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## Wedding at Palamaneer

### Questions

Have you been to a wedding? How was it the same as this one and how was it different?

The bride and groom look very serious - can you guess what they are thinking?

Can you guess what kind of food the couple will have for their wedding reception?

What promises do a couple make to each other at a wedding?

### Background

This is a Christian wedding in a large village church in the north of the diocese. The man is dressed in a smart suit, but the bride's dress is a mixture of Indian and Western styles. Her outfit is a combination of a red blouse (normally worn by an Indian bride) but with a white saree with veil which echoes the Western style of wedding dress. Indian Christians would not get married in a Hindu ceremony, but can include Indian customs, such as wearing red, in Christian ceremonies. Brides also wear a lot of gold jewellery. Indian weddings are happy large scale occasions and large numbers will attend the celebratory wedding meals.

Usually Christians marry fellow Christians in South India, and if a Hindu and a Christian agreed to marry it is probable that the Hindu would first be expected to be baptised into the Christian faith.

In the foreground of the photographs is the pastor who is leading the service – he stands between the altar and the altar rail as the couple take their vows.

Did you notice that the Christmas style decorations are still in place? Churches often leave up decorations all the time between Christmas Eve and 2<sup>nd</sup> February (Candlemas), but some churches will be decorated like this all year round. Perhaps the decorations are especially for the wedding?



