing of his power, sing of his might

That He is just, we all shall see

Sing of his love, eternal light

Who gave us life and made us free.

Christ's praises let all people sing

Messiah died to set us free

Who rose again, our living king

To him all praise and glory be

Praise him who stands when princes fail

Praise him whose word will last secure

Before whose power oppressors quail

Whose love endures for evermore

Praise Him angelic host on high

Praise him all creatures under heaven.

With cymbals, harps, with joyful cry

Let praises fit for God be given

Let those be warned who mock His name

His mercy bears a mighty sword

God's justice shall bring tyrants shame

Let all his people praise the Lord.

©Malcolm Cowen 2008

***(q) O World of God***

Tune: **Jerusalem**

O world of God, so vast and strange,

Profound and wonderful and fair,

Beyond the utmost reach of thought,

But not beyond a Father’s care!

We are not strangers on this earth

Whirling amid the suns of space;

We are God’s children, this our home,

With those of every clime and race.

O world of man where life is lived,

So strangely mingling joy and pain,

So full of evil and of good,

So needful that our God shall reign!

It is this world that God has loved,

And goodness was its Maker’s plan,

The promise of God’s triumph is

His coming in a Son of Man.

O world of time’s far-stretching years!

There was a day when time stood still,

A central moment when there rose

A cross upon a cruel hill;

In pain and death love’s power was seen,

The mystery of time revealed,

The wisdom of the ways of God,

The grace through which man’s hurt is healed.

**(6) Suggested Bible Readings**

It is always helpful if your readings are printed in the Service Order **in full** as they are below, so that people can follow them easily and understand what is being said.

***(a) John 2:1-11 – Jesus at a wedding***

 1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” 4 “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.” 11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

***(b) Ephesians 5:21-33 – Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ***

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

***(c) 1 John 4:7-19 - God’s Love and Ours***

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

***(d) Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 12v1-7, v13-14 – A cord of three strands is not quickly broken***

4v9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: 10 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. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.... 12v1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”— 2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; 3 when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; 4 when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint; 5 when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets. 6 Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, 7 and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.... 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all humankind. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

***(e) Song of Solomon 7:10-12 and 8:6-7 – The passion of love***

7v10 I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me. 11 Come, my beloved, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. 12 Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom — there I will give you my love.... 8v6 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. 7 Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one’s house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

***(f) Matthew 19:4-6 – Jesus’ teaching about marriage***

4 “Haven’t you read,” Jesus said, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

***(g) John 15:9-17 – Love one another***

 9 Jesus said: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.”



East Dean, Friston and Jevington Churches

**Photography and filming at church weddings**

**A wedding is a wonderful event!**

First and foremost, it is an act of worship in the conscious presence of God.

Secondly, it is the sealing of a covenant between two human beings.

Happily, it is **not** intended to be a flawless production in which a couple are required to be choreographed or airbrushed to perfection! ☺ Photographers and videographers are required to show respect for the ceremony, the guests, the minister and to behave in a discrete, reverent, seemly and unobtrusive way. Most do, but unfortunately a small number do not, and have really been quite disruptive, so we have had to set down clear ground rules.

**Note to couples getting married:**

* Please read these details carefully. Be sure to pass them on to anyone who may be providing photography or filming well before the wedding.
* You may well want to show this sheet to a photographer / videographer before finally booking them, as some will try and offer you more in terms of quantity and scope of shots than is actually reasonable or practical in the intimate and close-knit setting of our ancient medieval buildings. It is not logistically possible (or particularly seemly!) to have every word, vow, step, stumble, smile, tear, cough, sneeze, laugh, angle or action individually photographed!
* A maximum of **one** official photographer is permitted, and one videographer.
* Family and friends will be invited to take photographs at a **designated photo slot** in the service – the minister taking the service will explain exactly when – but members of the congregation are asked not to snap pictures all the way through!
* If you have any queries please speak to the minister taking your service.

**Note to photographers and videographers:**

* This is a wedding, not a photo-shoot. That said, we do look forward to welcoming you!
* A maximum of one official photographer is permitted, and one videographer.
* **At all times you agree to act under the authority and direction of the minister taking the wedding service.** Failure to do so will result in the service being stopped and anyone deemed in breach of these rules will be ejected. We have in the past interrupted a wedding service to reprimand a photographer who was overly-intrusive, and will not hesitate to do so again.
* Photography **outside the church before and after** the service is, of course, absolutely fine.
* In the service itself, a few photos of the **entrance** of the bride and the **exit** of the couple are permitted.
* Otherwise, in order to avoid distraction and interruption, and to enable everyone to fully focus on what is happening, photographs take place during a designated **“photo slot”** after the signing of the registers in the church before the final blessing, during which the photographer has freedom and flexibility to arrange the couple in whatever poses they wish! This can include “recreating” moments such as the exchange of vows etc etc.
* Thus for the bulk of the service the photographer / videographer should be seated in the congregation.
* **Attendance at a wedding by the photographer and videographer is deemed to indicate their acceptance of and compliance with these rules.**

*Effective from June 2017. Updated 2019*