

KITH & KIN FESTIVAL

THE MARRIAGE OF
SIMON ALEXANDER HILDREW
AND
CHRISTINA LUISE KELLING



BOGBAIN FARM,
INVERNESS
5TH AUGUST 2017



THE QUAICH

A Quaich is a Scottish two handled shallow drinking vessel symbolising friendship and peace. Traditionally they were made of wood and filled with whisky, brandy, or ale and offered as a sign of welcome and hospitality to a guest. They were also used when saying farewell as a reminder of a cemented bond, one rooted in the trust of the Celtic honour system which upheld that those who drank together and shared the same cup would not do injury to one another. Today they are made of silver or pewter and are featured in many celebrations, often presented at weddings as a symbol of love and partnership. Sharing the cup means sharing together in life's sweetness, but it also is a reminder that whatever bitterness life contains will be less bitter because it is shared. Christina and Simon will be drinking from the Quaich three times during their wedding ceremony, once in remembrance and gratitude for the past, once in celebration of the present, and once in anticipation of the future.

WELCOME

THE REVEREND NIK STEVENSON

ENTRANCE

PIPER: THE HIGHLAND WEDDING MARCH

GATHERING PRAYER

Nik: God of Love, who gives us the longing for, and capability of loving, we give you thanks for Simon and Christina, for their open hearts and willing spirits, and for the example of love that they embody here in our presence.

We thank you Father for all those who have loved them too, for all those who have cared for and encouraged them to learn to love. We pray for the faithful departed, especially David Kelling, and for all those whom we ourselves have loved, who are not here with us but share in our happiness today. We thank God for the happy memories they have left with us and their shaping influence on our lives and characters. Bless them and keep them in your care and may God unite us again in the joys of our eternal home.

Let us take a moment to remember all those who cannot be with us today.

Thank you Father for the gift of Marriage through which both Christina and Simon may know your amazing grace. We pray that through their union today they will bring delight and joy to each other and that their love for each other would blossom and flourish.

Be with them on this joyous occasion of showing their love and making their vows; and be with us, their witnesses, that we may all be changed by what is said and witnessed here.

QUAICH: PAST

CHRISTINA AND SIMON DRINK FROM THE QUAICH

Donna: The Quaich is a cup of friendship, its two handles symbolising the trust to be found in an equal and mutually beneficial relationship. As Christina and Simon drink together from the Quaich they acknowledge the enriching contributions made to their lives by their family and friends, both those physically present today, and those who are absent but whose presence is felt. As they drink from this cup they celebrate the years they have known each other as friends, and the joy they felt as that friendship developed into romantic love.

We give thanks for Simon and Christina's past, for all that has shaped them, for all who have nurtured them, and for all that has sustained them and formed them into the individuals who stand here today.

HYMN

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*O master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where's sadness ever joy.

O master, grant that I may never seek...

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

O master, grant that I may never seek...

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

DECLARATIONS

Nik: First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

Nik: The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

Nik: Simon, will you take Christina to be your wife?
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Simon: I will.

Nik: Christina, will you take Simon to be your husband?
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Christina: I will.

Nik: Will you, the families and friends of Christina and Simon, support and uphold them in their marriage, now and in the years to come?

All: We will!

COLLECT

Nik: Father God you breathed life into the world by your love.
Pour out your blessings upon Simon and Christina, that their love for each other would continue to grow and their love for You would provide a solid foundation for their new life together.

In Jesus name,

All: Amen.

READINGS

ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-18

READ BY MATTHEW GILL

I appeal to you therefore, 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.

(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION)

AN EXCERPT FROM “POETRY AND MARRIAGE”

READ BY TAMSIN KENDRICK

The meaning of marriage begins in the giving of words. We cannot join ourselves to one another without giving our word. And this must be an unconditional giving, for in joining ourselves to another we join ourselves to the unknown. We can join one another only by joining the unknown. We must not be misled by the procedures of experimental thought: in life, in the world, we are never given two known results to choose between, but only one result that we choose without knowing what it is ...

Because the condition of marriage is worldly and its meaning communal, no one party to it can be solely in charge. What you alone think it ought to be, it is not going to be. Where you alone think you want it to go, it is not going to go. It is going where the two of you – and marriage, time, life, history, and the world – will take it. You do not know the road; you have committed your life to a way.

WENDELL BERRY

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY THE REVEREND NIK STEVENSON

VOWS

Nik: Christina and Simon, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

Simon: I, Simon Alexander Hildrew,
take you, Christina Luise Kelling,
to be my 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.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

Christina: I, Christina Luise Kelling,
take you, Simon Alexander Hildrew,
to be my 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.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

GIVING OF RINGS

Nik: Centuries back rings were chosen to mark marriages, as representations of eternity. The ring has no end – it just keeps going round.

But it has no beginning either.

Eternity:
not just never-ending, but never-beginning.

Without beginning or end.

But then rings do have beginnings and ends: they are tiny fragments of things. To the left of it, it is not; by the time you reach the right of it, it is no more. Above it – it's not there; nor can it be found underneath it. But where it is, in its space in the universe, it goes on forever,

Without beginning or end.

We may hope for marriage, for love, even for life, to be endless; but beginningless?

We can trace a life; we can map out love; we can chart a marriage. Each has a beginning; each has an end. But where it is, in its time in the universe, there: may it go on forever.

Without beginning or end.

By God's blessing, may these rings signify eternity: may they stretch back to the beginning of Christina, to the end of Simon; to the beginning of Simon and the end of Christina.

May they portend as long, as huge, and as happy a marriage as human finiteness allows. But in the space the marriage of Christina and Simon takes up in the vastness of creation, may it be eternal.

Without beginning or end.

JON COE

Simon: Christina, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Christina: Simon, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

PROCLAMATION

Nik: In the presence of God, and before this congregation, Christina and Simon have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other.

They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings.

I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder!

QUAICH: PRESENT

Donna: The Quaich is a cup of love, its circumference a reminder of a love that knows no beginning or end, its two handles symbolising the holder's intent to participate in love together. As Simon and Christina drink from the Quaich they are fully present to each other, abandoning all anxiety of the unknown road ahead as they celebrate the commitment they make to one another on this, their wedding day.

We give thanks for Christina and Simon's marital union, a manifestation of their love for each other, a love grown in the arms of community, a love that acknowledges the past, celebrates the present, and looks forward to the future.

BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

Nik: Heavenly Father,
In such immeasurable diversity you create us.

In that diversity, love manifests itself: our relationships, and indeed marriages, reflect our individual multifarious nature.

Let us then not impose upon this marriage our ideas of what a good one should be. Let Simon and Christina show us what a good, beautiful, happy marriage can be: what their marriage looks like.

Let it take the shape that only Christina and Simon can give it.

Help them to nurture and feed it; As you help us to nurture and feed it too.

May their marriage grow in its capacity for love, within and without, and may it be blessed.

Bless their marriage, Lord, and through their marriage, may they bless those around them.

PRAYERS

READ BY LORE KELLING, SALLY & IAN HILDREW, TIM & MEGAN FRASER

Lore: Eternal God,
Creator and preserver of all life, we celebrate that you are with us now as we rejoice with Simon and Christina.
Thank you Father for your faithfulness and grace.
Thank you that you give us the power to love. For you created courtship and marriage.
As they begin their lives together on their wedding day, we pray that their hearts will unite as one with You in their desire to make You the centre.
May this day be the start of something beautiful, a celebration unlike any other.

Spirit of God,

All: Encircle this marriage.

Sally: We pray for Simon and Christina's lives together to be filled with love and laughter, joy and gladness, friends and fun, pleasures and delight.
For them to be caring and compassionate towards each other and to everyone they encounter as they go through life together.
We pray that they will continue to walk closely with you, our God, alert to Your will and for the plans You have for their lives together.

Spirit of God,

All: Encircle this marriage.

Ian: We pray that Christina and Simon will work to grow their love for one another so that they may sustain each other through good as well as bad times. That their synergy will make their lives together more than the sum of the two parts.
Lord, bless Simon and Christina and let them be a blessing to others. May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows and may they reach old age in the company of friends.

Spirit of God,

All: Encircle this marriage.

Tim: Lord, since you gave life to Christina and to Simon,
You have been their Guide in each of their life's journeys.
In times of abundance and times of drought
Days when the road was wide and smooth,
And nights when they could not see the path ahead.
In everything, you have been with them.
You have proved yourself faithful in their journeys.
Now you have brought them to this day, this moment
Where they choose each other
As travelling companions for the road ahead.

Spirit of God,

All: Encircle this marriage.

Megan: For the journey ahead,
We commit Christina and Simon into your hands.
Give them a sense of adventure for all life's opportunities,
Courage in the face of adversity,
Tenderness with each other's dreams
And a generous and gracious spirit.
May their love be a source of great joy.
Lord, you are their trustworthy Guide and Protector,
Surround them now and forever,
With each step of the journey.

Spirit of God,

All: Encircle this marriage.

**All: Circle Christina and Simon Lord,
Keep love within, keep hatred out.
Keep joy within, keep fear out.
Keep peace within, keep worry out.
Keep light within, keep darkness out.
May you stand in the circle with them, today and
always.**

Amen.

REGISTRATION

CHRISTINA AND SIMON SIGN THE OFFICIAL REGISTER

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL — PERFORMED BY THE BAND

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

THE PEACEMEAL

Peace, following the Hebrew concept of shalom means wholeness, harmony, integrity and wellbeing, throughout humanity, and with nature. It always begins with us. For peace/shalom to be present all physical needs must be met, along with justice in all relationships and integrity in our personal character. This is the peace that Peacemeal seeks to nurture and share.

Meal means food, food that is shared, food that nourishes our bodies but also our relationships with others. Shared food comes from a generous heart. It draws on an open circle of friendship that includes others. It says "Please, come in and be part of this. You matter."

Peacemeal is inspired by Jesus' example, who shared food with and created space for those wishing to follow him, as well as those of different faiths or no faith. All were welcomed, honoured and respected.

Peacemeal is a base from which to feed people who are hungry, and to work for reconciliation and healing. It is about turning the tables on injustice, greed, violence, selfishness and hate. It is about setting the table for community, inclusion, forgiveness, acceptance, love, justice and joy. Peacemeal is about changing the world.

Any meal that has the clear intention of creating the space for something liberating and life-giving to take place, and raises the expectation for this to happen, is a Peacemeal.

Many wedding ceremonies include a Eucharist or communion as part of the ceremony. In place of this Simon and Christina have chosen to have a Peacemeal. Mirroring the symbolism of a Eucharist, and a Jewish passover meal, it will begin with the breaking and sharing of bread towards the end of the service and will continue with the drinking of 4 cups of wine during the wedding banquet. Weaving together the ritual of the Jewish Passover and the Christian Eucharist with an understanding of shalom, the cups symbolise life or gratitude, freedom, peace and hope. So as you feast together, both during the ceremony and at the wedding banquet to follow, you are encouraged to join Christina and Simon in creating a space for celebration, joy, abundance, laughter, community, discussion, listening, inclusion, radical hospitality, connecting, and ultimately, transformation.

QUAICH: FUTURE

Donna: The Quaich is a cup of hope, its contents offering us a hint of the feast that is yet to come. As Christina and Simon drink from the Quaich they are actively participating in the hope that one day we will all live in a world where friendship and hospitality are the norm.

We give thanks for Simon and Christina's continued adventure together, an adventure rooted in compassion for others and a commitment to contribute to the bringing of God's kingdom to earth.

PEACEMEAL

Donna: Bread, is food in its most basic form.

Across the nations of the world it is a symbol of what meets our most vital physical needs but also those needs that are spiritual as well. Bread is a gift from God.

Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me".

Christina and Simon will now share bread with all of us, their loved ones, their family and friends, their kith and kin, the community that have supported them on their journeys to this place, and who will support them on their journey together from this place.

As we share this bread with each other may we be reminded of the importance of friendship and hospitality, and may we be inspired to make our hospitality inclusive and radical so that it nurtures, challenges, and changes the world.

Nik: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, Who has brought forth bread from the earth.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done;
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.**

*NIK DISTRIBUTES BREAD TO SIMON AND CHRISTINA WHO THEN
DISTRIBUTE TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS*

HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
 Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
 In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name:
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
 His holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
 Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
 The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
 To children's children and for evermore.

FINAL BLESSING

Nik: As Spring unfolds the dream of the earth,
 May you bring each others heart to birth.

 As the ocean finds calm in view of land,
 May you love the gaze of each other's mind.

 As the wind arises free and wild,
 May nothing negative control your lives.

 As kindly as moonlight might search the dark,
 So gentle may you be when light grows scarce.

 As surprised as the silence that music opens,
 May your words for each other be touched with reverence

 As warmly as the air draws in the light,
 May you welcome each others every gift.

 As elegant as dream absorbing the night,
 May sleep find you clear of anger and hurt.

 As twilight harvests all the day's colour,
 May love bring you home to each other.

JOHN O'DONOHUE

DISMISSAL

Nik: May the Blessing of God Almighty,
 Father Son and Holy Spirit
 be among you and all whom you love
 this day and ever more,

All: Amen.

EXIT


PIPER: ANDY RENWICK'S FAVOURITE FERRET

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IN AND AROUND THE BAR

THANKS TO...

Our parents and families, and all those that have played a part in the ceremony, including:

Best man:	Mat Ray
Groomsmen:	Stephen Casper Joff Williams
Matron of honour:	Megan Fraser
Bridesmaids:	Corrie Sissons Morna McLean Katherine Robinson
Flower girls:	Tessa Boyd Lily Boyd Ailsa Gonzales-Kelling
Band:	Jon Bidgood Ffion Mair Thomas Patrick Dean Sam Smith
Prayers:	Lore Kelling Sally & Ian Hildrew Tim & Megan Fraser
Readers:	Matthew Gill Tamsin Kendrick
Priest:	The Reverend Nik Stevenson
Minister:	Donna McDowell
Piper:	Sandy MacDonell



*Love does not consist of gazing at each other,
but in looking outward together in the same direction.*

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

