

## **Liverpool Parish Church**

### **An introduction to your wedding pack**

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage. We shall work with you in the coming months so that your wedding at Liverpool Parish Church is personal for you, but also a memorable time for you, your family and friends.

Whether you have a paper copy of this wedding pack or are accessing it on-line, you should find the following documents:

1. An Introduction to your wedding pack
2. The 'running order' for your wedding
3. Suggested Bible readings for your wedding
4. A guide to music at your wedding
5. The current list of church fees (please note that if you are getting married in another year then these may change slightly for your wedding)
6. A guide to worshipping at Liverpool Parish Church
7. A checklist for your wedding (to be returned to the Parish Office two months before your wedding).

#### **What is different about a Christian celebration of marriage**

These days you can get married practically anywhere, but getting married in Church is different from a hotel or registry office for two reasons.

Firstly, it is in the context of worshipping God through Jesus Christ, and your wedding is not just in the presence of God, but the act of commitment reflects the love God has for us all.

Secondly, your friends and family are not just an audience, as they would be at a civil wedding, but they are also taking part in the act of worship. A distinctive feature of Christian worship is that the whole congregation acts together, and this in itself says something about God. We show this not just by standing together, but by speaking or singing together with one voice. We give responses together, and we join in the prayers together (in particular, when we say the Lord's Prayer). Most weddings also include hymns which we sing together. If you don't think that your family and friends are going to be enthusiastic at joining in singing the hymns, then an alternative would be to have a spoken act of worship at this point – often we might join in saying a psalm or a different passage from the Bible – and our experience is that the congregation finds this a very good way to be involved in the service.

As we help you plan your wedding, we are thinking about how your family and friends can feel part of the service which celebrates the commitment you are making to each other.

#### **What happens next**

If you have not already met with the Revd Michelle Montrose to discuss the details of your wedding, then please make an appointment through the Parish Office. The clergy are always available to answer any questions or help you with your planning.

Every year in February and March we host some preparation sessions when all the couples getting married at Liverpool Parish Church meet each other and we do some work together to prepare for marriage in general, and also some of the details of your own wedding service. We shall write to you in the January of the year in which you get married with details about the preparation sessions.