

## Hymn

Words:

*W Williams*

*P Williams*

Tune:

*Cwm Rhondda*

*(John Hughes)*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs and praises, songs and praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

## the Dismissal

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.

**All Amen.**

*Recessional: Toccata in F — Charles-Marie Widor*

*The ministers and people hang around for cake and wine.*

The Wedding of

**BARBARA ELIZABETH WRIGHT**

and

**ALEXANDER JAMES BALL**

Feast of SS. Gwynllyw and Gwladys

Monday, 29 March 2004

2pm

St. Mary's Church, East Brent

## the Gathering

*The bride enters to: Trumpet Voluntary — Jeremiah Clarke*

## The Welcome

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

**All and also with you.**

## Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

Words:

*J Edmeston*

Tune:

*Mannheim*

*(F Filitz adapt.)*

## Prayers of Penitence

As we prepare to hear God's word  
and to celebrate the marriage of Alex and Barbara,  
we remember our human frailty  
and our need for God's help in all that we do.

Lord, in our weakness you are our strength.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, when we stumble, you raise us up.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, when we fail, you give us new life.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

May God in his goodness forgive us our sins,  
grant us strength in our weakness,  
and bring us to eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
we have come together  
to witness the marriage of Alex and Barbara,  
to pray for God's blessing on them,  
to share their joy  
and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation  
through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.  
It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,  
they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind,  
as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together  
in the delight and tenderness of sexual union  
and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.  
It is given as the foundation of family life  
in which children are born and nurtured  
and in which each member of the family,  
in good times and in bad,  
may find strength, companionship and comfort,  
and grow to maturity in love.

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us peace.**

## Giving of Communion

The gifts of God  
for the people of God.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Communion is distributed.*

*All are welcome at the altar. If you would like to receive a  
blessing instead of communion, please bring this booklet with  
you to the altar rail.*

## Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,  
may Alex and Barbara, who have been bound together  
in these holy mysteries,  
become one in body and soul.  
May they live in faithfulness and peace  
and obtain those eternal joys  
prepared for all who love you;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All Faithful God,  
in baptism you have adopted us as your children,  
made us members of the body of Christ  
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:  
we thank you that in this Eucharist  
you renew your promises within us,  
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,  
and send us out as disciples of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

*All Amen.*

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God. Alex and Barbara are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

## The Declarations

*The minister says to the congregation*

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

*The minister says to the couple*

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*The minister says to the bridegroom*

Alex, will you take Barbara to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*He answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the bride*

Barbara, will you take Alex to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*She answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the families and friends of Alex and Barbara, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?  
**All We will.**

## The Collect

God our Father,  
from the beginning  
you have blessed creation with abundant life.  
Pour out your blessings upon Alex and Barbara,  
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,  
in holiness and commitment to each other.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Readings

*Julia Malpas* The Apocryphal reading is taken from the *Book of Tobit, chapter 8, verses 4-8*

When the parents had gone out and shut the door of the room,  
Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah, ‘Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy and safety.’  
So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying:

‘Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,  
and blessed is your name in all generations for ever.  
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you for ever.  
You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.  
From the two of them the human race has sprung.  
You said, “It is not good that the man should be alone;  
let us make a helper for him like himself.”  
I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,  
not because of lust, but with sincerity.  
Grant that she and I may find mercy  
and that we may grow old together.’  
And they both said, ‘Amen, amen.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

All glory, honour, thanks and praise  
be given to you, creator of heaven and earth.  
When you made us in your image,  
creating us male and female,  
you gave us the gift of marriage.  
When sin marred that image  
you healed our brokenness,  
giving your Son to die for us.  
Therefore we raise our voices,  
with all who have served you in every age,  
to proclaim the glory of your name:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**All Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

## Hymn

Words:  
Dorothy F Gurney

Tune:  
Highwood  
(R R Terry)

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,  
lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,  
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending,  
whom thou for evermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be thou their full assistance  
of tender charity and steadfast faith,  
of patient hope, and quiet brave endurance,  
with childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,  
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife;  
and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow  
that dawns upon eternal love and life.

## Preparation of the Table

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

The following prayer is used

In your goodness, Lord,  
accept the gift of our love,  
and with a father's affection watch over this couple  
you have joined in the covenant of marriage;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

How welcome was the call,  
and sweet the festal lay,  
when Jesus deigned in Cana's hall  
to bless the marriage-day!

And happy was the bride,  
and glad the bridegroom's heart,  
for he who tarried at their side  
bade grief and ill depart.

His gracious power divine  
the water vessels knew;  
and plenteous was the mystic wine  
the wondering servants drew.

O Lord of life and love,  
come thou again today,  
and bring a blessing from above  
that ne'er shall pass away.

Before thine altar-throne  
this mercy we implore:  
as thou dost knit them, Lord, in one,  
so bless them evermore.

Words:  
H W Baker

Tune:  
Sandys  
(W Sandys)

## Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.  
God made them male and female  
and the two will become one.  
A// **Alleluia.**

Mark 10:8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
A// **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples  
had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave  
out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'

And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you  
and to me? My hour has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish  
rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.  
Jesus said to them, 'fill the jars with water.' And they filled  
them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out,  
and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,  
and did not know where it came from (though the servants  
who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the  
bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine  
first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have  
become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and  
revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A// **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Rob Harnish

**Sermon**

May they discern in your word  
order and purpose for their lives;  
and may the power of your Holy Spirit  
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.  
Lord of life and love:  
A// **hear our prayer.**

May they be tender with each other's dreams,  
patient with their failures,  
persistent with their hopes,  
and come at last to the end of their lives  
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.  
Lord of life and love:  
A// **hear our prayer.**

Father of all,  
in Jesus Christ you open to us  
the treasures of your kingdom;  
guide us by your Holy Spirit  
that we may receive your redeeming grace  
and reflect the perfect unity of your love,  
for you live and reign,  
one God, now and for ever.  
A// Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

To crown all things there must be love.  
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
A// **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

*The minister says to the couple*

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.  
**All Amen.**

## Registration of the Marriage

*During the signing of the registers, the congregation are asked to sit quietly and listen to the music provided.*

*Kate Shuttleworth Sheep May Safely Graze — J S Bach*

*Francis Ball*

## Prayers

Faithful God,  
holy and eternal,  
source of life and spring of love,  
we thank and praise you for bringing Alex and Barbara  
to this day,  
and we pray for them.  
Lord of life and love:  
**All hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,  
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;  
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other  
in faithfulness and trust.  
Lord of life and love:  
**All hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home  
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;  
may their love overflow to neighbours in need  
and embrace those in distress.  
Lord of life and love:  
**All hear our prayer**

## the marriage

### Hymn

Jesus, Lord, we pray,  
be our guest today;  
gospel story has recorded  
how your glory was afforded  
to a wedding day;  
be our guest we pray.

*Words:  
Basil E Bridge*

*Tune:  
Cana  
(Alex Ball)*

Lord of love and life,  
blessing man and wife  
as they stand, their need confessing,  
may your hand take theirs in blessing;  
you will share their life;  
bless this man and wife.

Lord of hope and faith,  
faithful unto death,  
let the rings serve as a token  
of a love sincere, unbroken,  
love more strong than death;  
Lord of hope and faith.

### The Vows

*The couple stand before the minister*  
*The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words*  
Alex and Barbara, I now invite you to join hands  
and make your vows,  
in the presence of God and his people.

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.*  
*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says*  
I, Alex, take you, Barbara,  
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,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says*

I, Barbara, take you, Alex,  
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,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

## The Giving of Rings

*The minister receives the ring(s), and says this prayer*

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 Alex and Barbara  
symbols to remind them of the covenant made this day  
through your grace in the love of your Son  
and in the power of your Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The bridegroom places the ring on the third finger of the bride's left hand, and, holding it there, says*

Barbara, I give 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.

*They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the third finger of the bridegroom's left hand, and, holding it there, says*

Alex, I give 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.

## The Proclamation

*The minister addresses the people*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
Alex and Barbara have given their consent  
and made their marriage vows to each other.  
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands  
and by the giving and receiving of rings.  
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

*The minister joins their right hands together and says*

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

## The Blessing of the Marriage

*The husband and wife kneel. The minister blesses the couple.*

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,  
creator of the universe,  
maker of man and woman in your likeness,  
source of blessing for married life.

All praise to you, for you have created  
courtship and marriage,  
joy and gladness,  
feasting and laughter,  
pleasure and delight.

May your blessing come in full upon Alex and Barbara.  
May they know your presence  
in their joys and in their sorrows.  
May they reach old age in the company of friends  
and come at last to your eternal kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**