

Marriage Information Sheet

We are glad you are in touch with us about your wedding plans. **Marriage involves legal as well as practical arrangements.** We hope these notes will provide much of the information you need, and that you will ask us about any further questions you may have.

Which Church?

The Law says that you can be married in this Church if either (or both) of you are resident in our Parish (including the 3 weeks during which the **Banns** are called) or if either of you has your name entered on the Electoral Roll of the Parish.

In order to marry in the parish church of a parish other than the one where you or your fiancé/e are living or have an Electoral Roll qualification, you will need to demonstrate one of the following 'qualifying connections'.

That:

- one of you was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish;
- one of you has ever lived in the parish for six months or more;
- one of you has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more;
- one of your parents has lived in the parish for six months or more in your lifetime;
- one of your parents has regularly attended public worship here for six months or more in your lifetime;
- your parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

The Banns

Banns are a verbal notice of your intention to marry, and are a legal requirement prior to marriage. They will need to be read three times prior to your wedding day. At Platt we read the Banns on the first 3 Sundays of the month preceding the month of your marriage, at a Morning Service.

If either of you are not resident in this Parish then you must make arrangements for the Banns to be read in the parish where you *live*, obtain a certificate from that Church to say this has been done, and give it to us before your wedding. The responsibility for arranging this remains with you – it is a legal requirement so do make all the necessary arrangements. You cannot be married unless we have the appropriate certificate.

If either of you is not of British nationality you may need a Licence instead of Banns.

Letter of Consent

If either the Bride or the Groom is under 18 years of age at the time of the Wedding then

the Rector must be given a letter of consent signed by both parents of the party under age.

The letter should be of the following form:

"We, the undersigned, being the parents of give our full consent to his/her marriage to on (date)."

Registrar

A Church of England Clergyman is a Registrar in his own right and there is no need to go to the Registrar's Office. The Clergyman will hand you a Marriage Certificate after the Service and this document is proof that you are legally married after the laws of England.

Fees

Parochial Fees are payable by law. Please speak to the Office Administrator for details of which fees are applicable to you.

The fees should be paid to the Office Administrator at the Church Office (9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday) before the wedding.

Preparation for the Couple

Before the wedding, each couple is interviewed, at a time conveniently arranged, by the Clergyman taking the ceremony. This will be an opportunity to look through the Wedding Service so that you are prepared for the promises you will make to each other - promises of a lifelong commitment in marriage. *Incidentally, should you realise at any time before the wedding that you cannot make these vows, then it is wise to seek advice or at least postpone the wedding even if it causes practical inconveniences.* The Church service is concerned with Christian marriage and assumes that those taking part believe in God and want Him to be at the centre of their future life together. During the interview there will be time for any questions you have about the service, about your future marriage relationship, or about your own faith in God and how it can be strengthened.

Other arrangements

Music

You need to let us know, in good time, whether:

1. you are making your own arrangements regarding musicians;
2. you require us to arrange an organist;
3. you wish us to arrange singers/musicians.

We recommend that you choose hymns that the congregation at your wedding are likely to know. If you intend having a printed Order of Service, please contact us about your suggestions for hymns before printing so that these can be discussed with you. **Modern worship songs (and some hymns) are copyright and full copyright details need to be printed in the order of Service, along with the church's Copyright Licence number.** It's important to check with the church office that your chosen songs are covered by the Licence. We can also check the other details to be printed.

NB Using camcorders in UK Churches for wedding ceremonies: If you are intending to video-record your wedding service, we will need to see a licence certificate issued to you, or your videographer, before we can give the go-ahead. Visit wvrl.co.uk for information on how to obtain a wedding video-recording licence.

Flowers

Please let the church office have contact details of your florist so that a time can be arranged for flowers to be delivered and put in place before the wedding. As long as your flowers do not damage the church interior, we are happy for your florist to decorate to your preference. We will be happy to dispose of the decorations after your service unless you want to have them collected.

Photographer

Our only request is that he/she is not intrusive, and that they make time to see the Minister before the ceremony commences.

Confetti

We ask that confetti is only thrown once you are on Platt Lane as cleaning confetti from the church grounds is difficult. We'll mention this at the beginning of the service, so don't worry if you are not able to tell all of your guests.

If you are able to have your wedding service here, then we will do all we can to help in making it a happy and memorable occasion - a Service when promises are made seriously and thoughtfully, and when you are asking God to be a real and vital part of your marriage relationship and your home.

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