

THE ROYAL WEDDING

The Marriage of
H.R.H. Prince William of Wales, K.G. with Miss Catherine Middleton
at
Westminster Abbey, 29th April, 2011



The Ceremonial, the Marriage Service and the Procession
published by Gracious Permission of
Her Majesty The Queen

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



ST JAMES'S PALACE

We are both so delighted that you are able to join us in celebrating what we hope will be one of the happiest days of our lives. The affection shown to us by so many people during our engagement has been incredibly moving, and has touched us both deeply. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone most sincerely for their kindness.

William

Catherine



MAP & TIMETABLE

		Arrival
11.00 a.m.	The Marriage Service	
12.15 p.m.	The Carriage Procession of the Bride and Bridegroom with a Captain's Escort of the Household Cavalry, followed by The Queen's Procession with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, leaves Westminster Abbey for Buckingham Palace	12.30 p.m.
1.25 p.m.	The Queen and the Bride and Bridegroom with their Families appear on the Balcony	
1.30 p.m.	Fly Past	





MARRIAGE

THE MARRIAGE

of

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE WILLIAM OF WALES, K.G.**

with

MISS CATHERINE MIDDLETON

29th April, 2011
11.00 a.m.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr. John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

*The marriage is solemnized by The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr. Rowan Williams,
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan.*

THE MUSIC OF THE SERVICE

Before the service, the bells of the Abbey Church are rung.

*The service is sung by the Choirs of Westminster Abbey and Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace,
conducted by Mr. James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey.*

The organ is played by Mr. Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist, Westminster Abbey.

*The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry are conducted by Trumpet Major Grant Sewell-Jones,
Band of The Blues and Royals.*

*The Central Band of the Royal Air Force is directed by Wing Commander Duncan Stubbs,
Principal Director of Music, Royal Air Force. The fanfare Valiant and Brave, after the motto of
No. 22 Squadron (Search and Rescue Helicopters), was specially composed for this service
by Wing Commander Stubbs.*

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Mr. James McVinnie, Assistant Organist, Westminster Abbey, will play.

The London Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Christopher Warren-Green, will play.

ARRIVAL OF THE BRIDEGROOM

The Bridegroom and Prince Henry of Wales will be received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and escorted to the Lantern.

CHORAL PROCESSION

Beadle

The Choir of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal
The Choir of Westminster Abbey
The Organist and Master of the Choristers

A fanfare is sounded for the entrance of THE QUEEN.

The London Chamber Orchestra plays:

March *from* The Birds

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

THE PROCESSION OF THE QUEEN

The Dean's Verger

The Dean of Westminster

The Duchess of Cornwall
The Duke of Edinburgh

The Prince of Wales
THE QUEEN

The Sub-Organist plays:

Prelude on Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

THE PROCESSION OF THE CLERGY

A Verger

The Lord Bishop of London and Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal
The Primatial Cross of Canterbury
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan

A Verger

The Cross of Westminster and Taperers

The Chaplains

The Minor Canons of Westminster

The Canons' Verger

The Canons of Westminster

THE ARRIVAL OF THE BRIDE

The Bride, accompanied by her father, enters the Great West Door, is met by the Dean and is joined by the Bridesmaids and Pages.

THE PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE

during which THE INTROIT is sung

I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is builded as a city: that is at unity in itself.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

Psalm 122: 1–3, 6–7

The Dean's Verger
The Dean of Westminster

Mr. Michael Middleton

THE BRIDE

Miss Eliza Lopes

Miss Philippa Middleton

Miss Grace van Cutsem

The Lady Louise
Mountbatten-Windsor

The Honourable
Margarita Armstrong-Jones

Master Tom Pettifer

Master William Lowther-Pinkerton

All sing

THE HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

Cwm Rhondda
John Hughes (1873–1932)
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)

William Williams (1717–91)
translated by Peter Williams (1727–96) and others

The Dean gives

THE WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the face of this congregation, to join together this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God himself, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and is commended in Holy Writ to be honourable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which Matrimony was ordained.

First, It was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God, and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy name.

Secondly, It was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and directed aright; that those who are called of God to this holy estate, should continue therein in pureness of living.

Thirdly, It was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

Therefore if any man can shew any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

The Archbishop of Canterbury says to Prince William and Catherine,

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgement when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's word doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their Matrimony lawful.

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF THE MARRIAGE

The Archbishop says to Prince William,

William Arthur Philip Louis, wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health? and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

He answers,

I will.

The Archbishop says to Catherine,

Catherine Elizabeth, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health? and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

She answers,

I will.

The Archbishop continues,

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

The Archbishop receives Catherine from her father's hand. Taking Catherine's right hand, Prince William says after the Archbishop,

I, William Arthur Philip Louis, take thee, Catherine Elizabeth, to my wedded 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; and thereto I give thee my troth.

They loose hands. Catherine, taking Prince William by his right hand, says after the Archbishop,

I, Catherine Elizabeth, take thee, William Arthur Philip Louis, to my wedded 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; and thereto I give thee my troth.

They loose hands. The Archbishop blesses the ring,

Bless, O Lord, this ring, and grant that he who gives it and she who shall wear it may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prince William takes the ring and places it upon the fourth finger of Catherine's left hand. Prince William says,

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee honour; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Couple kneels. The Archbishop says,

Let us pray.

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy name; that, living faithfully together, they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof this ring given and received is a token and pledge; and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Archbishop joins their right hands together and says,

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

The Archbishop addresses the Congregation,

Forasmuch as William and Catherine have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a ring, and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be man and wife together, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

The Archbishop continues,

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

All sing

THE HYMN

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.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life 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.

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!

Blaenwern
William Penfro Rowlands (1860–1937)
arranged by James O'Donnell

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Mr. James Middleton reads,

THE LESSON

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12: 1, 2, 9–18

The Choirs sing

THE ANTHEM

This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.
O praise the Lord of heav'n: praise him in the height.
Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars and light.
Let them praise the Name of the Lord.
For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.
The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
so that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.
He shall defend thee under his wings.
Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart, and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

*John Rutter (b 1945)
specially commissioned
by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster for this service*

*Psalms 118: 24; 148: 1–3, 5a;
91: 4a, 11; 121: 5–8; 27: 16b*

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THE ADDRESS

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dr. Richard Chartres, K.C.V.O.
Lord Bishop of London and Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal

The Couple moves to the High Altar as the Choirs sing

THE MOTET

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

Wherever charity and love are to be found, God is there. The love of Christ has brought us together as one. Let us rejoice and be glad in him. Let us fear and love the living God; and let us love one another with sincerity in our heart. Amen.

Paul Mealor (b 1975)

after 1 John 4

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The Precentor says

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, save thy servant, and thy handmaid;
who put their trust in thee.

O Lord, send them help from thy holy place;
and evermore defend them.

Be unto them a tower of strength;
from the face of their enemy.

O Lord, hear our prayer;
and let our cry come unto thee.

The Dean and the Archbishop say,

O God of our fathers, bless these thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that whatsoever in thy holy Word they shall profitably learn, they may in deed fulfil the same; that so, obeying thy will, and always being in safety under thy protection, they may abide in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O merciful Lord and heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased; bestow, we beseech thee, upon these two persons the heritage and gift of children; and grant that they may see their children christianly and virtuously brought up to thy praise and honour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who hast taught us that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom thou by Matrimony hadst made one, and hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: look mercifully upon these thy servants, that both this man may love his wife, according to thy Word, (as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for it, loving and cherishing it even as his own flesh), and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, and faithful to her husband, and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, pour upon you the riches of his grace, sanctify and bless you, that ye may please him both in body and soul, and live together in holy love unto your lives' end. **Amen.**

All sing

THE HYMN

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

Jerusalem
Charles Hubert Hastings Parry
arranged by Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

William Blake (1757-1827)

The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

Let us pray.

O almighty Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

The Choirs sing

Amen.

A Fanfare is sounded. All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen.
Long live our noble Queen.
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)

The Bride and Bridegroom and their witnesses move to the Shrine of St. Edward the Confessor for the signing of the Marriage Registers.

The Choirs sing

BLEST PAIR OF SIRENS

during which The Procession of the Clergy moves to the Great West Door

Blest pair of Sirens, pledges of heaven's joy,
sphere-born harmonious sisters, Voice and Verse,
wed your divine sounds, and mixed power employ,
dead things with inbreathed sense able to pierce;
and to our high-raised phantasy present
that undisturbed song of pure concent,
aye sung before the sapphire-coloured throne
to him that sits thereon,

with saintly shout, and solemn jubilee,
where the bright Seraphim in burning row
their loud uplifted angel-trumpets blow,
and the cherubic host in thousand quires
touch their immortal harps of golden wires,
with those just spirits that wear victorious palms,
hymns devout and holy psalms
singing everlastingly:

That we on earth with undiscording voice
may rightly answer that melodious noise;
as once we did, till disproportioned sin
jarred against nature's chime, and with harsh din
broke the fair music that all creatures made
to their great Lord, whose love their motion swayed
in perfect diapason, whilst they stood
in first obedience, and their state of good.

O may we soon again renew that song,
and keep in tune with heaven, till God ere long
to his celestial concert us unite,
to live with him, and sing in endless morn of light.

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

*John Milton (1608–74)
'At a Solemn Musick'*

The fanfare is sounded.

The London Chamber Orchestra plays:

Crown Imperial

William Walton (1902-83)

PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM

THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM

The Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor

The Honourable Margarita Armstrong-Jones

Master Tom Pettifer

Master William Lowther-Pinkerton

Miss Philippa Middleton

Prince Henry of Wales

Mrs. Michael Middleton

The Prince of Wales

Mr. Michael Middleton

The Duchess of Cornwall

The Path from the Great West Door to the West Gate of the Abbey is lined by twenty-four Members of the Armed Forces.

THE QUEEN'S PROCESSION

The Dean's Verger
The Dean

The Duke of Edinburgh

THE QUEEN

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung.

CARRIAGE PROCESSIONS

The Carriage Procession of the Bride and Bridegroom with a Captain's Escort of the Household Cavalry, followed by The Queen's Procession with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, leaves Westminster Abbey for the reception at Buckingham Palace.

Mounted Police
1st Division of the
Captain's Escort

First Carriage
(1902 State Landau)
THE BRIDE
THE BRIDEGROOM

2nd Division of the
Captain's Escort

Second Carriage
(Ascot Landau)
Prince Henry of Wales
The Lady Louise
Mountbatten-Windsor
Miss Eliza Lopes
Master Tom Pettifer

1st Division of the
Sovereign's Escort
2nd Division of the
Sovereign's Escort

First Carriage
(Semi-State Landau)
THE QUEEN
The Duke of Edinburgh

3rd Division of the
Sovereign's Escort

Third Carriage
(Ascot Landau)
Miss Philippa Middleton
Master William
Lowther-Pinkerton
The Hon. Margarita
Armstrong-Jones
Miss Grace van Cutsem

Second Carriage
(Semi-State Landau)
The Prince of Wales
The Duchess of Cornwall
Mr. Michael Middleton
Mrs. Michael Middleton

4th Division of the
Sovereign's Escort
Mounted Police
Crown Equerry

During the reception at Buckingham Palace, Her Majesty The Queen and the Bride and Bridegroom with their Families will appear on the Balcony. There will be a Fly Past by aircraft of the Royal Air Force and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Members of Her Majesty's Government, Guests from Parliament, the Devolved Administrations and Chief Ministers of British Overseas Territories and Members of the Diplomatic Corps will depart from the Abbey for a reception at Lancaster House.

Alternative Services Series One: A Form of Solemnization of Matrimony from Common Worship: Pastoral Services
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WESTMINSTER ABBEY

With its long and rich history as the nation's church, and a growing role as the setting for occasions of national celebration, what better place to hold a Royal wedding?

WESTMINSTER ABBEY is among the best-known churches in the world and has witnessed many of the great events of our nation's history. It has been a house of prayer for more than a thousand years, and remains at its heart a working church with a daily cycle of prayer and worship: four services are held most days, and five each Sunday. Many of the Abbey's services are sung by its choir, the reputation of which is widely known around the world. The Abbey has also often been called 'a House of Kings', for it is the coronation church and the burial place of many monarchs. No other church in the land has a history so inextricably bound up with that of the people of the British Isles and the lives they have lived, both at home and overseas.

We cannot say with certainty when Westminster Abbey was founded, but we know that around the year 960 Benedictine monks settled on the marshy north bank of the Thames, called Thorney Island. In the mid-eleventh century the Anglo-Saxon King Edward established his palace on Thorney Island and became an enthusiastic patron of the monks. He built an entirely new church, which became his own burial place in January

1066. Later that year, William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings and made his way to London. He was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, and a further thirty-seven coronations have taken place there since then.

After the canonization of King Edward as St. Edward the Confessor in 1161 the Abbey became a place of pilgrimage. With a Royal residence and the principal seat of government alongside, it became one of the most important monasteries in medieval England.

Shortly afterwards King Henry III resolved to build a new Gothic church at Westminster. Work began in 1245 and within fifteen years the eastern portion of the church, its side chapels and the two transepts were complete. Numerous craftsmen worked to decorate the interior with stained glass, paintings and sculpture of the finest quality,

and on 13th October 1269 the body of St. Edward was transferred to its new shrine and the church was consecrated.

In front of the High Altar, and where today's wedding service takes place, was laid in 1268 the Cosmati Pavement, one of the Abbey's great treasures. This magnificent

*'Much of the
nation's history
became reflected
in the Abbey's
monuments and
memorials'*





mosaic floor consists of more than 30,000 pieces of porphyry, onyx and glass set in geometrical designs. For more than a century the pavement was kept covered for its own protection, but an extensive programme of cleaning and conservation means that it can now be permanently uncovered.

A gilded screen separates the High Altar from the Chapel of St. Edward the Confessor where the Abbey's marriage registers will be signed at the end of the wedding service. In the centre of the chapel stands the Shrine of St. Edward, surrounded by the tombs of medieval kings who chose to be buried close by (Henry III, Edward I, Edward III, Richard II and Henry V). After Henry III's death in 1272 work stopped for a century until later monarchs, notably King Richard II and King Henry V, gave their financial support to the completion of the work. The west end of the Nave was only finished in the early 1500s and the western towers remained unfinished for another two hundred and fifty years.

The early sixteenth century also saw the building of King Henry VII's Chapel, the Abbey's Lady Chapel, at the east end of the church. Its fan-vaulted interior is one of the architectural glories of the Abbey and is the burial place of Henry VII, Queen Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots, together with many other members of the Tudor, Stuart and Hanoverian Royal houses.

Many of the Abbey's medieval riches were lost when the monastery was dissolved in 1540. In May 1560 Queen Elizabeth I established the Abbey by Royal Charter as 'the Collegiate Church of St. Peter' under the governance of a Dean and Chapter. Like its monastic predecessor, this new foundation was exempt from Episcopal jurisdiction and was now (as it remains to this day) a 'Royal Peculiar', with the Sovereign as its Visitor.

In 1660 Sir Christopher Wren was appointed Surveyor of the Fabric and resolved to finish the two western towers. His designs were modified by his successor, Nicholas Hawksmoor, and the towers were completed in 1745.

The eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were periods of relative stability

for the Abbey, but there were major changes in the 1860s. Westminster School became independent of the Dean and Chapter (though a close association between the two institutions remains) and at about the same time legislation required the Dean and Chapter to hand over its lands and property to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. This had serious financial consequences for the Abbey, which has never received regular funding from the Church, State or Crown.

Much of the nation's history became reflected in the Abbey's monuments and memorials. Today these seem to fill every available space in the church, but in monastic times burials were limited to royalty and to a few highly favoured nobles and churchmen. After the Reformation the side chapels began to fill with monuments. Large numbers of monuments were gradually erected in the transepts and the nave too, and a tradition developed of placing memorials to people who were in fact buried elsewhere. Today there are 600 such monuments, among the most recent being a floor stone commemorating the founders of The Royal Ballet. They add to the rich historical and artistic interest of the Abbey which is now also a leading visitor attraction, visited by more than one million people each year.

In the aftermath of the First World War, and particularly with the burial of the Unknown Warrior in November 1920, the Abbey acquired a wider role as the setting for occasions of national celebration or sorrow. Not least among these were the four twentieth-century coronations with their pomp and pageantry; the weddings of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and of the present Queen; and a developing tradition of special services, some of which, such as the Commonwealth Observance and the Battle of Britain Service, are now a regular part of the Abbey's calendar. Other services mark significant anniversaries or events, such as the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in September 2010.

This rich and varied mission, firmly rooted in the Abbey's long history but always responding to changing and current needs, continues to place Westminster Abbey at the very centre of the nation's life.

*'The Abbey has
been called "a
House of Kings,"
as the coronation
church and burial
place for monarchs'*

THE ROYAL WEDDINGS

Monarchs have celebrated in Westminster Abbey for more than a millennium – and recent weddings have captured the country’s imagination with their regal splendour

ON CHRISTMAS DAY in the year 1066, William The Conqueror was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey. Over the years since, this ‘House of Kings’, as the Abbey is sometimes known, has been the cradle of Royal power and prestige in the land. The first Royal wedding to take place there was that of The Conqueror’s fourth son, later King Henry I, who chose his bride, a Scottish princess, for love as much as for dynastic advancement.

Since the dawn of Anglo-Norman England, therefore, this holy place, which was the creation of St. Edward the Confessor, has been marked out not just as the site of the crowning of Kings and Queens of this Realm – and Realms beyond these shores – but also as the scene of countless acts of remembrance, thanksgiving for deliverance and celebration.

Across the sweep of history, however, Royal weddings at the Abbey have been relatively few – and, for the most part, relatively recent. The wedding of Prince William with Miss Catherine Middleton is only the fifteenth union to be celebrated there. Most of these took place in the twentieth century, including that of Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, who were married in 1947, just two years after the end of the Second World War. It was an event which rallied and uplifted the spirit of

our nation and those of the newly-created Commonwealth. Six years later, the eyes of the world turned once more to the House of Kings – this time through the new medium of television – to witness the young Princess crowned as Queen Elizabeth II.

The Queen’s parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, were also married at Westminster Abbey, in 1923. It included a moment of spontaneity which has never been forgotten. The bride, then Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, placed her bridal bouquet on The Grave of the Unknown Warrior in remembrance of her brother, Fergus, and so many others who died in the Great War.

Royal weddings in the last century included three of King George V’s children, two of King George VI’s daughters, and two of The Queen’s four children, Princess Anne in 1973 and Prince Andrew in 1986. The first at the Abbey in the twentieth century was that of Princess Patricia of Connaught, one of Queen Victoria’s granddaughters, in 1919. Before that, there was a gap of more than five hundred years.

Today, Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton make their vows where thirty-seven Sovereigns have been crowned. More than a millennium after the first William made his solemn oath, the Abbey hosts another William and his bride for a further moment of great solemnity, but one of great joy as well.

THE COATS OF ARMS

Presenting the heraldic devices representing Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton at their historic wedding – and the fascinating stories behind the coats of arms

H.R.H. PRINCE WILLIAM OF WALES, K.G.

PRINCE WILLIAM OF WALES has The Royal Arms, made different with a white label of three points, repeated on the shield, the crest, and both supporting beasts. On the middle point, there is a single red escallop shell, which echoes the escallop shells evident on the Spencer family's Coat of Arms, and which belonged to his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales. The coronet reflects his rank as a grandchild of the Sovereign and around the shield is the blue-buckled circlet of the Order of the Garter, founded by Edward III in 1348. Prince William was appointed the 1,000th Knight of the Garter by The Queen in 2008. It bears the Order's motto, "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE", which roughly translates as "Shame to those that think evil of it".



MISS CATHERINE MIDDLETON

MISS CATHERINE MIDDLETON'S Coat of Arms, which she takes from her father's, is displayed on a 'lozenge' as befits an unmarried daughter. The three gold acorns represent Michael and Carole Middleton's three children, including Catherine, who were brought up in Berkshire where their home is surrounded by oak trees. The gold chevron, in the middle, represents Carole whose maiden name was Goldsmith. On either side are two smaller chevrons in white, alluding to hills and mountains where the family have enjoyed time together. The colours blue and red come from the Union Flag, and are divided down the middle, reflecting the heraldic tradition for puns, in this instance on the family name of 'Middleton'.



THE FOUNDATION OF PRINCE WILLIAM AND PRINCE HARRY

Profits from the sale of the Wedding Programme will go to benefit the Foundation of Prince William and Prince Harry.

The Foundation's mission is to fund projects and organisations that create opportunities so all can achieve their full potential, especially those who are vulnerable or damaged by their circumstances or experiences.

The Foundation aims to create lasting change in focus areas and geographies, based on need and the passions and interests of Prince William and Prince Harry. Early priorities for the Foundation are young people in society, sustainable development at home and overseas, and the welfare of veterans and their families.

The Foundation of Prince William and Prince Harry also administers The Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton Charitable Gift Fund.

Prince William and Miss Middleton wish to thank all those who have been so kind as to donate to the Gift Fund and, through it, to the charities they have chosen. For more details of the Gift Fund go to **www.royalweddingcharityfund.org**.

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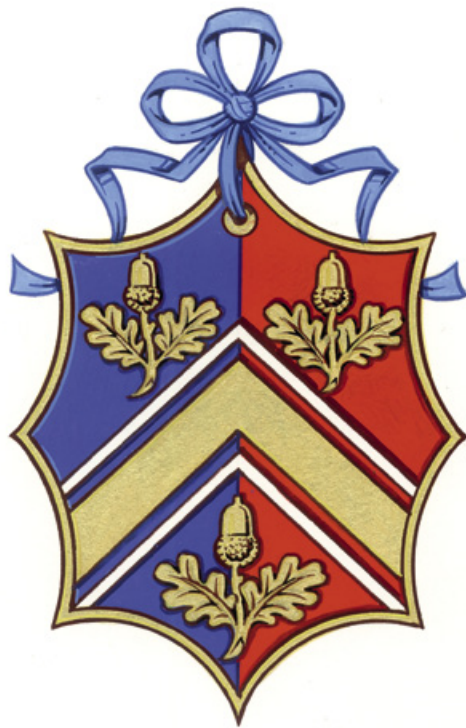
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