

Marriage Information Leaflet

Congratulations

We're very pleased that you have decided to be married in church. This means that you will be married within the context of Christian worship and prayers. Today nearly a quarter of all marriages in England take place before God in the traditional setting of a Church of England church.

You're welcome to marry in church whatever your beliefs, whether or not you are baptised (christened) and whether or not you go to church. It's your church, and you are very welcome!

Lots of people marry in their own local parish church, but we know that you might like to marry in a church away from where you live because it has special significance for you through family or other connections.

An engaged couple can now do just that if either of you can show just **one** of the seven connections with the parish listed below.

That one of you:

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

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
- ☐ has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

That one of your parents or grandparents:

- ☐ was married in the parish

All you need to help you plan a personal, meaningful, spiritual and beautiful church wedding can be found on the Church of England's website:

www.yourchurchwedding.org. Visit their unique online Ceremony Planner to help you choose hymns and readings. You can even listen to the hymns first.

Parish Information:

Costs: The statutory fees for a marriage are £441.00, £14 banns, Marriage certificate £4. There are also the following additional charges: Organist,

Verger, Utilities. These vary across our 3 differing churches

Banns: Banns are usually called in the Sunday service on three consecutive Sundays before the wedding date.

If either of you live outside the Parish in which you are marrying, you will need to have Banns called in your own Parish Church. A fee of £43 will be charged by this Parish and they will provide a Certificate which **must be produced at least 14 days before your wedding.**

Flowers: St. Nicholas Church: The members of the Flower Guild are happy to meet your requirements for the flowers in church as they can appreciate the importance of your special day. If you would like to take advantage of this service please let us know at least four months before your wedding to discuss your choice of flowers and colours to compliment your overall colour scheme.

If you are using your own florists, we respectfully ask that you please liaise our flower guild so that no problems arise.

We do permit floral decorations over the archway of the main gate with the request that only natural materials are used. However a deposit of £10 will be required for this which will be returned after the removal of the decoration, which must be within 3 days of the Wedding.

Music: You will probably want music in the service; if so you will need to choose up to three hymns and possibly two pieces of music for during the service. You may like to book our Choir to sing an anthem. Please check availability with the Office.

Video: If you wish to have a professional video-recording made of the service, an extra fee of £25 is charged to cover the cost of the licence fee for the church.

Wedding Social: We invite all our wedding couples to a social evening in St. Nicholas' Church,. Here you will meet the priest who will be taking your service, the organist and the flower team. There will be an opportunity to discuss the details of your wedding day with each of these over a glass of bubbly and nibbles.

What else do we have to do? - Check-List:

- ✓ Make sure you have your Banns read and have obtained a certificate from another Parish if this is applicable **or** have applied for and been granted your Archbishop's Special Marriage Licence or a Common Licence.

- ✓ Think about the readings, hymns and music you would like in your service.
- ✓ Are you printing an Order of Service or Service sheet? Please let the Vicar look it over before it is printed. (This could save you additional expense if there are errors that need to be corrected.)
- ✓ Organize your flowers in plenty of time. Contact the relevant person in the church at which your marriage is to take place at least 4 weeks before.
- ✓ Attend the agreed rehearsal. As well as your selves your parents, bridesmaids, best man and ushers should attend, plus anyone else who is reading/ singing during the service.
- ✓ Pay the balance of fees due a month before your wedding

Legal Questions:

Can you really get married in church, or is there some reason in law or otherwise to stop you? You will have been asked some questions when you came to book your wedding that help us to know if you can legally marry each other, so please don't worry about this.

The main reasons that legally you may not marry are:

- You are under 16
- You are between 16 and 18 and do not have your parent's or grandparent's permission
- You are a ward of Court and do not have the court's permission
- You are closely related to the person you are seeking to marry
- You are the same sex as your partner. (Church Marriage only)
- You are already married to someone else
- You do not have proof of divorce (*Decree Absolute*)

Contact Us:

If you have any queries or difficulties do not hesitate to either Telephone on 01964 537203 or 01964 532531 or email at: office@hornseabenefice.org

We wish you every blessing for your forthcoming marriage.

