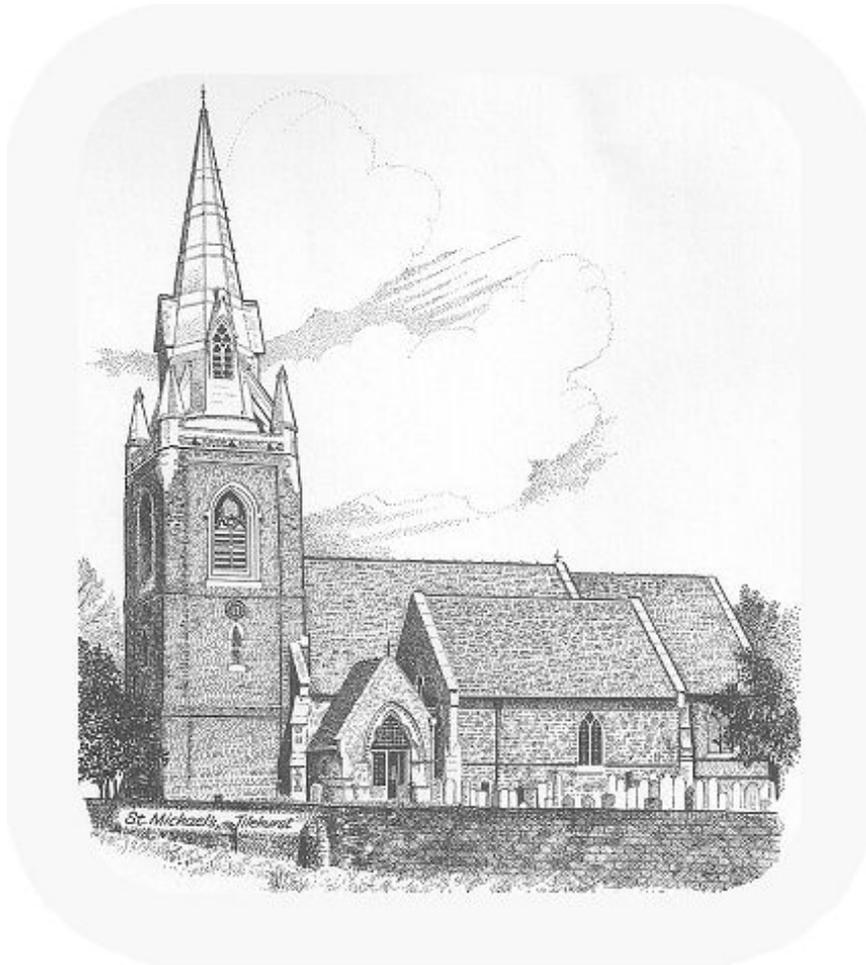




# Parish Church of St Michael Tilehurst

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## Getting Married at St Michael's

### A Guide for Engaged Couples

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## **GETTING MARRIED AT ST MICHAEL'S TILEHURST**

This booklet is designed to help you if you hope to be married at St Michael's. We hope many of your questions will be answered in these pages. During the months before your wedding day, you will be expected to take part in a series of 'preparation meetings', when there will be opportunities to raise anything not covered in the booklet.

### **The Marriage Measure**

We understand that there are many couples who would like to marry in a church that has special significance for them, through family or other close connections. Since 2008, the Church of England has made it easier for couples to do just that.

In addition to qualifying by reason that either you or your fiancé/e live in our parish OR one of you is on the Electoral Roll of our Church, since 2008, in order to marry in the parish church of a parish other than the one where you or your fiancé/e are living, without the need for a Special Licence, you or your fiancé/e will need to demonstrate just one of the following 'qualifying connections'.

That:

- One of you was baptised in our parish, (If you were baptised and confirmed at the same time, the provisions on confirmation rather than baptism apply).
- One of you was prepared for confirmation in our parish.
- One of you has at any time lived in our parish for at least 6 months.
- One of you has at any time regularly attended public worship in our parish for at least 6 months

Or:

- One of your or your fiancé/es parents has lived in our parish for at least 6 months at any time after you were born (or, in the case of your Fiancé/es parents, at any time after your Fiancé/e was born)
- One of your or your fiancé/es parents has regularly attended public worship in our parish for at least 6 months at any time after you (or your fiancé/e) were born.
- A parent or grandparent of you or your fiancé/e was married in our parish.

*In all cases—ie worship, baptism, confirmation or marriage—this applies only to Church of England services.*

**Even if you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, we want to help you explore whether it may still be possible for you to marry in your chosen church. Talk to the Rector well in advance to discuss the options open to you.**

## **Certain neighbouring Parishes**

If your address is outside St Michael's parish, but in one of these parishes

St Catherine of Siena, Tilehurst  
The former parish of St Birinus, Calcot  
St Matthew, Southcote

then you are entitled to be married at St Michael's if you wish. But remember, your own vicar would be pleased to marry you in your own parish church.

## **Maximum notice for weddings**

At St Michael's, weddings can be booked up to two years ahead of your proposed wedding date.

## **Please be honest**

The great majority of couples are already living together when they ask about a wedding in church. We don't "sit in judgment" about that, but we do want you to tell us what your situation actually is. This is vital for legal reasons, too, and deliberately giving false information would jeopardise your wedding. If you have been divorced, it may still be possible for you to be married at St Michael's but you should contact the Rector before making any arrangements.

## **Church Electoral Roll, Armed Services**

There are certain exceptions to the normal residence requirement. If you are on the church's Electoral Roll, or one of you is in the Armed Services, the Rector will explain further.

## **Calling the Banns**

Unless you are being married by Special/Common Licence, the Banns must be called on three Sundays during the final three months before your wedding day. Calling the Banns is an ancient procedure - a brief public announcement in church that the wedding is to take place, with an opportunity for anyone who knows of a legal objection to declare it. If you live at separate addresses, then the one who does not live in St Michael's, must contact the local vicar where he/she lives and arrange for the Banns to be called there as well.

We normally call the Banns in our 9.30am Parish Eucharist service. Though not legally required to attend, you are most welcome to do so. In fact, you're welcome to come to any of our services, before and after your marriage.

If you have had Banns called at an 'Away' parish church, you will be issued with a certificate and a fee will be payable. It is your responsibility to give this certificate to the priest who is to officiate at your wedding. You cannot be married until the officiating priest has seen it.

## **Marriage by Licence**

If either of you is not a British citizen, it will be necessary to apply for a 'Common Licence'.

Whether you're being married by Licence, or 'after Banns', you will be asked to provide evidence of identity and address. You may be required to produce your Birth Certificate and/or passport or photo driving licence together with a utility bill or bank statement showing your address.

## **Timetable**

When you make your booking, you should complete a Banns Application form and you will also be asked to pay a non-returnable deposit of £50. This will count towards your wedding fees when you come to pay them.

A few months before your wedding, we hold two preparation meetings which will give you the opportunity to meet eight or nine other couples whose services will be happening around the same time as yours. One of the evenings focuses on practical details of your service music, bells and so on. There's also an opportunity for couples to share ideas about just what they are getting themselves into! If you can't both attend all the meetings, it's better that just one of you should be present than neither.

Four months before your wedding is the time to contact the 'other parish' about calling the Banns if one of you lives outside our Parish. Arrange with the clergy there to pay the fee and collect the certificate as appropriate. ***NB Don't forget to bring it to St Michael's, the week before your wedding at the latest!***

A week before your wedding, the priest who is to officiate at your marriage will meet you in church for a 'walk through' the service. Unless any special arrangement has been made, the priest will expect to see you at 10am on the Saturday prior to your wedding day.

Please make a note of that date now, as you will not be reminded about it later. At this rehearsal it is helpful if all the people who have a specific part to play in the wedding service attend. Bring any 'away' Banns certificate with you, if you have not already given it to the clergy.

## **Which form of service?**

We use the modern version of the Marriage Service, from the Church's 2001 Common Worship book. Couples wishing to use the Book of Common Prayer (1662) may do so and should ask the Rector about it.

## **Are you both confirmed?**

'Confirmation' is the service in which people become fully-participating members of the Church of England. If you are both confirmed, there is no better way of starting married life together than by receiving Holy Communion as part of your wedding service. It increases the overall length by about 10 to 15 minutes. If you want to consider this, please tell the Rector in good time.

## **Would you like to think about being confirmed?**

You have decided to be married in church. Would you like to join the church as a full member? If so, the Rector will be pleased to tell you about adult Confirmation preparation groups.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

### Flowers

Except during Lent and Advent (see below), flowers are provided in church whenever weddings take place. If there is more than one wedding taking place on a Saturday, we cannot promise to work to particular colour schemes; but if you wish to make requests or suggestions, please ring Mrs Diane Morris (0118 942 7578) who will put you in touch with the person arranging flowers on your week.

### Note

If you wish, you and your family can take *full* responsibility for providing flowers for church on the week-end of your wedding. To find out more about this option and what it involves, please speak to Diane Morris.

During Lent (six weeks before Easter) and Advent (four weeks before Christmas) there are no floral decorations in church on Sundays. You may be married in Lent or Advent if you wish. If you wish to have flowers during this season you may supply your own providing you remove them immediately after your service – in any event. the bride and bridesmaids are still able to carry flowers.

No weddings take place during Holy Week, (the last seven days before Easter).

## **Music**

Enquiries about music at weddings should be addressed to the Parish Office, tel: 0118 942 7331  
email: [office@stmichaeltilehurst.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaeltilehurst.org.uk)

We will try to supply the music you have asked for. Sometimes it will depend on the availability of an organist who can play what you have requested. It is therefore important that the Music Booking Form be returned to the Parish Office at least six weeks before your wedding.

You will be contacted when your Booking Form has been received. If you have chosen a hymn and a choice of tunes, this will be checked with you to confirm what you require.

Please do not have your Order of Service printed until this has been confirmed with the Rector.

If you are hoping to use some music that is not 'traditional' then please bear in mind that it may not sound appropriate on the organ. It is not always possible to convert the music in an acceptable way for you. Please make an appointment to hear it played on the organ so you are fully aware of the effect you will get.

We are always happy to try to accommodate your choice but please remember that organists do not always have copies of 'pop' songs, etc so you may be required to provide a copy before your music booking is confirmed. Please be very sure that the music is appropriate for the occasion. The music for the signing of the registers comes between making your vows and the prayers.

CDs with samples of wedding music are available for you to borrow. If you are still unsure of what you want after you have listened to the music, or would like something else that is not on the CD or listed below, then please contact the Parish Office.

## **Orders of Service**

We are happy for you to use our Order of Service. If you prefer to print your own, a draft can be downloaded from the Church of England website.

<http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/pastoral/marriage/marriage.aspx>

The final draft should be the complete service and *must* be approved by the Rector before you go to print.

## SOME SUGGESTIONS OF READINGS

All weddings in the Church of England include one or more readings from the Bible. There are many popular and exciting passages to consider.

Read some of these together and see if what they say seems important to you. Each reading below links to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), but they can be viewed all together on the Church of England website.

- Love, actually! The number 1 most popular reading for weddings is (1 Corinthians Chapter 13)
- God creates women and men to look after the earth (Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 26-28)
- A love poem between two lovers (Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, verses 10-13; Chapter 8, verses 6 & 7)
- Jesus teaches how to live a life that brings true happiness (Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 2-10)
- Jesus teaches about marriage, and welcomes children (Mark, Chapter 10, verses 6-9 and 13-16)
- What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception (John, Chapter 2, verses 1-11)
- Committing to each other (Ephesians, Chapter 5, verses 21-33)
- Seeing the good side ... (Philippians, Chapter 4, verses 5-9)
- Getting the perfect relationship (Colossians, Chapter 3, verses 12-17)
- Being a good lover! (1 John, Chapter 4, verses 7-12)

The Rector will be pleased to discuss the choice of readings for your wedding service.

As well as Bible readings, you can also ask the Rector about including other readings, poems and prayers at your wedding.

Please let the Rector know if you have some special ideas of your own.

### **1 Corinthians 13 (New International Version)**

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; when we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

## **Genesis 1:26-28 (New International Version)**

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, <sup>(a)</sup>and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

## **Song of Solomon 2: 10-13 (New International Version)**

<sup>10</sup>My beloved spoke and said to me,  
“Arise, my darling,  
my beautiful one, come with me.

<sup>11</sup>See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.

<sup>12</sup>Flowers appear on the earth;  
The season of singing has come,  
The cooing of doves  
Is heard in our land.

<sup>13</sup>The fig tree forms its early fruit;  
The blossoming vines spread their fragrance.  
Arise, come, my darling;  
My beautiful one, come with me.”

## **Matthew 5:1-10 (New International Version)**

### **Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

## **The Beatitudes**

He said:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of  
righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## **Mark 10:6-9 (New International Version)**

<sup>6</sup> “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup> ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

## **John 2:1-11 (New International Version)**

### **Jesus Changes Water into Wine**

<sup>1</sup> On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been

invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

<sup>4</sup> "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, <sup>9</sup> 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 <sup>10</sup> 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."

<sup>11</sup> 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.

### **Ephesians 5:21-33 (New International Version)** **Instructions for Christian Households**

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

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

#### **Philippians 4:4-9 (New International Version)**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

#### **Colossians 3:12-17 (New International Version)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if

any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **1 John 4:7-12 (New International Version)**

#### **God's Love and Ours**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

## SOME SUGGESTIONS OF ORGAN MUSIC

The Bridal March for Lohengrin	WAGNER
Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March)	CLARKE
Hornpipe in D from the Water Music	HANDEL
Trumpet Tune	PURCELL
Prelude to a Te Deum	CHARPENTIER
Theme from St Anthony Chorale	BRAHMS
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	HANDEL
Grand March from Aida	VERDI
Theme from Crown Imperial	WALTON
Sonata No 3 (First Movement)	MENDELSSOHN
Trumpet Voluntary from Suite in D	STANLEY
Air from Suite No 3 in D	J S BACH
Adagio in G minor	ALBINONI
Air from the Water Music	HANDEL
Ave Maria	SCHUBERT
Allegretto from Sonata No 4	MENDELSSOHN
Sheep may safely graze	J S BACH
Jesu, joy of man's desiring	J S BACH
Chorale-Improvisation	KARG-ELERT
'Now thank we all'	

Carillon in B flat	VIERNE
Carillon–Sortie	MULET
Crown Imperial March	WALTON
Toccata in G	DUBOIS
Toccata from Symphony No 5	WIDOR
Wedding March, Midsummer Night's Dream	MENDELSSOHN
Tuba Tune	LANG

## SUGGESTED HYMNS

Amazing grace (27)  
And did those feet (Jerusalem) (31)  
Bind us together, Lord (60)  
Come down O love divine (90)  
Dear Lord and Father of mankind (106)  
Father hear the prayer we offer (120)  
For the beauty of the earth (137)  
Give me joy in my heart (153)  
Gracious spirit, Holy Ghost (184)  
Guide me O thou great Redeemer (188)  
Lead us heavenly father lead us (293)  
Let there be love shared among us (298)  
Lord for the years (310)  
Lord of all hopefulness (313)  
Lord the light of your love is shining (317)  
Love divine (321)  
Make me a channel of your peace (328)  
May the grace of Christ our Saviour (333)  
Morning has broken (337)  
Now thank we all our God (354)  
O Jesus I have promised (372)  
O perfect love (387)  
Praise my soul the King of Heaven (422)  
Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him (425)  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (427)  
The King of love my shepherd is (484)  
The Lord's my shepherd (490)

## **Bells**

Our team of ringers endeavour to meet all requests for ringing after weddings. The bells are normally rung for about 20 minutes as you come out of the Church after the ceremony.

## **Photography**

Your photographer is invited to take pictures of you as you enter Church, at the Signing of the Registers and as you come down the aisle at the end of the service. No photographs other than those are permitted during the service.

## **Video**

You may, if you wish have your service video-recorded. It is essential for the video operator to liaise with the Officiant in good time before the service. See 'Scale of Charges' for details of video fees'

Please note: if a video recording is made, the fee is charged regardless of whether the video operator is professional or amateur and you should arrange for the separate licence that is required.

Details can be found here:

<http://www.prsformusic.com/users/recordedmedia/cdsandvinyl/Pages/limited-manufactureLicence.aspx>.

Please let the Parish Office have a copy of the licence before the rehearsal and ensure that the operator discusses recording positions with the Officiant before the service.

## **Confetti**

We realise that brides and grooms cannot be held responsible for what their friends and family decide to do! But we would be glad if you would discourage the use of confetti, especially metallic. Rice or rose petals are a good alternative and should be thrown away from the entrance, please.

## **Fees**

Payment should be by cheque, made payable to 'St Michael's Tilehurst PCC' and must be received at the latest one month before your wedding service.

## **And finally.....**

At St Michael's we are always delighted to see engaged couples at any of our services to which you are warmly invited. The principal service each Sunday is at 9.30am and there is an opportunity to meet afterwards over coffee. You will always find a welcome at St Michael's and we hope to see something of you in the future too. But do make contact with your local church wherever you are living. If you have children, take them to your local church if you decide to have them baptised.

The Church of England's teaching on marriage is that according to our Lord's teaching, marriage is in its nature a union permanent and lifelong, for better or worse, till death do us part, of one man with one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the procreation and nurture of children, for the hallowing and right direction of the natural instincts and affections, and for the natural society, help and comfort which one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Engaged couples are not likely to welcome too many warning sounds, but if you have any real doubts it is far better to delay or cancel the wedding till you are sure. 'Weddings' *can* be cancelled. 'Marriages' can't—well, not so easily, any way!

It is good that you are thinking positively about your relationship. Marriages get into deep waters sometimes. When that happens, don't be afraid to seek help and advice, in good time.

May God bless you both!

## **Regular Services at St Michael's each week are:**

### **Sundays**

8.00am	Eucharist
9.30am	Eucharist (includes Sunday School Term time only)
6.30pm	Evensong

### **First Sunday of each month**

11.30am	Baptism Service
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### **First Saturday of each month**

9.30am	Communion remembering the departed
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### **Wednesdays**

10.00am	Eucharist (followed by coffee)
12.30	Lunch (booking in advanced)

### **Thursdays**

10.00 11.00	ABC (Adults, Babies and Carers) Term time only
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### **Monday – Thursday**

9.00am	Morning Prayer
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