

St Andrew's Church Kirk Ella



**Marriage
of
Janet Louise Howson
with
Stephen John Bryson**

Saturday 9th May 2015

Ceremony 1 pm

For roughly a thousand years the people of Kirk Ella have met together in this building to celebrate the beginning of a new marriage or the birth of a child or the loss of someone dearly loved. We're celebrating today and joining in with a grand tradition that stretches back through ten centuries.

At a traditional English church wedding we don't do everything exactly the same as the way that they do in Hollywood. We can't usually rely on the weather and so we're always inside rather than in a beautiful rose garden with the ocean gently stirring beside the lawn. We sometimes welcome the bridesmaids first; or if we're being more traditional the bride comes first followed by her bridesmaids.

As the service begins you will find that we are either marrying the couple immediately; and then talking about what we have done afterwards; or we talk first and then come to the formal part of the ceremony after a few minutes.

When we come to the formal and legal part of the service it's worth knowing what's going to happen. This may be your first ever church wedding; what they do in films is not exactly what we do around here.

What's the overall shape of the ceremony? What's going to happen?

A church wedding has three parts:

- 1. Consent to marry:** The minister will ask Stephen and Janet if they each give their consent to marry the other. You will hear them say "I will" rather than "I do."
- 2. Vows:** We will then witness the vows that Stephen and Janet make to each other. This form of words has been used for many centuries.
- 3. The exchange of rings:** We will see them each give and receive a ring as a permanent public reminder of their vows.

Enjoy the ceremony. Join with us in praying for the couple. Pray that the hands and hearts that come together today in marriage will gladly stay together for the rest of their lives. Thank you.

Order of Service

Hornpipe

Handel

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who like thee his praise should sing?
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!
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!
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 with us the God of grace!

Marriage

Bible Reading – 1 Corinthians 13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If 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 have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

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

⁸Love 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. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When 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 childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (NIV)

The Address

Prayers

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

All laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.
and so let thy glory, Almighty, impart,
through Christ in the story, thy Christ to the heart.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

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Blessing and Signing of the Registers

Toccata

Widor