



The marriage of
Angela Sheard and James Patterson

at the parish church of
St Martin-in-the-Fields
Trafalgar Square, London
Saturday 11th May 2024

James and Angela are accompanied by a group of their friends who they met at The Queen's Foundation, who were like family during the Covid lockdown. They represent the many supporting friends who have been so important to them over the years. This group is followed by members of both their families.

The Welcome *Revd 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 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**

- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our forebears in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.**

- 3 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.**

- 4 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.**

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Preface *Revd Richard Carter*

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

Angela and James 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.

James, will you take Angela 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?

James ***I will.***

Angela, will you take James 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?

Angela ***I will.***

The minister says to those gathered

Will you, the families and friends of Angela and James,
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 Angela and James,
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 Song of Songs 2: 10-15 *read by Zoe Cuckow*

My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,
 and come away;
for now the winter is past,
 the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
 the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
 is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
 and the vines are in blossom;
 they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
 and come away.
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
 in the covert of the cliff,
let me see your face,
 let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet,
 and your face is lovely.
Catch us the foxes,
 the little foxes,
that ruin the vineyards—
 for our vineyards are in blossom.'

Hymn

- 1 Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go:
as God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.**

- 2 Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness,
give me your love in spite of all you know:
as God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.**

- 3 Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control;
let us accept each other's incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments,
give me your trust when all my failings show:
as God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.**

Michael Forster (b. 1946)

Reading 1 John 4: 7-19 *read by Revd Helen Tyler*

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.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

Reflection *Revd Craig Gaffney*

Anthem *Amazing Grace Will Todd*

The Marriage

The Vows

James and Angela, 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

*James **I, James, take you, Angela,
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

*Angela **I, Angela, take you, James,
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 James and Angela
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

James ***Angela, 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

Angela ***James, 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,
James and Angela 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 Angela and James 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

Anthem Ave Maria *Biebl*

Prayers *led by Revd Adam Wells*

The response to the prayers is:

Lord of life,

All **hear us in your love.**

Prayers end with:

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.**

- 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.**

Recessional Toccata from Symphony No 5 *Widor*

You are all warmly invited to continue the
celebrations in the parish hall here at
St Martin-in-the-Fields

Service conducted by Revd Richard Carter

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields
Directed by Jennifer Sterling
Organist Polina Sosnina

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

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