



# MARRIAGE PACK



2021



[www.thelampchurches.com](http://www.thelampchurches.com)



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Hello!

Thank you for your interest in having a marriage blessed in one of the churches in the Lamp benefice and if congratulations are in order – many congratulations!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Adrian Low, and I am a priest in the Church of England. My wife and I came to the benefice in September 2021, having moved from a chaplaincy in Spain. Prior to Spain I worked in a number of parishes in Staffordshire in the UK, and prior to that was an academic at Staffordshire University.

The benefice is four 'Anglican' parish churches that span the countryside north of Milton Keynes, through to Olney. It is possible to be married in any of them

The marriage service is the event where the vows and declarations are said and confirmed. Ultimately it asks for God's blessing on your life together, helping to cement the vows you make and giving a really positive, determined, wonderful and unique start to a lifelong commitment.



You can see more about the life of the benefice on our website.

We will need to meet at least twice and usually three times before the event. I am very happy to meet more often but twice is a minimum. We will be emailing one another as the event draws nearer to ensure we are all of one mind about the content.

One/two meetings will focus on my getting to know you as a couple, so that I can make my comments at the service that are relevant, and we will do some thinking about the commitment of Christian marriage and how that relates to your hopes for the years to come. At those meetings we will also talk about the content of the service. It is very good if these meetings can be in person. Skype, zoom or WhatsApp is possible but getting to know someone, somehow, seems to take longer over the net. The final meeting is a practice at the event location.



Best wishes

*Adrian Low*



Here are some things you need to consider:

1. Please complete the form. This will ensure a definite booking.
2. Fees. These are standard fees across the diocese of Oxford (and most of the parish churches in the UK.)

Publication of banns of marriage	£31
Certificate of banns issued at time of publication	£15
Marriage Service in Church	£464
For marriage certificate (consult registry service)	
Verger	£35
Organ + Organist	£75 (optional)
Bellringers (Haversham, Emberton and Tyringham)	£120 (optional)
Heating (October to April)	£50 (optional)
Copyright permission for video	£88 (optional)
<i>Note that these are subject to change, so please don't blame the vicar if they are not 100% accurate.</i>	

3. There is one order of service attached. This is the traditional Church of England marriage service. You may want to choose readings and music other than hymns. Together we should be able to make changes to suit your wishes. All the services are in modern English, but traditional English can be used instead, if you wish.
4. Unfortunately I am not able, under Church of England Canon Law, to bless marriages of same sex couples. I am willing to bless couples where one or both of them has previously been divorced, subject to discussion with the couple about their commitment to the vows they will be making in the light of the previous marriage(s).
5. You may want to prepare an order of service to go with the event. This is often printed as a booklet. We need to discuss the content of that and you need to send me a draft prior to it being printed. I have provided a simple outline in the pack.
6. Banns are a legal requirement, a means of ensuring that you are both free to marry. You banns have to be read in the parish where you are getting married and the parish(es) where each of you live. When the banns have been read in your home parish you will receive a banns certificate, which you must give to the minister marrying you before the wedding otherwise you cannot be married. Banns are valid for three months.
7. To marry in a UK Anglican church you must have a connection with the parish. Briefly, that means:
  - a. you are a British or Irish citizen or have settled or pre-settled status, and resident of the parish OR
  - b. you are on the Electoral Roll of the church, which means you must have been habitually attending worship for at least 6 months (at least once per month), OR
  - c. you were baptized or confirmed in the church, OR
  - d. the parish was your usual place of residence for at least 6 months in the past (need to demonstrate that with bank statements or letters, eg from a school, OR
  - e. as (d) but your parents lived in the parish OR
  - f. your parents habitually came to worship in the church for at least six months OR
  - g. your parents or grandparents were married in the church

You will see that it is complicated and this is only a summary. You might look at the details on the web address below.

9. You will need to demonstrate, at our first meeting, using ID (such as original passport – not a copy), or birth certificate plus driving license – your names. You will need to demonstrate your address (with utility bill for example), and your entitlement to marry (if you have been divorced – your decree absolute, if you are a widow or widower, the spouse's death certificate.) Evidently I must see originals, not copies, and I will keep copies. See <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/20210803-doc-support-services-marriage-in-church-of-england-guidance-diocese-of-oxford-v01.pdf>

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## Marriage Service

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Bridegroom's name.....Date of birth.....

Address.....

(in the parish of.....)

Phone.....Occupation (for certificate) .....

Condition: Never before married / No longer married because: widower / divorced

Email.....

Bride's name..... Date of birth.....

Address.....

(in the parish of.....)

Phone.....Occupation (for certificate) .....

Condition: Never before married / No longer married because: widow / divorced

Email.....

Mother of Bride.....Occupation.....

Father of Bride.....Occupation.....

Mother of Bridegroom .....Occupation.....

Father of Bridegroom.....Occupation.....

Date and place of marriage.....

.....

If either the bride or groom been married before, please provide some details

.....

.....

Contact details after marriage.....

.....

Signed.....Bride.....Groom

Please return by email if you wish (rev.adrian.low@gmail.com)

# The marriage service

## Entry music welcome, introduction and preparation

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

**God of wonder and of joy: grace comes from you, and you alone are the source of life and love. Without you, we cannot please you; without your love, our deeds are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, that we may worship you now with thankful hearts and serve you always with willing minds; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A hymn may be sung.

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of N and N, 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. 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. N and N 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

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

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.

N, will you take N 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?  
**I will.**

N, will you take N 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?  
**I will.**

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

God our Father, from the beginning you have blessed creation with abundant life. Pour out your blessings upon N and N, 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. **Amen.**

Readings: At least one reading from the Bible is used.

Sermon and a hymn may be sung.

## The Marriage

[Who gives this woman to be married to this man? I do.

*The wife's father hands her by the right hand to the minister, who passes her on to the husband, who takes her by the right hand. The wife's father sits down. ]*

## The Vows

N and N, 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.

I, N, take you, N, 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.

I, N, take you, N, 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.

## The Giving of Rings

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to N and N a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

N, 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.

N, 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

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, N and N 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. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

## The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship. Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon N and N in their new life together. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts and a crown upon their heads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

## Registration of the Marriage

## Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

## The Dismissal blessing and hymn and/or exit music



## Music, hymns and other things

A really good resource is the Church of England website: <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

Hymns are not mandatory at all, but they are traditionally part of a wedding. This gives a list of hymns you might like to use and plays them so that you can hear them.

The list they give is

### HYMNS

All Things Bright And Beautiful	Jerusalem	O Worship the King
Amazing Grace	Lead us Heavenly Father	Praise My Soul The King Of
As Man And Woman We Were Made	Lord And Lover Of Creation	Heaven
At Cana's Wedding Long Ago	Lord Of All Hopefulness	Praise to the Lord, The Almighty
Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord	Lord Of The Dance	Tell out my Soul
Come To A Wedding	Love Divine All Loves Excelling	That Human Life Might Richer Be
For The Beauty Of The Earth	Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace	The Grace Of Life Is Theirs
Give Me Joy In My Heart	Morning Has Broken	The King Of Love My Shepherd Is
God In The Planning And Purpose Of	One More Step Along The World I	The Lord's My Shepherd
Life	Go	We Pledge To One Another
Great Is Thy Faithfulness	O Praise Ye The Lord!	

### MUSIC

#### For the bride's entrance

Music for this moment might be gentle, dramatic, emotional and touching, but always positive. The type of music you choose may depend on the size of the church and which songs or music really mean something to you both. These are some popular, classic pieces:

Clair de Lune, Debussy  
Canon in D, Pachelbel  
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, from 'Solomon', Handel  
Trumpet Voluntary, aka the Prince of Denmark's March, Jeremiah Clarke  
Salut D'Amour, Elgar  
Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin, Wagner  
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J S Bach

#### For signing the certificate

You and your two witnesses will move to a table, (or even go into a separate room), to sign the certificate. Either way, it is a moment of pause in the ceremony and music is often played at this point.

You can choose a hymn for your guests to sing, or have a piece of music played, either by a live musician, or from a CD/MP3 player.

#### For leaving the ceremony

Music for this part of your ceremony is always upbeat and cheerful. These are some popular, traditional classics, but let's talk if you'd like something different.

Clair de Lune, Debussy  
Canon in D, Pachelbel  
Trumpet Voluntary, aka the Prince of Denmark's March, Jeremiah Clarke  
Wedding March- Incidental Music No.9 from Midsummer Night's Dream, Mendelssohn  
Salut D'Amour, Elgar  
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J S Bach  
Toccata from Widor's 5th Symphony in F

## Readings from the Bible (there must be at least one)

### Some of my preferred ones:

#### *1 Corinthians 13*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

*(see also below where this reading has been adapted from a modern translation of the Bible called 'The Message')*

#### *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.

#### *John 15.9-17*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

#### *1 John 4.7-12*

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.

#### *Philippians 4.4-9*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

#### *Romans 8.31-35,37-39*

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### *1 John 3.18-end*

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**PRINTED ORDER OF SERVICE** (as if printed on a folded card, top two: back and front, bottom two: inside)

**I need to see the draft before you get it printed, please.**

**Prayers**

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.

**Final Blessing**

**Exit of the Bride and Groom to Adele: Love Song**

Whenever I'm alone with you  
You make me feel like I am home again  
Whenever I'm alone with you  
You make me feel like I am whole again

*Songwriters*

ROBERT JAMES SMITH, SIMON GALLUP, ROGER O'DONNELL, PORL THOMPSON, LAURENCE ANDREW TOLHURST, BORIS WILLIAMS

Published by Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

**The Wedding Blessing of  
Luby Loo and Andy Pandy**



**at Little Linford Parish Church**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 10am**

**Entrance of the Bride: Bridal March: Violin played by Norman Someone**

**Introduction and Welcome: Revd. Adrian Low**

**Hymn**

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.	Father-like He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows. In His hands He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.
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Praise Him for His grace and favor To our fathers in distress. Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.	Angels, help us to adore Him; Ye behold Him face to face; Sun and moon, bow down before Him, Dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace
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**The Declarations**

**Prayer and reading**

**1 Corinthians 13**

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.  
If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.  
If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've got nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.  
Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't boast, Doesn't force itself on others,  
Is not always "me first," Doesn't get angry,

Doesn't keep a count of the sins of others,  
Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,  
Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back,  
But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompleteness will be cancelled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.  
We don't yet see things clearly. We're peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that end: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

*Adapted from The Message (MSG)*

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**Address**

**The Vows**

**The Giving of Rings**

**The Proclamation**

**The Blessing of the Marriage**

**The Signing of the Marriage Document**  
during which music will be played by Norman....




## The Certificate


There is a register of all wedding services kept in the church, but the main registration is now with the local registry service. I will complete a 'marriage document' which has to be accurate. You (or I) will then pass that onto the registration service who will then provide you with a marriage certificate. You must do this within 21 days of the wedding.


The data required for the marriage document will be that which you have filled out in the sheet enclosed.

There is also a card certificate that can be framed.

In both cases there is a requirement for two witnesses to be included.

 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**



 **DIOCESE of  
OXFORD**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF OXFORD, LAMP GROUP BENEFICE

*Holy Matrimony*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*received God's Blessing on their wedding day*

at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

*Witnesses* \_\_\_\_\_

*Priest* \_\_\_\_\_

*May God's blessing keep you together in love for all of your life*

## Photographs

No photographs during the service, except for the official photographer who will be suitably unobtrusive!

## Video

If you wish to use a video camera (for private family viewing only please), let us know so that we may explain where the video camera may be placed in the church. There is an additional copyright fee to be paid for permissions to make a video.

## Bells

The bells can be run on request, subject to getting a group of ringers available (only two bells at Little Linford).

## Ushers

Should be at the church at least 20 minutes before the start of the service so that they can welcome the other guests and show them to their seats.

## Verger

The verger makes sure the church is clean and tidy and complies with health and safety guidelines . They can help with handout out service sheets and aid guests with a disability. They can also act as ushers.

## Confetti

Please ask your guests to use only biodegradable confetti – and only outside the church, please – equally no scattering of petals etc. inside the church. Sorry – but the cleaning up afterwards can be very demanding, and we are not quite as young as we might be.

## Parking

Haversham and Little Linford have their own car parks. Tyringham, please all park on the church side of the road so that farm vehicles can still get by. Emberton, parking near the church is very limited, so find a spot as soon as you enter the village.

## Toilet

Haversham and Emberton have toilets in church, Little Linford and Tyringham do not. It would probably be wise to tell the guests that before they arrive.

## Payment information

BACS payments can be made:

St Mary's Haversham PCC, Sort Code 30-15-53, account number 01526486

All Saints Emberton PCC, Sort Code 02-05-74, account number 20356913

St Peter's Tyringham PCC, Sort Code 20-57-40, account number 70795240

If you feel able to make a further contribution to the work of the church, it would be very gratefully received and the church can claim gift aid from the donation.

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## BENEFICE OF THE LAMP GROUP, OXFORD DIOCESE, GIFT AID DECLARATION

I would like the parish to treat the enclosed donation of £     as Gift Aid donations for the benefit of the parish in the diocese of Oxford.

Full name : .....

Full address : ..... Postcode : .....

Notes :

(1) You must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the parish reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

(2) If you pay at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

(3) If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the Diocese in Europe. Or refer to helpsheet IR65 on the HMRC web site.