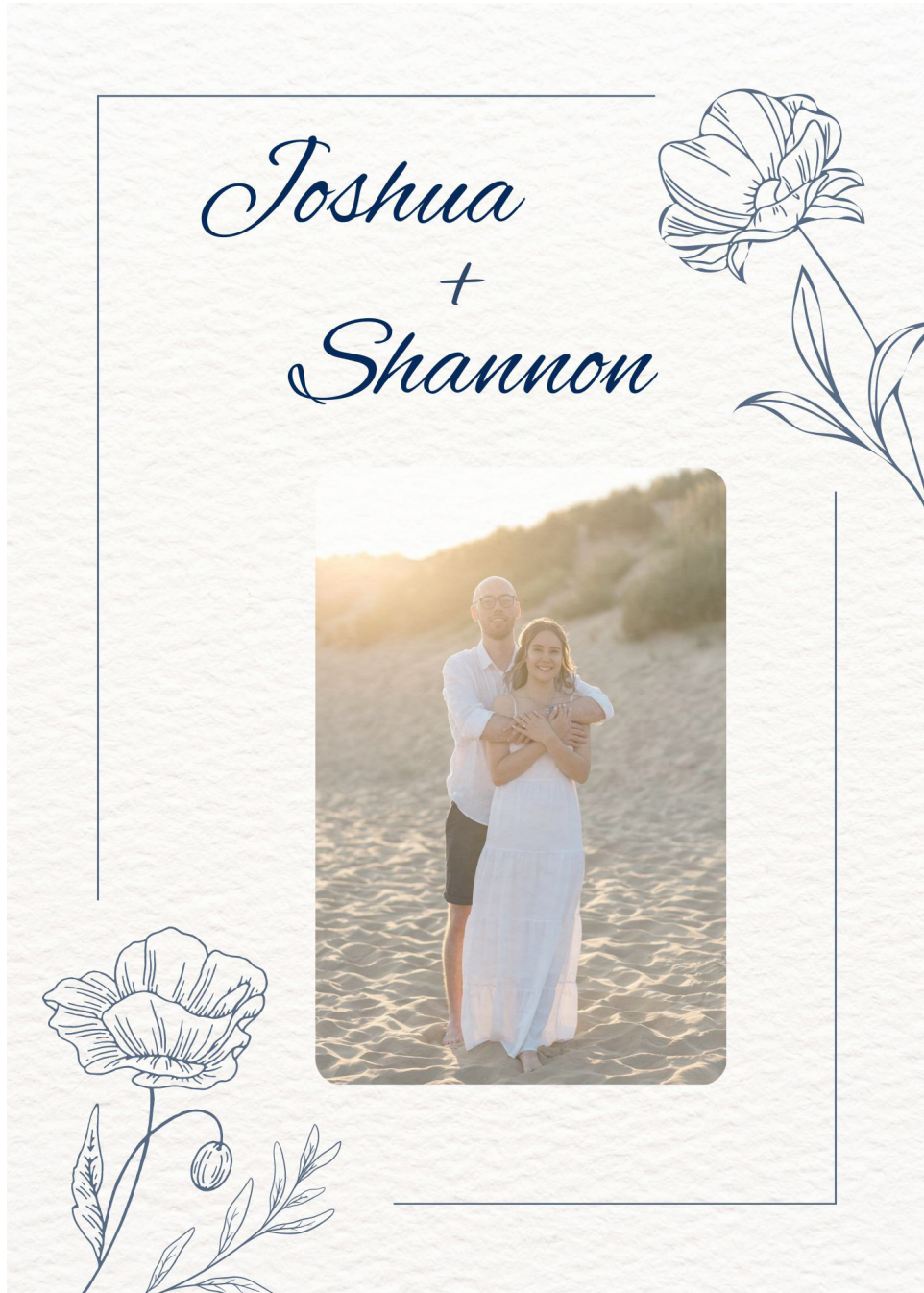


The marriage of



Saturday 1st March 2025, 12.00pm

St Martin-in-the-Fields Church

Entrance of the Bride Canon in D *Pachelbel*

The Welcome *Rev'd Richard Carter*

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.**

God is love, and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

All **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.**

Hymn

- 1** Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

- 2** Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Chorus

- 3** Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Chorus

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Preface *Revd Richard Carter*

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we have come together
to witness the marriage of Joshua and Shannon-Ann,
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 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.

Shannon-Ann and Joshua 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.

Joshua, will you take Shannon-Ann 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?

Joshua ***I will.***

Shannon-Ann, will you take Joshua 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?

Shannon-Ann ***I will.***

The minister says to those gathered

Will you, the families and friends of Shannon-Ann and Joshua,
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 Shannon-Ann and Joshua,
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.**

Reading Poem 'From Beginning to End' *Robert Fulghum*
 Read by Savanna-Ann Taylor

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way.

All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks—all those sentences that began with "When we're married" and continued with "I will and you will and we will"—those late night talks that included "someday" and "somehow" and "maybe"—and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart.

All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed—well, I meant it all, every word."

Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another—acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this—is my husband, this—is my wife.

Reading 1 Corinthians 13 *Read by Revd Dawn Brown*

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.

Reflection *Revd Dawn Brown*

The Marriage

The Vows

Joshua and Shannon-Ann, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his and says

Joshua

***I, Joshua, take you, Shannon-Ann,
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.***

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

Shannon-Ann

***I, Shannon-Ann, take you, Joshua,
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

The minister receives the rings, and says

Heavenly Father, by your blessing
let these rings be to Joshua and Shannon-Ann
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.

All **Amen.**

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

Joshua

***Shannon-Ann, 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 fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says

Shannon-Ann

***Joshua, 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,
Joshua and Shannon-Ann 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 for the blessing

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 Shannon-Ann and Joshua 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.

All **Amen.**

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

Song Can't Help Falling in Love *Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore,
and George David Weiss*

Prayers *led by Revd Richard Carter*

Faithful God,
holy and eternal,
source of life and spring of love,
we thank and praise you for bringing Joshua and Shannon 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.**

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:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they nurture their family with devotion,
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit
and come at last to the end of their lives
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
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.**

Hymn

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

continued...

**3 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Blessing and Dismissal *Revd Richard Carter*

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.**

Blessing Anthem Irish Blessing *Bob Chilcott*

Joshua and Shannon-Ann exit, followed by the bridal party and congregation

Recessional Toccata from Symphony No 5 *Widor*

We are so grateful to everyone who is with us on our special day.

Our special thanks go to:

Revd Richard Carter for his kindness and gentle preparation for marriage.

Soloist Jennifer Sterling, violinist Jessica Brierley
& organist Phoebe Tak Man Chow for the beautiful music.

Jolley Gosnold for livestreaming.

The church stewards.

St Martin-in-the-Fields for making our dream wedding come true.

Anne Langley & Alison Lovelock for the lovely flowers.

All those who could not be with us in person and all those who have
travelled to be with us, even from South Africa.

All our family and friends for their love and support.

Please join us for light refreshments & some bubbly immediately after the
ceremony in the Austen Williams Room, No. 6 St Martin's Place.

Service conducted by Revd Richard Carter

Soloist Jennifer Sterling

Violinist Jessica Brieley

Organist Phoebe Tak Man Chow

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JJ

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