

**The Parish of St Mary the Virgin,
West Derby**

A Guide for your Church Wedding 2022

*“God is love, and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them. “ (1 John 4.16)*

**Please bear in mind that in the light of COVID-19
some of these guidelines may be subject to change**

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage!

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married here at St Mary the Virgin, West Derby. Please read all the following information.

In this leaflet are some of the suggestions which you need to consider. Hopefully, the following information will assist you in your planning so please do ask if you need any further help or advice.

Do you qualify to marry at St Mary's?

In order to marry at St Mary's you must legally qualify to do so.

A legal qualification is one or more of the following:

1. Either of you must currently reside within the parish boundary.
2. Either can have lived in the parish for 6 months or more.
3. Either of you have attended services regularly for at least 6 months.
4. Either of you were baptised or confirmed here.
5. Either of your parents or grandparents married here.

You will also be asked to prove your identity and address - so please bring a driving licence or if you don't have a licence a passport and council tax invoice

If either of you do qualify to marry at St Mary's it will be necessary to provide evidence when you meet to arrange your wedding. The evidence you bring must be original documents and not copies or scans.

If you do not qualify with any of the above and you wish to marry here and not at your local church, then it will be necessary to worship with us for a period of 6 months. Once you have attended for 6 months or more then please make an appointment. We'll happily stamp the back of this book so that you can collect your evidence of attendance.

Can I get married in church if I or my partner have been divorced?

It is possible, only under certain circumstances, and normally with the express permission of the Rector. The Rector's permission is not automatically granted.

The Rector will need to know about your former marriage and about your proposed marriage. Some couples will sometimes prefer to marry at a Registry Office and have a blessing afterwards. The Rector will advise you on marriage after divorce in the Church

You may be asked to provide an original Decree Absolute duly endorsed with an original court seal.

How do I arrange my wedding?

Firstly, please carefully check if you do actually qualify. You will be specifically asked about this when you telephone to arrange a meeting with the Rector.

If you do qualify, then please make an appointment with the Rector by telephone Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm.

Please write your appointment date, time and venue, below:

Date	
Time	
Venue	
<i>Remember to bring evidence of your Qualifying Connection, driving licenses etc & your £100.00 non-refundable deposit</i>	

Our Wedding Meeting with the Rector

When you've got your appointment then please bring to the meeting

- Proof of residency (council tax, bank statement, water bill)
- Proof of your qualifying connection (e.g. parent's marriage certificate)
- Proof of identity (passport or photographic driving licence)
- A non refundable deposit of £100 is taken in cash or by Bank Transfer.
- You will both be asked to sign you agree to our Booking Conditions.

Wedding fees are revised at the beginning of the each year. Therefore this may not be the final balance as there will certainly be an increase.

Here's the current 2022 fees. 2023 fees will change so this is a guide for you

St Mary's is not a venue which can be 'hired' like a hotel, castle or other secular venue. First an foremost it is a house of prayer where worship has been offered and continues to be offered. A church wedding is an act of worship and a service of the church. Therefore, the rules which apply in other secular venues may differ from St Mary's . Couples pay fees to cover the cost of the wedding and these fees are revised annually so that fee will undoubtedly increase from when you make your booking

Diocese	£	218.00
PCC	£	292.00
Verger	£	50.00

£ 560.00 *(this does not include the organist)*

The following fees are optional and are in addition to the above:

Organist and use of the organ for hymns and wedding music	£	120.00
Millennium Centre toilet facilities	£	15.00

What will we be asked?

This is a sample of just some of the things which we will need to know:

- ◆ The proposed date of your wedding?
- ◆ The proposed time of your wedding?
- ◆ Your full legal names?
- ◆ Your date of birth?
- ◆ If you are legally single and free to legal marry?
- ◆ Your profession?
- ◆ Your address?
- ◆ The full name and occupation of your Father and Mother?
- ◆ Are you related in any way?
- ◆ What music do you want to walk in and out of church?
- ◆ Who will be the Best Man and who will be Chief Bridesmaid
(these are usually the two witnesses)?
- ◆ Banns of Marriage - see below.

Banns of Marriage – an important legal requirement for your Wedding:

*If you both of you live **within** the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, West Derby*, then banns will be published at St Mary's and there is no further action required on your part. You can check here by putting you postcode in online: www.achurchnearlyou.com

*If one or both of you live **outside** the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, West Derby* then please ensure that your Banns have been read at Church of England Parish Church in which you both reside. This is regardless of Christian denomination as only the Church of England can legally read Banns of Marriage.

This must, by law, be done within 3 months and no less than one month of the wedding with a minimum of three clear Sundays will be required to read Banns.

You can check your parish boundaries and contact details for your local parish clergy at www.achurchnearlyou.com

If your local church does read your Banns of Marriage then you will be given a Certificate of Banns. Please bring the Certificate of Banns with you to your Wedding rehearsal and give it to the Rector.

This is an important and legal requirement . If you have any questions about banns, then please do telephone as soon as possible.

What are the Booking Conditions which we sign?

Our Booking Conditions are not meant to offend anyone, but it is simply an agreement between you and the church for the things that you both want to happen and so we all know what we've agreed.

This is also to minimize the risk of any potential catastrophe for you, or for any weddings before or after you. Every wedding should run as smoothly as possible. 99.9% of the time wedding go ahead without any problems at church because everyone agrees to the following conditions.

To keep things as easy as possible, and as part of the first condition, you agree to accept the booking agreement when you pay your deposit.

- We agree to pay a non-refundable deposit of £100 at the time of booking and accept this booking agreement. We will pay all outstanding fees within one calendar month of the wedding or the wedding will be deemed cancelled by the bride, groom or both and the deposit retained.
- We agree to begin the service within 15 minutes of the stated time and agree that the service may be postponed, at the discretion of the clergy, to allow for other services and or commitments.
- We agree that the church will be vacated within 20 minutes (or at the reasonable direction of the Clergy) of the wedding to allow later weddings to take place.
- We agree to remove any flowers or other material promptly within the agreed time and we agree not to bring candles or glass into the church.
- We agree to arrange our Banns of Marriage with our home parish within the legal time scale. (This only applies if you live outside the parish of St Mary West Derby.)
- With due regard to Canon Law the decision of the Rector (or his deputy) is binding and final.

Second Meeting with the Rector

This is a meeting to arrange the finer details of the service itself. You will have both already given quite a lot of information at your first meeting, so this is an opportunity to plan some of the following:

Date	
Time	
Venue	

Coming into Church: The Music for Bridal Procession:

At St Mary's the bride walks in first and is followed by the bridesmaids.

On TV and in secular venues such as hotels you will probably find that it's the other way around. Our custom at St Mary's is that the Bride should be first.

The music that announces the arrival of the Bride is usually quite a dramatic piece and we would strongly advise against recorded music for this. A good example of entrance music is "The Bridal March" by Wagner. This is commonly known as '*Here comes the bride*' and it's probably the most traditional, popular and well known piece to begin your wedding service.

You may decide to choose something different and here's a few suggestions to help:

The Prince of Denmark's March - Jeremiah Clarke

Trumpet Tune - Henry Purcell

Te Deum Prelude - Marc Antonie Charpentier

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba - George Frederic Handel

These, along with many others, are available on 'You Tube'.

You'll be asked for your choice of music for the entry of the Bride	
What is the name of is piece	

Hymns:

You are asked to select two hymns for your wedding service. Please consider that *‘Something simple and sung well is better than something complicated sung badly!!*

The most popular hymns are: *“Morning has Broken”* and *“All things bright & beautiful”*

However, here are other great hymns:

- “Father hear the prayer we offer”*
- “Lord of all hopefulness”;*
- “Lead us heavenly Father lead us”*
- “Love divine all loves excelling”*
- “Now thank we all our God”*
- “O Jesus I have promised”*
- “Praise my Soul the King of heaven”*
- “All my hope on God is founded”*
- “The king of Love my shepherd is”*
- “And did those feet” (Jerusalem)*
- “I danced in the morning” (Lord of the Dance)*

You’ll be asked for your choice of two hymns	
What is the first hymn?	
What is the second hymn?	

Music during the signing the legal documents

Near the end of the service, the bridal party will withdraw to sign the legal documents. If you do have the organist then they will play some suitable music.

At this point in the service the music is normally left to the organist. If you do have a particular piece, and we have the music available, then it may be possible to play this if advanced notice is given.

Do you have a specific piece of music for the Organist during the signing of the register?	
What is the name of is piece	

The Music for leaving Church: The Recessional:

This is the dramatic music to walk back down the aisle as husband and wife. You may wish to choose a particular piece or have the traditional and popular:

“Wedding March” by Mendelssohn.

Other recessional suggestions include:

- Toccata from Symphony V - Charles Marie Widor*
- Festival Toccata - Percy Fletcher*
- Fanfare - Percy Whitlock*
- Crown Imperial - William Walton*

You'll be asked for your choice of recessional music for leaving the church	
What is the name of is piece	

Again, these can me accessed through You Tube.

The Reading from Scripture - Bible Readings for Weddings

There is one reading from the Bible at Weddings in St Mary’s. There are lots of appropriate readings, but they must be from the Bible. This is because a Wedding is a service of the Church and is an act of Christian Worship in the context of a wedding.

There are other readings available for you to look at by using this link:
www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/bible-readings-for-your-wedding/
Here’s a selection of just a few of the most popular Bible readings:

1 Corinthians Chapter 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. 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. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 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. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 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. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, 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. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, verses 10-13; Chapter 8, verses 6 & 7

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. et me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Colossians Chapter 3, verses 12 - 17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John Chapter 4 verses 7 - 12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

What is the Bible Reading for your wedding service?	
Clergy are always happy to read the Bible Reading. However, it is possible to ask a family member or friend in advance. Would you like someone to read your chosen Bible Reading at your wedding?	
If yes, what's is their name?	

Flowers & Decoration:

If you wish to have your own flowers for the service, then planning ahead is absolutely essential. Arrangements may be made in advance, by appointment and at a mutually convenient time with the Verger on 0151 256 6600.

Candles and glass used as decorations are not permitted in church.
Please note that petals, or anything similar, cannot be strewn down the aisle.

On some occasions your Wedding may precede or follow another wedding. Therefore, it may be that floral decorations and pew ends may have to be placed or removed efficiently.

Photography and Video

As a wedding is primarily an act of worship it is important to retain the dignity of the occasion therefore only a professional is allowed to photograph or video the service. This retains the dignity of the service and it may just prevent anyone publishing your pictures on social media without your permission!

Please ensure that you ask the photographer and camera operator to speak with the Verger upon their arrival at church.

Can we change the date of our Wedding?

Wedding times on Saturdays are 11.00, 13.00 and 15.00.

Sometimes on occasions and for a variety of reasons, couples decide to change the date or time of their wedding.

Please note that it may not be possible to offer another date and time of your choice. This may be because of other weddings or because of the availability of the church. Please be assured that we will try to do all that we can to accommodate your needs but we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

It is not possible to discuss the change the date of a wedding by email.
If you do need to request a change the date or time then please make an appointment by telephone to see the Rector in person.

Church Attendance - Do we have to come to church?:

It is always a great pleasure to welcome anyone to the services at Church.
It is a far greater pleasure to welcome and to actively encourage a couple to attend the church in which they have chosen to marry. Sunday morning services are at 08.00 and 10.00 and we'd love to see you!

The Wedding Rehearsal in Church:

At the end of the second meeting with the Rector we will arrange a Wedding Rehearsal.

Date	
Time	
Venue	St Mary's Church West Derby

Please note that the only people who really need to be at your Wedding rehearsal are:

The bride,

The groom,

The best man,

The chief bridesmaid,

Bridesmaids,

The person who will give the bride away,

The person doing the bible reading

The Photographer

It may be worth noting that, to ensure a smooth rehearsal, is not really a suitable occasion for children younger than secondary school age. This includes flower girls, page boys and children of any bridesmaids attending the rehearsal.

All children who are invited to your wedding will, of course, get a great opportunity to see the everything on the day.

Any Questions?

No doubt you'll have lots of ideas and plans as you embark on this part of your life together. Planning a wedding is, of course, a major event in your lives and it will be a memorable occasion. **Please remember to ask if you're not sure about anything**

