



## **The Vale of Neath Parish** *Plwyf Cwm Nedd*

**The Church in Wales wedding service  
says this about marriage:**

- ♥ **Marriage is a gift of God in which husband and wife may grow together in the knowledge, love and service of God:**

Getting married in Church is about inviting God to be part of your shared life

- ♥ **United with one another in heart, in mind and in body, they may increase in love and trust**

As we offer to God all aspects of our love for one another, we will find that he builds up that love and causes us to reflect his holiness.

- ♥ **God joins husband and wife in life-long union as the foundation of family life**

Whether you have children or not, you are a family unit, and God blesses your commitment to each other. A family who worships Jesus will not be saved from the troubles of life, but will gain strength from sharing together in his presence and power. God wants us to grow in his love as individuals and as a couple. This means demonstrating love for one another when times are good or bad. Often we feel too weak to live up to this promise as we rely on our own strength alone; God promises to enable us to persevere and to support us.

What questions are on your mind as you prepare for your marriage?  
What difference do you expect it to make to your current relationship?  
Do you know what your partner makes of it all?

## **The Church wedding service uses these marriage vows**

**“N., will you take N. to be your wife/husband?  
Will you love her/him, comfort her, honour and care for her,  
and , forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you  
both shall live?**

**Answer: “I will”**

The answer ‘*I will*’ is not ‘*I might*’ or, ‘*well, it depends...*’. By saying ‘*I will*’, you are declaring that you will make a determined effort in your marriage.

**“I, N., take you N., to be my husband/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,  
As long as we both shall live,  
According to the will and purpose of God.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.”**

- ♥ Do you think that you might have difficulties in living out any of these promises that you make in public?
- ♥ How are you going to ensure that you keep these promises?
- ♥ What might happen to your relationship if you or your partner break one of these promises?
- ♥ Do these vows cover all your promises to each other, or would you want to add something special to you?

*The giving and receiving of rings is a symbol that marriage is about forming a partnership and belonging to each other*

**N., I give you this ring as a sign of my love and  
faithfulness. 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, Rather , Son and Holy Spirit.**

