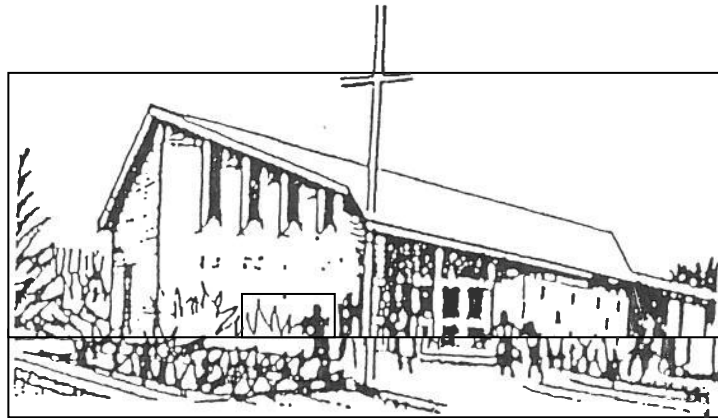


ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
GLEN WAVERLEY



CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE VOWS

ON

SUNDAY, 6TH MAY, 1990,

AT

3.00 P.M.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S TODAY TO CELEBRATE YOUR MARRIAGE VOWS

THIS ORDER OF SERVICE IS BASED UPON THE SERVICE OF MARRIAGE IN AN AUSTRALIAN PRAYER BOOK, SECOND ORDER.

MINISTER: *We have come together in the sight of God to celebrate and reaffirm our marriage vows and commitment.*

*Our Lord Jesus Christ said of marriage that 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no-one put asunder'.*

COUPLES: *We give thanks that we have been joined to each other, and for the unity we enjoy.*

MINISTER: *Marriage is a symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church. So Saint Paul teaches that the husband must love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and that the wife must give due honour to her husband.*

COUPLES: *We give thanks for God's love of us, and for the love we have for each other.*

MINISTER: *Marriage should be honoured by all, and is not to be entered into lightly or carelessly, but with reverent and serious respect for those purposes for which it was instituted by God. Marriage is a gift from God for the well-being of people, and for the proper expression of natural instincts and affections with which has endowed us.*

COUPLES: *We give thanks for the intimacy we share, and the joy we have in one another.*

- MINISTER: It is a life-long union in which a man and a woman are called so to give themselves in body, mind, and spirit, and so to respond, that from their union will grow a deepening knowledge and love of each other., In the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity, they share their companionship, faithfulness, and strength.*
- COUPLES: We give thanks for our union, and for the support and encouragement we give and receive.*
- MINISTER: In marriage a new family is established in accordance with God's purpose, so that children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care, for their well-being and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.*
- COUPLES: We give thanks for our family circle and ask your help to live for your glory.*
- READINGS: GENESIS 2:18-24  
EPHESIANS 5:21-33  
REVELATION 19:1, 5-9*
- THE ADDRESS: JOHN HARROWER.*
- MINISTER: We have come here to seek God's continuing blessing on our life together, that we may fulfill his purpose for us. Inevitably, however, there have been occasions when we have let each other down. Let us now acknowledge this, asking forgiveness from one another, and remembering that God forgives us whenever we ask him. Let us use the description of the characteristics of love in The Apostle Paul's great 'Hymn of Love', 1 Corinthians 13, as the basis for reflecting on our own shortcomings.*

*Whenever I have not been patient and kind.*

*Whenever I have been jealous or boastful.*

*Whenever I have been arrogant or rude.*

*Whenever I have insisted on my own way.*

*For the times I have been angry.*

*Whenever I have kept a record of wrongs.*

*Whenever I have done wrong and not wanted to know the truth.*

*Whenever I have not protected you.*

*Whenever I have not trusted you.*

*Whenever I have not encouraged you.*

*Whenever I have been tempted to give up and not taken the time and trouble that I should have to build up our relationship.*

*Each husband now says to his wife:*

*I am sorry, will you please forgive me?*

*The wife replies:*

*Yes, I forgive you.*

*Each wife now says to her husband:*

*I am sorry, will you please forgive me?*

*The husband replies:*

*Yes. I forgive you.*

*MINISTER:*

*Husbands, will each of you reaffirm your commitment to your wife, to live together according to God's law? Will you promise afresh to give her the honour due to her as your wife, and forsaking all others, love and protect her, as long as you both shall live?*

*HUSBANDS:*

*I will.*

MINISTER: *Wives, will each of you reaffirm your commitment to your husband, to live together according to God's law? Will you promise afresh to give him the honour due to him as your husband, and forsaking all others, love and protect him, as long as you both shall live?*

WIVES: *I will.*

ALL: *God our Father, in your great love you have given us the gift of marriage; so bless these couples who have pledged their lives to each other, that their love may evermore grow to be the true reflection of your love for us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*The couples, taking each others right hand:*

HUSBANDS: *I,...in the presence of God, and of my brothers and sisters in Christ here assembled, reaffirm my solemn vow and promise to have you ....., as my wife and to be to you your husband, to hold to you, 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.*

WIVES: *I,...in the presence of God, and of my brothers and sisters in Christ here assembled, reaffirm my solemn vow and promise to have you ....., as my husband and to be to you your wife, to hold to you, 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.*

*he couples kneel and take each other's right hand. The minister says:*

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

*Before God and in the presence of us all, by the solemn renewal of their vows, these couples have celebrated and reaffirmed their commitment to each other in marriage. May God the Father enrich us with his grace; God the Son make us holy in his love; God the Holy Spirit strengthen us with his joy. The Lord bless us and keep us in eternal life. Amen.*



*Husbands and wives are invited to stand and to greet each other with a kiss.*

*THE LORD'S PRAYER;*

*ALL*                    *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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.*

*MINISTER:*           *Almighty Father, giver of life and love, look in favour on all who are made one in marriage, and especially on these your servants as they renew their commitment to each other. In your love deepen their love; strengthen their wills to keep the promises they have made; that they may live to your glory and to the good of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

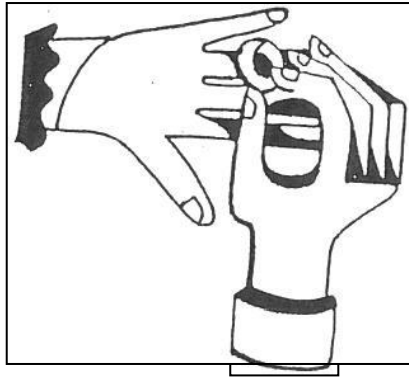
*ALL:*                    *Heavenly Father, we bring to you in our prayers all whom we love in our family circle, knowing that your love for them is so much greater than ours, and that your will for them is all that is for their good. So have them in your keeping O Lord, and give them now and always the fullness of your blessing; for Jesus Christ sake. Amen.*

*All stand and join hands to say the Grace together:*

*ALL:*                    *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.*

*All members of the congregation are invited to afternoon tea together.*

**GOD IS LOVE; LET US  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS  
HE HAS LOVED US.**



God is Love;  
let us love one another  
as he has loved us.