

## Marriage in the Parish of Rushen



Marriage is a very ancient idea. The Bible suggests it goes right back to Adam and Eve, who were 'made for each other'. Jesus' teaching on marriage, as exclusive, unbreakable and forging a new family unit, drew on this original blueprint. And Jesus loved a good wedding: he turned water into wine at a wedding reception his first recorded miracle. Even today, marriage exists in practically every country and culture on earth.

Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God. There is something in a public commitment of this magnitude that has a spiritual element to it and which can transform a relationship to a new and deeper level.

God intended marriage to offer the right place to grow in love and support for each other, fulfil our sexuality and provide a stable and secure environment for bringing up children. Marriage can change us for the better, and as we change, our marriage grows along with us.

In the marriage ceremony, a couple makes a public declaration of lifelong commitment to love each other. A commitment, by its nature, is a challenge. Saying 'I will' to those vows obliges you to forgive and be forgiven. It will be tough at times! So marriage is a risk, but a risk worth taking. There's plenty of evidence to show married couples are more likely to be healthy, wealthy and wise.

At present weddings are not conducted by the resident Priest-in-Charge as there is a vacancy for this position in the parish. However weddings do take place in the parish and are conducted by a priest invited to do so by the Rural Dean, Canon Peter Robinson. In the first instance couples wishing to commit themselves to marriage in one of the churches in the Parish of Rushen, must contact Mr. Gerald Callister (Tel 474924) who will request that an application form is completed. This is passed on to the Rural Dean who will make arrangements for the couple to meet with the Priest who will conduct the marriage ceremony.

There are statutory charges made for marriage in the Church of England. These have to be paid and are called Parochial Fees. Other charges may apply such as payment for the organist and the choir. Details of these will be given to you when you apply.