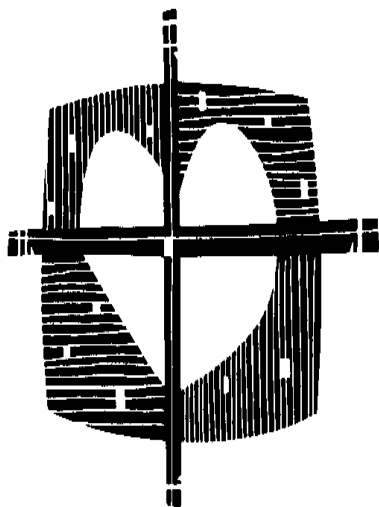







# The Parish of Felixstowe

## St John the Baptist with St Edmund



## A Service of Betrothal

			If you require toilet facilities or First Aid please speak to the person who gave you this booklet.
	The church has an audio amplification system, and an induction loop is fitted for hearing aid users. Please switch to position 'T'.		
	Please turn your mobile phone <b>off</b> while you are in the church. Phones set to ring silently will still interfere with the sound system.		
In case of Fire please follow the directions of the person leading the service.			

Page 2

### The Gathering

#### Introit Hymn

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.**

#### The Collect

God our Father,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law;  
grant to your servants *N* and *N*  
that, loving one another,  
they may continue in your love until their lives' end;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### The Preface

We have come together in the presence of God to give thanks  
with *N* and *N* for their growing love and commitment and to ask  
for God's blessing on their betrothal.

May they, through the assistance of the Holy Spirit, commit  
themselves today to each other; promising to live together in love,  
faithfulness, trust and forgiveness.

As they commit themselves to love and cherish each other we  
remember that our Saviour Jesus Christ shows us the path of  
courage and selfless love as we ask God's blessing on their lives.

We join in rejoicing with them and offer them our support, our love  
and our prayers. Let us hold them in our hearts as they commit their  
lives to each other within the love and grace of God.

#### Readings and Sermon

*One or more passages from the Bible may be read.  
A sermon may be preached. A hymn or song may be sung.*

### Betrothal Promises

*The minister says to the couple*

I invite you now to affirm your intention to give your lives to each  
other

*The couple face each other, hold hands and each say to the other*

I, *N*, promise you, *N*;  
that I will be faithful and true to you, my betrothed;  
that I will work to strengthen the love between us;  
and that I will give my whole self to you  
on the day of our marriage,

*The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the family and friends of *N* and *N*,  
continue to support and uphold them  
as they prepare for their marriage?  
**We will.**

### The Blessing of Rings

Heavenly Father, source of everlasting love,  
by your blessing, let these rings  
be to *N* and *N*  
symbols to remind them of their betrothal today,  
through your grace,  
in the love of your Son  
and in the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

*The couple exchange ring(s) each saying to the other*

I give you this ring  
as a sign of my commitment.  
We are bound together  
to seek one another's welfare,  
to bear one another's burdens  
and to share one another's joys,  
in the love of God.

Page 3

Page 4

## The Blessing of the Couple

*The couple pray together*

Heavenly Father,  
we offer you our souls and bodies,  
our thoughts and words and deeds,  
our love for one another.  
Unite our wills in your will,  
that we may grow together in love and peace  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The couple kneel in front of the minister for the blessing*

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus  
fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.**

Page 5

## The Dismissal

### The Blessing

*The minister blesses the congregation*

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.  
**Amen.**

### The Peace

*The minister introduces the Peace with these words*

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

*1 John 4.16*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*The couple greet the congregation.*

Page 6

Page 7

Page 8

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