

And so it was that in the Beginning, that God created Adam and Eve.

And he looked down upon Adam and Eve and thought "oh yes....very nice".

Some time later, because he had a couple of spare ribs lying around, he created Adam and Steve.

And he looked down upon Adam and Steve and thought "I'm not sure this is such a good idea. Boys will be boys."

And so it was that Adam and Steve were cast out into the darkness.

And here they stayed in guilt and shame for many a long century. Then, one night, Steve discovered a mirror ball and out of the Darkness they created Disco.

And to their delight, they discovered that the Darkness could be rather fun.

And it came to pass that Adam and Steve learnt to Shake Their Groove Thing. Big Time. In dark rooms, in dark alleys and in dark and deviant ways.

Meanwhile next door in the House of Light and Judgement, Eve began to take an interest in her neighbours - especially their choice in soft furnishings.

Not too many eons later, Adam and Steve started taking Adam and Eve to their clubs which had all the best drugs and all the best music. Or possibly just all the best drugs. It's rather hard to remember now.

And finally there were Pride parades where they revealed that deviant leather fetishes could be hilariously unthreatening when paraded in broad daylight on Regent Street in front of Marks and Spencer's.

And as they got to know their gay neighbours, Adam and Eve came to realise that, despite all the multiple partners and the double penetration, Adam and Steve actually loved each other, and cared for each other, and were destined to spend the rest of their lives together. Adam and Eve realised that it was a love no less profound than they felt for each other. It just involved more lube.

And so it was that Adam and Eve reached out to Adam and Steve and led them out of the darkness and into the light, so that their union could finally be blessed by all.

A few thousand years too late, perhaps. But rather lovely nonetheless.

For the world had begun to realise that what finally mattered was not God's light. It was a much better, brighter, purer light than that. It was the Light of the World. And it gets brighter every day.

And so here we are. Adam and Steve, or in this case Mark and Jason, stepping out of a lifetime of darkness and deviancy and into the Light.

Our detractors warned 'the gays' would change marriage.

In some ways they're right. Except we think it will change for the better.

Acceptance isn't very accepting if it rejects the person you are.

And promises aren't very promising if you make them and then break them.

For this wedding to be honest and true - as it should be - it must be a marriage of the dark with the light. For that is the way Mark and Jason wish to live their lives together.

I ask you now to turn to the Book of Wikipedia. Here you will find that a wedding is simply a series of vows that two people wish to make to each other in front of their friends and family - the people that matter to them.

No-one - no god and no government - should get to dictate those vows.

No... the only ones doing any dictating today are Mark and Jason. Which is fair enough - it's their day after all.

And whilst this may not be the most conventional wedding you've been to, they do wish to reassure you that there will be cake, there will be embarrassing speeches and there will be a drunk elderly relative falling asleep with their head in the trifle.

And now – at last – the vows and the rings. Mark, I believe you have something that you wish to say to Jason.

Mark reads to Jason, please see Mark's speech.
And Jason?

Jason reads to Mark, please see Jason's speech.
Hugh gives Mark a card of vows.

Mark, please repeat after me, I, Mark Vincent Ford do take thee, Jason C Woodson to be my lawfully wedded husband. We will live together, laugh together and love together. And through these three acts shall the two become one. Together we will journey through a world of sparkling pleasures but cherish only one true diamond.

Mark places the ring on Jason's finger.

And Jason, now repeat after me, I, Jason C Woodson do take thee, Mark Vincent Ford to be my lawfully wedded husband. To live together, laugh together and love together. Through these three acts shall the two become one. Together we will journey through a world of sparkling pleasures but cherish only one true diamond.

Jason places the ring on Mark's finger.

I now pronounce you Mr and Mr Ford. You may kiss.