

**Welcome to the Marriage
of**

Rachael ...
to
Stephen ...

**at
St. John's
Anglican Church
Cooks Hill**

... May 2010

2.30 pm.

Celebrant

Rev'd Stewart Perry

Bride's Attendants

Groom's Attendants

Readers

Ushers

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

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

And also with you.

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

1 John 4.16

We have come together in the presence of God
To witness the marriage of *STEPHEN* and *RACHAEL*,

And to ask God's blessing on them as we share their joy.
Marriage is a gift of God our creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for her.
As he has called *STEPHEN* and *RACHAEL* to marriage,
So he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.

Who brings this woman to be married?
Father of the bride: I do.

Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership
uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.
In the joy of their union, husband and wife
enrich and respond to each other,
growing in tenderness and understanding.

Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.
No one should enter it lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and joyfully,
with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful

So let us pray for *STEPHEN* and *RACHAEL*
as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together.

**Crown our lives with your goodness:
Sustain us all our days with your love.**

Bless *STEPHEN* and *RACHAEL* with wisdom and pleasure.
Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.
And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people
to praise your holy name.

**Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as is in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of Genesis, Chapter 2 verses ~~2~~18-

Read by:

A Reading from Paul' First Letter to the Church in Corinth, Chapter 12 verse 31, to Chapter 13 verse 13.

Read by:

THE WEDDING

The Exchange of Vows and Promises

STEPHEN, will you give yourself to *RACHAEL*,
to be her husband,
to live with her, according to God's word?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?

STEPHEN replies - **I will.**

RACHAEL, will you give yourself to *STEPHEN*,
to be his wife,
to live with him, according to God's word?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?

RACHAEL replies ...**I will.**

Families and friends,
you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold *STEPHEN* and *RACHAEL* in their marriage?

We will.

I, *STEPHEN*, in the presence of God,
take you, *RACHAEL*, to be my wife,
to have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer , for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

I, *RACHAEL*, in the presence of God,
take you, *STEPHEN*, to be my husband,
to have and to hold
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,

for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

The Blessing and Exchange of Wedding Rings

God of steadfast love,
by your blessing,
let these rings be for *STEPHEN* and *RACHAEL*
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

RACHAEL, I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
May we continue to grow in love.

STEPHEN, I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.

STEPHEN, I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
May we continue to grow in love.

RACHAEL, I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.

Before God and in the presence of us all,
STEPHEN and *RACHAEL* have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
Let no one separate.

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought *STEPHEN's* and *RACHAEL's*
paths together and led them to this day;
go with them now as they travel through good times,
through trouble and through change.
Bless their home, their partings and their meetings.
Make them worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams.
Amen.

God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Signing of the Certificates

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, look graciously on the world which you have made and for which your Son gave his life. Bless all whom you make one flesh in marriage. May their life together be a sign of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May *STEPHEN* and *RACHAEL* so live together that the strength of their love may reflect your love and enrich our common life.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May they be gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to recognise and acknowledge their fault and to ask each other's forgiveness.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May the lonely, the bereaved, and all who suffer want or anxiety, be defended by you, O Lord.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May those whose lives are today brought together be given wisdom, patience and courage to serve one another in Christ's name.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

May friends and family gathered here, and those separated by distance, be strengthened and blessed this day. May those who have died join us and all the saints in prayer, love and blessing.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

To Conclude the Prayers

Accept our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love, this day, tomorrow and forever more. Amen.

The Dismissal

Please stand:

Please join with me in welcoming for the first time,
Mr and Mrs

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