

The Bride

22/9/24

St Marc's

Hosea 2:14-20; Rev 21:1-4

Believing in Church



Living stones



the
body of christ



A photograph of a bride in a white wedding gown standing in a church aisle. The aisle is lined with dark wooden pews. The lighting is soft, highlighting the bride's dress. Overlaid on the image is the text "WE ARE CHURCH" in a bold, white, distressed font, with "ARE" in red. Below it, the phrase "The bride of Christ" is written in a white, cursive script.

WE ARE CHURCH
The bride of Christ

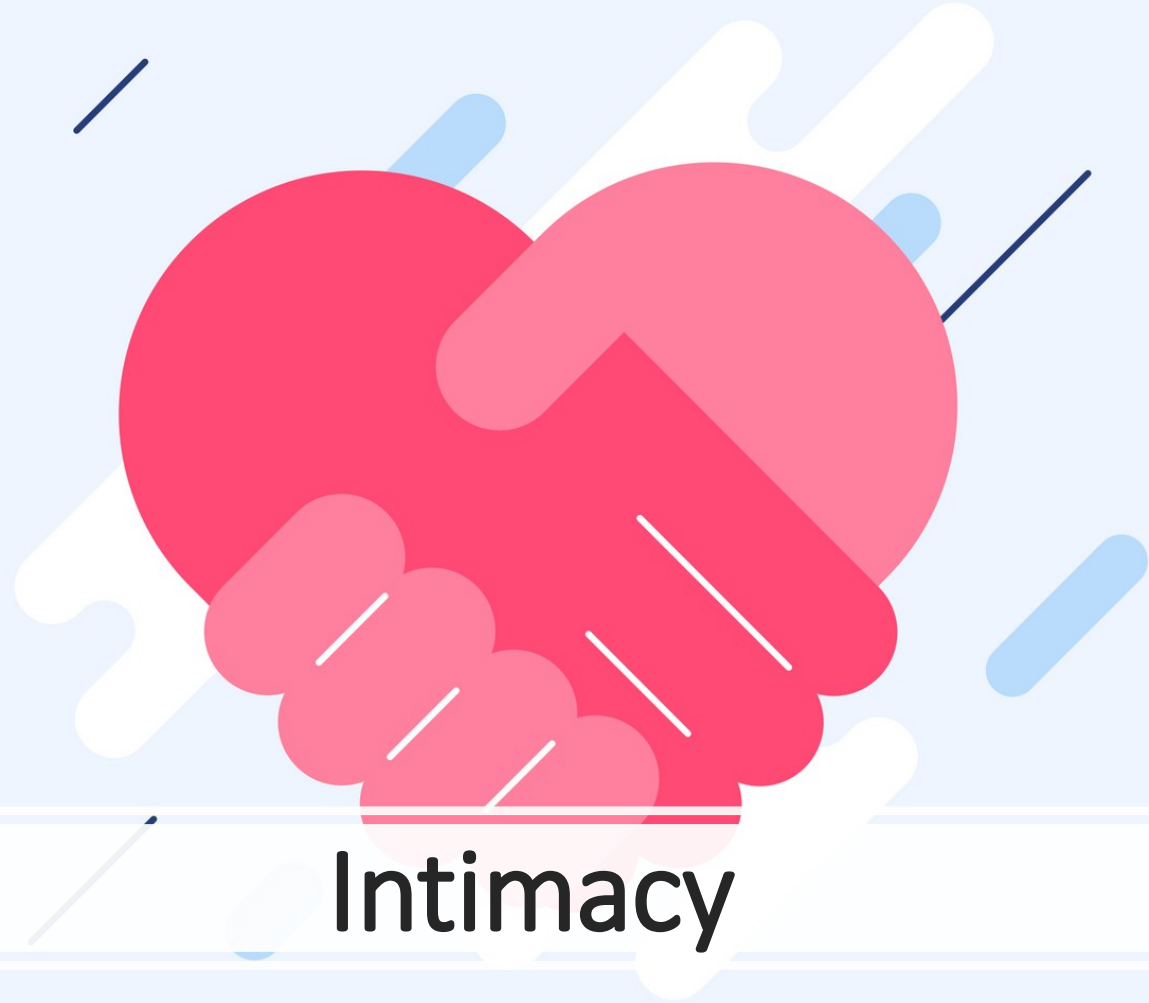
‘You will call me ‘my husband’

‘I will betroth you to me for ever’

'I saw the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.'

'I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him'.

2 Cor 11:2



Intimacy

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.’

What?

Not romantic

**Commitment of the whole person –
heart, soul & mind**

How?

**By realising how much he loves us – personally
- unconditionally**

‘We love because He first loved us’

1 John 4:19

By opening ourselves to his influence

***‘God’s love has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.’***

Rom 5:5

‘Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.’

Rev 2:4



Purity

love your neighbour as yourself



Building – Place – Believe

Body – Membership – Belong

Bride – Relationship - Behave