

ORDER OF SERVICE



CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

AND

HANNAH STUBBS

WELCOME YOU TO
THE CELEBRATION OF
THEIR MARRIAGE

6TH MAY 2023 AT 2PM
THE TEMPLE CHURCH

THE HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE CHURCH

The Temple Church is among the oldest and most beautiful churches in London. It was built by the Knights Templar, an order of crusading monks founded in 1118 to protect pilgrims to the Holy Land. The Templars became one of the most powerful orders in Christendom. The Temple was their headquarters in England: here were the Church, two Halls, cloisters and domestic buildings, leading in the 12th century straight down to the River Thames. The Round Church was consecrated in 1185. It was modelled on the circular Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the most sacred place of the Holy Land and so of the whole world. To be in the Round was to be reminded of Christ's burial, of our baptism into his death – and so of our resurrection to his new life.

The effigies in the Round include (on the south side) the figure of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke (d.1219). William Marshal was chief advisor to King John and regent in the minority of Henry III. The witnesses to Magna Carta at Runnymede in June 1215 included the Earl's son William, whose effigy lies beside his father's, and Brother Aymeric, Master of the Order of Knights Templar in England. Magna Carta itself was sealed at the end of a long process of negotiation and dispute. A deputation from the barons had met King John at the Temple itself, 6th January 1215, to demand the confirmation of laws and liberties granted by his father.

The Templars were suppressed, 1307-1311. The lawyers of Inner and Middle Temple were well established here in the 15th century, and in 1608 their occupancy was secured by the grant of Letters Patent from King James I. The two Inns of Court were granted the land on condition that they keep up the church and its services. The Inns continue to maintain the church and its choir.

CAMERAS AND RECORDING

Please note that audio or visual recording is prohibited in the Church on this occasion, as there are rights issues associated with the musicians' performance. Please do not video any part of the service.

