



St Michael and All Angels Church Church St, Croston,

Thank you so much for being here.

Our story...

Mark and Michelle's journey began in 2019, when they matched each other on an online dating app. One of the pictures on Mark's profile was of his parents' rather unique looking one of a kind labrador *Bruce*, who has dwarfism.

One fateful day, whilst Michelle was working at the Vets, Mark's father, Ian, was bringing Bruce in for an appointment regarding one of his numerous ailments and Michelle realised she had seen this rather particular dog somewhere before. Ian must have made a good impression, as Michelle thought he seemed lovely and cheery which led her to think "Why not go for a drink with his son?"

So off they went. Back then, Michelle had a very strong Spanish accent and Mark had a broad Lancashire accent. A recipe for disaster if you combine it with the loud bustling bar, Mark's poor hearing and Michelle's somewhat untested English. This led to the frequent use of sign language, which was very amusing and they still laugh about it to this day.

Despite their different backgrounds, Mark and Michelle continued to grow their relationship and on the 4th anniversary of the day they met, Mark got down on one knee on the bridge over the river Yarrow, just behind this very church, and asked her to marry him.

Spoiler alert! She said yes.

### **BRIDAL PROCESSION**

Suite No. 3 in D - Air by Johann Sebastian Bach

#### THE WELCOME

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.

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 - "WE PLEDGE TO ONE ANOTHER"

We pledge to one another, before the Lord above, entire and whole and perfect, this union of our love — a love that will be patient, a love that will be wise, that will not twist with envy, nor lose itself in lies; a love that will not falter, a love to hold us fast, and bind us to each other as long as life shall last. We pray that God will guide us through all the

years to be, our lives be shaped by courage, hope and serenity.

Through joy and celebration, through loneliness and pain, may loyalty, compassion and tenderness remain, that those who share the blessing of love that cannot cease may walk the paths of gentleness into the place of peace.

### PREFACE AND DECLARATIONS

Will you, the families and friends of Michelle and Mark, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

ALL: We will



## READING 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13 by Rachel Galliers

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see each other face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of



# READING "Your walled garden" by Lydia Rimmer

Your marriage should have within it a secret and protected space, open to you alone. Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which you only hold the key. Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life. Here you can be yourselves, two people who love each other. Here you can concentrate on one another's needs. So, take each other's hands and go forth to your garden. The time you spend together is not wasted but invested invested in your future and nurture of your love.

### ADDRESS by Reverend John Holland

THE MARRIAGE



THE BLESSING



### **HYMN - "AMAZING GRACE"**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!
Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

### SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS

Jesu, joy of man's desiring - Johan Sebastian Bach

Witnesses Liam Goulding Lydia Rimmer

### RECESSIONAL MUSIC

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba - George Handel



