

# Wedding Blessing and Renewal of Vows

**N and N**



Example showing a blessing and renewal of vows service booklet

Please take this order of service away with you after the service, as a memento of today's happy occasion, and as a reminder to continue to support and pray for **n** and **n**

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## Celebrating **N** years of Marriage

Service held at

## Christ Church Portsdown

**Date**

thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## The Dismissal

*The couple may pray together*

Heavenly Father,  
we offer you our souls and bodies,  
our thoughts and words and deeds,  
our love for one another.  
Unite our wills in your will,  
that we may grow together  
in love and peace  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*The minister blesses the couple and the congregation, saying*

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

### ***Please note:***

*To avoid legal issues with licences,  
and to enable everyone to participate  
in this special service without distraction -  
NO photographs or videos  
to be taken during the service  
except those officially allowed.*

*Please switch off all mobile phones.*

*No collection is taken during this service.  
But, if you wish to leave a thank you offering to God today,  
then please use the plate by the door*

**THANK YOU**

that they may grow up to know and love you in your Son.]

And bring us all at the last  
to that great marriage banquet of your Son  
in our home in heaven,  
where, with all your saints and angels,  
in the glory of your presence,  
we will for ever praise you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

*(or)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;**

## **Thanksgiving for Marriage**

### **Note**

This outline service is designed for a number of different occasions. It may be used:

- ¶ on occasions when a number of couples reaffirm their vows together;
- ¶ to celebrate an anniversary;
- ¶ after a time of separation or difficulty in marriage;
- ¶ either at home or in church;
- ¶ combined with another service, such as the Holy Communion.

For each occasion, suitable prayers and other words should be chosen - with the couple if that is appropriate - from the resources which follow, or elsewhere. One way of amplifying the Outline Order for the first occasion above, which might be a major church occasion where some formality is right, is provided in the service which follows on page 185. On other occasions much may be done informally or extempore.

## **Thanksgiving for Marriage: An Outline Order**

### **Introduction**

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Prayer of Preparation

- 3 Preface
- 4 Readings
- 5 Psalms, Songs or Hymns

Sermon

## Renewal of Vows

- 7 The couple(s) are invited to renew their marriage vows in a suitable form.
- 8 A ring or rings may be blessed.
- 9 Prayers are offered, including prayers of thanksgiving and blessing.

## Thanksgiving for Marriage: A Sample Service

*This sample service is derived from the Outline Order on page 185.*

### *¶ Introduction*

#### The Welcome

*The minister welcomes the people, introduces the service informally and invites those present to pray.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God.  
**You bring us together in love.**

Blessed be Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**One God, to be praised for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we lift up our hearts to you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Through him you have made a covenant of grace with your people  
by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit.

We praise you for the gift of marriage  
in which the love of husband and wife is brought together  
and reflects your plan of love for the world.

We thank you today for *N* and *N*,  
and for leading them to each other  
in friendship and love, commitment and trust,  
and for bringing them here for the blessing of their marriage.

Living God,  
by the presence of your Holy Spirit,  
may they know the risen Christ to be with them now,  
as they celebrate this covenant together.  
May their lives be a witness to your saving love  
in this troubled world.

As you pour out your love,  
may they grow together in your sight,  
and each be to the other  
a companion in joy, a comfort in sorrow and a strength in need.

As you blessed the earthly home at Nazareth  
with the presence of your Son,  
may their home be a place of security and peace.  
[Bless this couple with the gift and care of children,

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.

*Or, if not, each may touch the wedding ring(s) with the words*

I gave 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.

## Prayers

*The couple kneel together. The minister or others may pray, using these or similar prayers*

God the Father,  
God the Son,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve and keep you;  
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace  
that you may please him both in body and soul,  
and, living together in faith and love,  
may receive the blessings of eternal life.  
**Amen.**

Blessed are you, heavenly Father.  
**You give joy to husband and wife.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
**You have brought new life to mankind.**

**and also with you.**

*This sentence may be used*

God is love, and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them. 1 John 4.16

## Prayer of Preparation

God our Father,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law;  
grant to your servants *N* and *N*  
that, loving one another,  
they may continue in your love until their lives' end;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*A hymn or song may be sung.*

## Preface

We have come together in the presence of God  
to give thanks [*with N and N*] for [... *years of*] married life,  
[to ask his forgiveness for all that has been amiss,] \*  
to rejoice together and to ask for God's blessing.  
As our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest  
at the wedding in Cana of Galilee,  
so through his Spirit he is with us now.  
Marriage is a gift of God in creation  
and a means of his grace;  
it is given that a husband and wife  
may comfort and help each other,  
living faithfully together  
in times of need as well as in plenty,  
in sadness and in joy, in sickness and in health;

it is given that with delight and tenderness  
they may know each other in love.  
[It is given as the foundation of family life  
in which children may be born and nurtured  
in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.]  
In marriage a couple belong together  
and live life in the community;  
it is a way of life created and hallowed by God,  
that all should honour.  
Therefore we pray with them  
that, strengthened and guided by God,  
they may continue to fulfil his purpose for their life together.

*Silence is kept for reflection on the years that have passed and on shared experiences, good and bad.*

## Readings and Sermon

*One or more passages from the Bible is read.  
Psalms or hymns may follow the readings. Other songs and readings may be used.  
A sermon may be preached.*

\* There may be occasions when this should be omitted; it may be important to include it when a couple are celebrating their reconciliation.

## *Renewal of Vows*

*The minister says to the couple(s)*

I invite you now to recall the vows that you made at your wedding.

*Husband and wife face each other and hold hands.*

*The husband says*

I, N, took you, N, to be my wife;

*The wife says*

I, N, took you, N, to be my husband;

*The couple say together*

to have and to hold from that 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,  
and this was our solemn vow.

Today, in the presence of our family and friends,  
we affirm our continuing commitment to this vow.

*The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the family and friends of N and N,  
continue to support and uphold them  
in their marriage now and in the years to come?  
**We will.**

## The Rings

*If a new ring (or new rings) is to be blessed, this prayer may be used*

Heavenly Father, source of everlasting love,  
revealed to us in Jesus Christ and poured into our hearts through your Holy Spirit;  
that love which many waters cannot quench, neither the floods drown;  
that love which is patient and kind, enduring all things without end;  
by your blessing, let these rings be to N and N  
symbols to remind them of the covenant made on their wedding day,  
through your grace in the love of your Son  
and in the power of your Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*If a ring (or rings) is to be given these words are used*

I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.