

# YOUR WEDDING

in the Diocese of Rupert's Land  
at the Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood  
168 Wilton St.  
Winnipeg, MB

Your wedding should be one of the most memorable days of your life and the people of St. George's want to help it to be so. The following notes will help you make your arrangements.

## First Steps:

1. Read this handbook carefully.
2. Spend some time thinking and praying about celebrating your marriage in the community of St. George's.
3. If you have not already done so, call the Parish Office (453-5642) to ensure that the church is available for the date and time you are proposing for your wedding, and make an appointment to meet the priest.
4. Fill out the forms at the back of this handbook.
5. Locate your important certificates: baptism, confirmation, and (if applicable) all official divorce documents.
6. Bring all of the above forms and certificates to your appointment with the priest.

## **I THE BASIC PRESUPPOSITION OF A CHURCH WEDDING**

- (a) Church weddings are intended for baptized, participating, church-going Christians. All Anglican rules governing the process of getting married, assume this (we've printed some of them for you on the following pages). If you don't attend church, or if you can't honestly say you will be a church-going family in the years ahead, we strongly urge you to plan your wedding for a non-church setting. Manitoba marriage commissioners can provide a memorable and personal ceremony.
- (b) A "church" is a community of people, not a building. The people of St. George's own and maintain a building in which to worship, and they employ clergy, musicians, and other staff to help them in their common Christian life. Consequently, if you are a participating member, the church building is your building, the clergy are your clergy, and there is no charge or fee for either the building or clergy (this does not mean that there are no fees! ...you will find a fee schedule at the back of this handbook for specifically wedding-related costs).
- (c) Finally, the people of the Anglican church care about you, and we care about this important step you are taking. By official policy, we intend to get involved in your relationship: we'll insist that you undergo personal preparation, and, if you are divorced, we will review the story of the broken marriage[s] before agreeing to proceed with the wedding.

- (d) If you live far from Winnipeg, all these same presuppositions apply. We assume that you are involved in an Anglican parish where you live, and that the only reason you are looking at St. George's for your wedding is access to family and friends.
- (e) For specifics, see the detailed instructions under Section III, THE CHURCH'S REGULATIONS GOVERNING WEDDINGS, below.

## **II THE CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE**

- (a) Marriage is a gift of God and a means of his grace, in which two people become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, two people give themselves to each other in love, they shall grow together and be united in that love, as Christ is united with his Church.
- (b) The union of two people in heart, body, and mind is intended for their mutual comfort and help, that they may know each other with delight and tenderness in acts of love.
- (c) In marriage, two people give themselves to each other, to care for each other in good times and in bad. They are linked to each other's families, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should reverence, and none should lightly undertake.

## **III THE CHURCH'S REGULATIONS GOVERNING WEDDINGS**

The basic regulations regarding Marriage in the Anglican Church of Canada are contained in the General Synod's Canon XXI. The following are highlights and excerpts from those regulations, together with their specific application at St. George's.

- (a) The place of the ceremony  
The body of the Church is the appropriate place for the celebration of the Blessing of a Marriage.

The Anglican Church permits clergy to preside at weddings in private homes, outdoors, or in any place other than a church under very special and limited circumstances.

As well, an Anglican wedding is a service of public worship. Any church attendee is welcome to attend the ceremony (though not the reception).

- (b) How soon may the wedding take place?  
"It shall be the duty of those who intend to marry to give notice to the priest at least sixty (60) days before the day proposed for the wedding. The priest may waive this requirement for sufficient cause, in which case the Bishop of the Diocese shall be notified in writing with a statement of the cause for the decision."

Behind this requirement is the necessity of adequate time for premarital preparation, which, as you will see, is also part of Anglican church policy.

(c) Preparation for married life

“It shall be the duty of the priest to secure appropriate means of education so that all who seek marriage in the Church may attain a Christian understanding of its purpose and may be encouraged to give effect, with God’s help, to the vows which they are preparing to make.”

In the spirit of this regulation, the St. George's priest who presides at your wedding will meet with you to discuss not only the details of the ceremony, but also the relationship which you are building with one another and with God. At the priest’s discretion, you may have as many as three or four appointments to discuss these things in the time leading up to the wedding.

It is also desirable that you attend one of the marriage preparation courses provided in Winnipeg between September and June. These deal with such practical matters as the legal, medical, social, psychological and financial aspects of marriage as well as the art of healthy communication. Dates and times of upcoming courses are available from the Parish Office.

(d) The bride and groom must be baptized

“No priest shall solemnize the marriage of two persons, neither of whom has been baptized. If two persons, one of whom has not been baptized, desire to be married, the matter shall be referred to the Bishop of the Diocese. The Bishop’s order and direction shall be followed.”

When you were baptized, a certificate should have been issued. Please bring it to your next meeting with the clergy. If you can’t find yours, please contact the church where the baptism took place in order to obtain a duplicate.

(e) Marriage of Divorced Persons

“No priest of the Anglican Church is permitted to officiate at the wedding of a couple, one or both of whom are divorced and whose previous spouse is still living unless the couple is ready and willing to go through the Matrimonial Commission and until, on its recommendation, permission is given by the Bishop.”

If either of you are divorced, at your first meeting with clergy, you will be given a detailed form to complete, which asks you for the particulars of the former marriage, and the strengths you see in the one you wish to begin. The clergy will spend some time with you in your answers to the questions on the form, and when it is complete, it must be sent to the Diocesan Office to be reviewed by a “Matrimonial Commission.” As well you must send in the official divorce and custody papers.

It is not wise to print invitations to your wedding until you have received a letter from the Bishop saying that permission to marry has been granted.

These requirements may seem strange in this modern world where so many couples divorce, but the Anglican church is concerned about two things: (1) we wish to help you to be sure you are not ever going to have to go through that kind of loss and sorrow again; and (2) we must do whatever we can to uphold the principle of marriage for life.

(f) If you live far from Winnipeg

All the above requirements apply, but you should be implementing some of them with the priest of the parish in which you are currently active, or in which you expect to be active following your wedding. This person is to take you through the steps required for marriage preparation (and for remarriage after divorce) as if the wedding were to take place in that parish. He or she is then to contact St. George's to indicate that all is satisfactory, and, in the case of divorce, forward all the documentation for submission to the Matrimonial Commission. This will take some time, and there will likely be much telephone contact and letter-writing between clergy, to please allow sufficient time.

(g) Alterations to the ceremony

In the Anglican Church we use an order of service which is set, and in use throughout the country. Please do not expect to - or request permission to - write your own vows or your own ceremony.

(h) Hymns and songs must be approved by the priest.

"Hymns or anthems sung at the service shall be those only which may be found in Holy Scripture, in the books of Common Prayer or Common Praise, or in texts approved by ecclesiastical authority." Those married in the Church are choosing a Christian service.

#### **IV PROVINCE OF MANITOBA REGULATIONS GOVERNING WEDDINGS**

(a) Licence or Banns

Every wedding in the Province of Manitoba must be authorized either through the use of "Banns" or through a Marriage Licence.

Announcing the forthcoming wedding in church is called "Publishing the Banns." It is the legal equivalent of a Marriage Licence. However, this process is not acceptable to the Province unless the bride and groom are personally known to the congregation where the "Banns" are read.

Marriage Licences are obtained at many wedding salons, jewelry stores, and at the Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency, 254 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, R3C 0B6, (telephone: 945-3727).

"Banns" and Licences are time-limited legal entities. The wedding must take place within three months after they are issued.

**When you purchase a licence, please deliver it, and all the documents that come with it, to St. George's Parish Office at least one week prior to your wedding.**

**FOR FUTURE LEGAL PURPOSES, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU GET A LICENCE.**

(b) Documentary proof

Before buying your licence, or having your “banns” read, you must show the issuer some official identification which contains your date of birth (most commonly your driver's licence, birth certificate, or passport). If one of you is divorced, you must also show your Certificate of Divorce, or “Decree Absolute.” Widows and widowers must produce the certificate of death of their former spouse, or a newspaper clipping.

(c) Other eligibility requirements

If you are under 18, the law requires that your parents give formal documented consent to the marriage. As well, there are regulations forbidding marriage to close family members, and regulations protecting people with mental disabilities. You can get more information about this from the Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency (945-3727).

(d) Certificate of Marriage

The Province of Manitoba issues official documentary evidence of births, marriages, and deaths, and most insurance companies, banks, and other institutions need to see these from time to time. Although St. George's will issue you a certificate of marriage at the time of your wedding, it is not universally accepted by these institutions, and you will have to request (and pay for) an “official” one from the Province. Forms for doing so usually come with your marriage licence.

## V THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- (a) There are two alternatives: a service in Elizabethan English from the *Book of Common Prayer*, and a service in contemporary English from the *Book of Alternative Services* of the Anglican Church of Canada.

You may also choose to have your exchange of vows in the context of the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, in either Elizabethan or contemporary forms.

Subsequent editions of this handbook will contain the exact text of both wedding services, but for now we ask you to obtain copies of the *Book of Common Prayer* and the *Book of Alternative Services*, and review the services as printed there.

(b) The Eucharist

If both bride and groom normally receive Communion at regular Sunday worship, it is most desirable that your wedding include a Eucharist.

If you choose to include this wonderful sign of Christian Unity in your wedding, St. George's will ensure there are enough clergy and assistants at the altar to allow all of your guests who so desire to come forward to receive the sacrament.

(c) Readings

In addition to the prayers and promises which are printed in the order of service, it is customary to have one or more readings from the Bible. You may select these yourselves from the list printed on pages 549-550 of the *Book of Alternative Services*, and the priest who presides at your wedding may have additional suggestions. Readings from sources other than the Bible are not accepted.

(d) Relatives, family friends, or members of the Wedding Party should be invited to read the Scripture lessons and lead some of the prayers.

(e) The Entry Procession

In North America today there is considerable variety in the way people enter the church to begin their wedding.

Some of the options available are described in section VII, "Some Common Ceremonial Practices," below. Whichever option you choose, please think of the entry as a single act: coming into church. You should therefore plan for everyone to come in smoothly in one continuous procession.

(f) Signing the Register

Normally the marriage register will be signed publicly in the body of the Church.

(g) Music

- i. While the Priest of St. George's has final responsibility for all music used in church, wedding music is normally chosen by the bride and groom in consultation with St. George's Organist and Choirmaster. It is your responsibility to meet with the Organist at the earliest possible opportunity, to ensure that he/she is available at the date and time of your wedding, and to go over with him/her the music that is available.
- ii. A good rule of thumb for wedding music is to ask yourself if the piece you want would be usable at St. George's Sunday morning worship.
- iii. Any other musician whom you wish to have sing or play at your wedding is expected to act under the direction of the Organist. As well, they must be experienced in Church Music, and preferably have an already established association with St. George's music ministry.
- iv. St. George's Choir may be available for your wedding, however during summer months the availability declines or reduces. They do provide a very special dimension to the celebration.
- v. Suitable points in the service for congregational hymns are:
  1. at the opening
  2. between scripture readings
  3. before or after a sermon
  3. after the declaration of marriage
  4. during or after the Communion
  5. at the close of the service

- vi. Anthems, solos, and/or instrumental music are also appropriate at these points, as well as during the signing of the register.
- vii. St. George's choir also has certain psalms and prayers which may be sung by them at various points in the service. The Organist can demonstrate these to you during your meeting with him/her.

(h) Wedding Leaflet or Programme

An order of service leaflet is usually helpful to your guests. Not only can you use it to list the names of the people in your wedding party, but by careful planning your leaflet can guide your guests through the details of the order of service.

You are welcome to produce your own booklet, but its contents must be reviewed by the priest who presides at your wedding before you print the final copies.

If you desire, the Parish Office will produce a leaflet for you at no charge. You can look at examples from previous weddings during one of your visits with clergy.

The leaflet should be available at the rehearsal.

## VI GENERAL INFORMATION

(a) Parish Facilities

- i. The Chapel of the Prince of Peace is available for small weddings as it will accommodate about 40 people.
- ii. If you wish to use the Parish Hall or Guild Room for a reception, you need to book it with the Parish Office. You will have to make arrangements for your own liquor licence. If parish linens and utensils are used, you are responsible for washing and putting things back in place. No nails, etc. may be driven into woodwork or walls under any circumstances.
- iii. There is a usage fee for any space you might use for your reception. Details are available from the Parish Office.

(b) Decorations

As soon as the date and time of the wedding have been confirmed with the clergy and the parish office, please make an appointment with a member of the Altar Guild (see parish Directory) to discuss your thoughts with respect to decorations, keeping in mind the following:

i. Flowers

The Altar Guild, with the Priest, is the final authority on the location of flowers and all decorations. If you make sure the flowers are at the Church three to four hours prior to the Service, a member of the Guild will arrange them appropriately. Flowers will need to be placed so as not to be in the way of any ceremonial movement. As well, flowers are not to be placed on the altar itself

ii. Special Candles

The Parish has candelabra if you would like to use them. There is no charge; however, you are asked to pay if you wish to use new candles.

### iii. Other Decoration

Please consult the Altar Guild for your other plans, such as Pew Decorations, and plan only such decorations as may be held in place by masking tape (please no scotch tape, tacks or nails).

#### (c) Photographs

Photos may be taken of the Processional, and the Recessional. "Available light" photographs may be taken by the official photographer provided he or she remains out of the line of sight of the congregation.

Wedding guests should not take photographs during the service. They are there to participate.

The general principle is that we are there to pray together and to witness you making your vows. Photo flash units going off, and photographers moving around distract from this central focus, as does concentrating on the operating of your camera.

If pictures of various aspects of the ceremony are desired, these may be posed after the Recessional while the guests are making their way outside.

#### (d) Video recordings

The same principles apply to video. Guests are requested not to use videocams during the ceremony, and if there is a professional videographer, he or she must remain stationary up behind the pulpit and use available light.

#### (e) Confetti

Confetti is difficult to clean up and stains the carpets. We ask your friends to refrain from throwing it until the couple reaches the sidewalk outside. People might like to consider biodegradable types of confetti - such as birdseed - or soap bubbles.

#### (f) Ring Bearer and Flower girl

If you decide to involve small friends and relatives in this way, please make sure they are old enough to do the job or they will need an adult assistant.

#### (g) Rehearsal

All members of the wedding party should be present, including parents. Friends with no particular tasks on wedding day are also welcome. The rehearsal is thorough, and usually takes much longer than the actual wedding, but many people find it helps them understand and participate in the wedding.

#### (h) Payment of the Fees

There is a list of fees at the back of this booklet. A member of the wedding party is required to give the fee envelope to the priest before the rehearsal.

- (i) Clergy at the Reception  
If you wish the priest to attend your reception, please send a specific invitation. Clergy households do not assume they are invited to every wedding reception, and often plan other things for the day of your wedding.
- (j) Grace before the Meal at the Reception  
Saying grace at meals is a practice which ought to be found in every Christian home. It is not a prerogative of the priest. You are encouraged to invite someone from among your family or friends to say the grace at your reception.
- (j) Newspaper Announcements  
For the guidance of people preparing announcements, please say: - **“The Rev. John Smith (not “Rev. Smith”) presided.”** (not: “performed the ceremony”)  
Regarding the Choir’s participation, say: - “The Choir of St. George’s was in attendance under the direction of the Organist and Choir Director.”

## VII SOME COMMON CEREMONIAL PRACTICES

- a. The Ushers  
There should be one for every 50 guests, though all need not take part in the procession if there are not sufficient bridesmaids to go with them.
- b. The Groom and Best Man  
Normally arrive 20 minutes prior to the wedding time and proceed to the vestry where they will meet the priest.
- c. The Bride and Her Attendants  
Normally arrive 10 minutes ahead of time and proceed to the Prince of Peace Chapel from where the Verger will lead them into the back of the Church in proper order and will signal the Vestry and Choir loft when the procession is ready to move.
- d. Parents take their seats  
Any parent who are not in the entry procession, are seated by the ushers immediately before the entry procession, after which they do not seat any more guests. Ushers who are part of the groom’s party then take their places at the front of the church on the right hand side.
- e. The following is the traditional order of the entry procession:
  - i. The Priest, Groom, Best Man (and other members of the groom’s party) take their places at the Chancel steps to await the bride and her procession; the Best Man generally has the wedding rings, unless there is a specifically-designated ring-bearer.
  - ii. A single piece of music begins: it may be a piece for organ, or a choir anthem, or a hymn. This is the processional music and will continue until everyone is properly placed at the chancel steps.

- iii. Bridesmaids, the Maid of Honour (a flower girl and/or a ring bearer), the Bride and one or both parents come up the centre aisle in a single procession. The Verger governs the spacing, telling each person when to start.
  - iv. Once the bridal procession reaches the front of the church, the Bridesmaids arrange themselves on the left with the Maid of Honour standing next to the Bride. The groom joins the bride for the last few steps of her procession, while the bride's parent[s] take their seats.
  - v. On arriving at the Chancel steps, the Bride stands to the left of the Groom and hands her bouquet to her Maid of Honour.
- f. Other options for the entry procession:
- i. The bride may be accompanied by both parents.
  - ii. Bride and groom may enter together.
  - iii. The entire wedding party may enter together, including the groom with his parents, and the bride with her parents.

**PHONE NUMBERS:**

CLERGY	<b>The Rev. Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell</b>	453-5655
PARISH OFFICE	<b>Marion Groce</b>	453-5642
MUSIC	<b>Rick Morgan</b>	453-5642
ALTAR GUILD	<b>Elizabeth Punter</b>	453-5642

**FEES**

- Wedding in the Church .....\$0.0 (\$700 for non-members)
- The Incumbent Priest of St. George’s.....\$0.0 (\$225 for non-members)
- Other officiating clergy (permission required from Incumbent Priest)  
.....(fee to be negotiated with that individual)

**Musical options:**

- 1. Organist and Choir..... \$357.50
- 2. Organist only ..... 157.50
- 4. Soloist ..... to be arranged with Soloist

Verger..... \$100.00

**Chancel preparation:**

- 1. Altar Guild..... \$50.00
- 2. New candles per set of 6 large, or 14 medium ..... \$70.00

**Wedding Reception:**

- 1. Parish Hall .....\$500 (30% discount for members)  
plus applicable Liability Insurance - required
- 2. Other rooms in the building.....(contact Parish Office)
- 2. Use of the Kitchen.....(contact Parish Office)

One cheque may be made out, payable to St. George’s Church. Please put it in an envelope, together with a copy of this list (on which you should indicate what items your cheque is intended to cover). Payment must be given to the presiding clergy at the time of the wedding rehearsal.

*Rev. Aug 21, 2009 mg*

## MARRIAGE INFORMATION

*This form is to be completed and returned to the parish office at the time of your first interview with the clergy.*

WEDDING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

REHEARSAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

LICENCE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

### GROOM

### BRIDE

\_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FULL GIVEN NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE/WIDOWED/DIVORCED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ RELIGION (DENOMINATION) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BAPTISM \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF CONFIRMATION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Province/Country City/Province/Country

\_\_\_\_\_ CURRENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FATHER'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued next page...*

**MAID OF HONOUR**

**BEST MAN**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

BRIDE & GROOM'S RESIDENCE AFTER THE WEDDING:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FORMAL DECLARATION** *to be signed by both parties in the presence of the officiating clergy.*

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
hereby declare that we intend to enter into marriage, which we acknowledge to be a union in faithful love, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for better or worse, until separated by death.

We undertake to prepare ourselves for the exchange of vows at our wedding, recognizing that by this mutual exchange our union in marriage will be established.

We intend to strive thereafter to fulfill the purposes of marriage: the mutual fellowship, support, and comfort of one another, the procreation (if it may be) and nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfillment in a community of faithful love.

(Signed:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Clergy witness:) \_\_\_\_\_

(Date:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_