**Rev Jen 10 on** **Marriage**

Valentine’s Day, 14th February, celebrates love. It’s a popular day for proposals and weddings. Marriage in Church is both a legal and religious ceremony. Marriage in church is:

1. Intended to be *life-giving* – to affirm and bring out the best in each another
2. Intended to be *life -long* – *‘til death do us part’*
3. Intended to give security to bring up *children*
4. Intended to bless the whole family - to give *hospitality* to others
5. Promises mutual support - ‘*for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health’*
6. Promises faithfulness - ‘*forsaking all others’*
7. Promises honesty/openness - ‘*all that I am I give... all that I have I share with you’*
8. Promises *‘to love and to cherish’ -* to be unselfish and put the loved one first
9. *Unites* 2 individuals with *freedom* to be themselves
10. Independent research shows couples live longer and are healthier than people on their own

*‘God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.’* 1 John 4:16

*‘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.*’I Cors 13:4-7