

*welcome to*  
THE WEDDING OF



AFSONEH BEHZADI  
&  
PHILIP BIGLAND

*saturday, september twenty eighth 2024*

GREAT TYTHE BARN | TETBURY

## THE ENTRY OF THE BRIDE

### THE WELCOME

*Mr CS Mitchell, Respected Elder*

### PREFACE

All: **Amen**

### HYMN

**Cwm Rhondda by William Williams (1717-1791)**

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, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open thou the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream shall flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Be thou still my strength and shield.  
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, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.

## **Asal – Honey & Kiss**

*At Persian weddings, a bowl of honey is placed on the sofreh aghd signifying sweetness for the couple. After the couple has consented and they are officially married, it is customary for the groom to hold the bowl of honey as they each dip their little finger in and feed it to each other. This symbolises the idea that the couple will feed each other sweetness as they begin their lives as one.*

## **First Dance & Gol Baroon (Raining Flowers)**

*Persian weddings have a tradition called **gol baroon**, which translates to raining flowers. This typically occurs at the end of the reception. The bride and groom stand in the middle of the dance floor with their guests circling them and throwing flower petals on them as they dance and kiss. The gol baroon signifies beautiful wishes for the bride and groom and they begin their life together.*

## **Knife Dance – Cutting the Cake**

*One of the favourite traditions after the Sofreh Aghd ceremony is the knife dance, or **Raghseh Chaghoo**. This dance typically takes place before cutting the cake, which makes sense as its purpose is for the couple to obtain the knife in order to cut the cake.*

*This tradition starts off with a guest performing a Persian dance with the knife to get money from the newlywed couple. Once the first dancer is given money, they will hand it to another dancer, who will then dance and try to get more money from the couple. Eventually the knife will be given to the newlyweds to use for cutting the cake.*

There's magic in life's unforgettable moments. In the celebrations and laughter shared together.

Life's simply better when enjoyed together.

Scan this QR code to open our album. Here you can upload/download photos and videos of our special day in a couple of clicks.

