

Your Church Wedding at St Chads Church

A Guide to help you plan your wedding



Your Church Wedding

It is great that you have decided to get married in Church. In preparation for the wedding you need to decide on a number of different elements of the service, the website <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/> can help you to do this with examples of bible readings and hymns.

The areas you need to think about include:-

- Choose music to come into the church at the start of the service
- Decide on 2-3 Hymns/Songs. If it ones people know and can join in with that is best
- Pick a bible reading
- Do you want someone other than the vicar to do the bible reading
- Pick two witness' to sign the marriage register
- Choose a piece of music to be played during the signing of the register.
- Choose music to leave the church at the end of the service
- Are you going to do your own order of service booklet? If so, I will send you a template and you need to agree the final version with me before having it printed
- Optional Extras
- Fees
- Wedding preparation
- Wedding rehearsal
- Marriage by Banns or by Licence

What follows is a guide to help you make your wedding day just as you want it to be. For more information to help you visit <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

Contact Details

Rev'd Jonathan Nicholas

Address: 41 Hollyfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, B75 7SN

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Entrance Music

You can choose a piece of music for the bride to come into the church to, Traditional Bridal March by Wagner is often chosen, but other music could be used

Hymns

You can chose 2-3 hymns to sing during the service. It often works best to pick ones that people coming to the wedding service will know well. Popular hymns for weddings include:

- All Things Bright and Beautiful
- Give Me Joy in My Heart (Give me oil in my lamp)
- Morning has Broken
- Lord of The Dance
- One More Step Along The World I Go

You can listen to these songs and others that you may like at

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/hymns-media-player.aspx>

where you can also see the lyrics of the hymns to put into your order of service

Readings

All weddings in the Church of England include one or more readings from the Bible. There are many popular and exciting passages to consider. Some of which include:

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly,^[b] but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Genesis 1 v 26-28

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

Song of Solomon 2 v 10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'

Mark 10 v 6-9

But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female."

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate

There are many different versions of the Bible, some using modern language and some with a more traditional style. To see different versions of the same bible reading go to www.biblegateway.com

As well as a bible reading you may want to have a poem or other reading. Ideas for such readings can be found at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/readings/nonbiblical-readings.aspx>

Readers

If you would like to involve family or friends in the wedding service, then a great way to do this is to get them to do one of the readings. If you want someone other than the Vicar to do one or more of the readings, let the Vicar know, put their names in the service booklet and let the person have a copy of the reading in advance, so that they can practice the reading.

Signing the Registers

Two Witness'

Both the bride and groom will sign the marriage certificate and registers. You will also need to pick two witness' who will also sign the registers. They can be any of your family or friends, sometimes

people get their parents to do it, other times it is the bestman and bridegroom. The choice is yours.

Music

While the registers are being signed it is good to have a piece of music for the congregation to listen to. This could be a piece played on the organ, music on a CD that you have, or you may have a friend who is a musician and could play a piece of music.

Recessional

You can choose a piece of music to leave the church building, the wedding march from a midsummer night's dream by Mendelssohn is often chosen, but other music could be used

Service Booklet

You can customise your wedding by making your own service booklet. You can either print it yourselves or take it to a local printers. I will send you a template which you can fill in; you then need to send it back to me, so that we agree a final version before having it printed.

Optional Extras

Flowers

We have a good flower arranger at church who can provide a flower display for you or this can be arranged privately by yourselves

Confetti

Confetti may only be thrown in the church grounds if it is biodegradable. Rice is also acceptable. Please do not allow your guests to throw confetti in the church building or church entrance ways.

Church Bells

Do you want the church bell rang at the end of the service?

Photography

It is great to have memories of your special day, people are welcome to take photographs before or after the service, but we ask that only your designated photographer (whether a professional or a friend) take photographs during the service

Fees

Following an initial deposit of £50 to secure your chosen date; all fees are to be paid by BACS transfer or by cheque made payable to 'St Chads PCC' at least one month before the wedding. We will advise you on the total cost, depending on your choices, once the details of the wedding are agreed.

Wedding Preparation

As well as planning for the wedding service, it is good to prepare for married life together. Therefore you will be invited to a wedding preparation session to help you prepare for married life together. In 2018 the wedding preparation day will be on Saturday 24th February and take place at Holy Trinity Church.

Wedding Rehearsal

One to two days before the wedding service, usually in the afternoon or evening a wedding rehearsal is held to go through the details of the service. Those who need to attend the wedding rehearsal are:

- Bride and Groom
- Bestman
- Bridesmaid
- Father of the Bride (if he is giving the bride away)

The rehearsal is also an opportunity to dress the church with flowers and/or pew ends

Marriage by Banns or by Licence

You can marry in a church!

You're welcome to marry in the Church of England whatever your beliefs, whether or not you are christened and regardless of whether you go to church or not. It's your church, and we welcome you! A complication will only arise if one of you has been married before, or, if one of you is a foreign national, but there may still be a way forward.

Most people get married 'by Banns' in their local church to which they have a qualifying connection. To find out which is your local church for the bride and groom visit <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/> and put in your postcode.

You can marry in a Church of England church if you can show:-

That one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- was baptised in the parish concerned or
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish or
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months or

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months or
- That one of your parents or grandparents:
- was married in the parish

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

And did you know that if you move house, you're immediately connected to the church there? That means you can marry in the church of your new parish.

In all cases involving church services - i.e. going to normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage - this applies only to Church of England services. Even if you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, we want to help you explore whether it may still be possible for you to marry in your special church.

If one of you lives outside of the parish you will need to have the banns read at your local Church of England Church.

If you are a foreign national you may need to get married by licence, in which case talk with the vicar.

Wedding Service Choices

Name of Bride and Groom:

Time & Date of Wedding:

Please indicate below your choices for the wedding service

Music to come into the church at the start of the service

2-3 Hymns/Songs during the service

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Bible Reading

Other readings (optional)

Names of two witness' to sign the marriage register

- 1.
- 2.

Music to be played during the signing of the register

Music to leave the church at the end of the service

Are you planning on having a service booklet? Yes/No* (*delete as appropriate)

Optional Extras:

Video

Will you be having the wedding filmed? Yes/No* (*delete as appropriate)

Church Bells

Do you want the church bell rang at the end of the service? Yes/No* (*delete as appropriate)

Please bring this form with you when you meet the Vicar to plan your wedding service. Please note not all of it needs to be filled in, just fill in as much as you know so far

Contact Details

Vicar: Rev'd Jonathan Nicholas

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Service Times

8am Said Communion

10.30 Holy Communion/Family Communion

6.30pm Evening Service