

## 8. What readings can we have at our wedding?

The minister will discuss this with you and can provide details of readings from the Bible that the church recommends for use at weddings. You are not restricted to these, though: you can choose another passage from the Bible and include non-Biblical texts, by arrangement with the minister.

## 9. What about flowers?

Professional florists are welcome to decorate the church. An appointment will need to be arranged for them to have access.

## 10. Can we have bells?

There is a single church bell at St Anne's which can be rung by the minister either before the service, or afterwards, or both. No charge is made for this. It is not possible to have a peal of bells.

## 11. What about photos, video recordings and confetti?

We ask that no one takes photos during your wedding. The minister will be happy to allow and take part in photos afterwards, inside and outside the church, including re-enacting parts of the ceremony.

You can have a video made of your wedding by prior arrangement. A recording fee will need to be paid to the church and, if you have one, to the organist. The camera has to be in one place throughout the service so that it isn't intrusive, distracting or gets in the way.

Confetti is not allowed.

## 12. What will it cost, and how do we pay?

The following fees are set by the Church of England (2023 rates):

- £54 for the publication of banns
- £528 for the wedding
- **Total £582**

Please pay in full by cash or cheque made payable to *St Anne and All Saints PCC*. **The deadline for payment is 3 months before the wedding.** If you pay by cheque, the cheque must have cleared by that time.

**Cancellation:** If you change your mind and decide to cancel the wedding more than a week before the set date, we will refund your fee payment less a cancellation charge of £75. If you cancel after that, no refund will be payable.

**Extras:** If you would like an organist you will need to negotiate a price with them, but as a guide you can expect the cost of an organist to be around £120. Please pay the organist directly.

**We hope this leaflet is helpful. If you have any other questions, please speak to one of the clergy after our Sunday service or contact:**

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St Anne's, built in 1869, is the parish church for the part of South Lambeth that extends from Vauxhall in the north to Stockwell in the south.

St Anne's is home to a worshipping community that strives to deepen our discipleship and faith; be inclusive and welcoming; and love people into the Kingdom of God. One important way we try to do this is by welcoming couples who want to get married.

This leaflet addresses some *frequently asked questions* about marriage in church.

## 1. What do we need to do to qualify to be married at St Anne's?

Provided you are legally allowed to marry one another, you can do it at St Anne's if one or both of you:

- a. live in St Anne's parish; *or*
- b. are on St Anne's electoral roll (you can be entered on this if you're over 16 and have been worshipping here regularly for more than 6 months); *or*
- c. were baptised at St Anne's; *or*
- d. were confirmed after being prepared for confirmation here; *or*
- e. lived in the parish, or worshipped at St Anne's, for at least 6 months at any time in the past.

You also qualify if your parents or grandparents were married at St Anne's, *or* if one of your parents lived in the parish, or worshipped at St Anne's, for at least 6 months during your lifetime.

If you aren't sure whether you qualify, one of the ministers will be able to help you. They may

need to ask you for further documents or information.

In addition, you will need to pay the **fees** laid down by law (see Question 12) and, normally, have **banns** read (see Question 4).

## 2. What if one or both of us have been married before?

In this situation, if your former husband or wife is still alive, that is not a bar to getting married at St Anne's. However, before agreeing to remarry you, the minister will need to meet you to talk about it.

## 3. What if one or both of us aren't UK nationals?

Special issues arise in this situation, so again you will need to discuss it with a minister as soon as possible.

## 4. Banns

Usually, you have to have banns of marriage read at our main service on 3 Sundays before your wedding. The minister will ask you to fill out a form to provide the information we will need to read your banns and, later on, for the marriage register and your marriage certificate. You're very welcome to come along to hear your banns being read. The service starts at 10.30am and lasts about an hour.

**Please note:** If either or both of you lives outside the parish, you must make sure your banns are read in the other parish(es) too. You must produce a banns certificate from the other parish(es) to the minister *no later than the rehearsal*. We suggest you contact the other parish(es) as soon as possible about applying for your banns to be read.

## 5. What preparation will there be?

One of the ministers will need to meet you at least twice to get to know you, discuss the arrangements for your wedding and explore with you the meaning of the marriage service. The first meeting needs to be **about 3 months before your wedding**. There will also need to be a wedding rehearsal shortly before your wedding date.

## 6. The order of service

The Church of England has wedding services in modern and traditional language. You can choose whichever you prefer. The minister will go through the alternatives with you when you meet.

If you would like a printed order of service, the minister is happy to discuss what needs to go in it. We can also provide a template order of service for you to adapt, but it will be your responsibility to produce your own. You don't have to have a printed service sheet if you choose hymns from the hymn book we use at St Anne's (*Hymns Old and New*). If you choose any other hymns you will need to get the words printed. ***If you are having an order of service printed, it must be ready by the rehearsal.***

## 7. What hymns and music can we have at our wedding?

You can have any music by arrangement with the minister. We can help you choose which hymns or other music you would like.

We can also help you arrange an organist. Please tell us as soon as possible if you'd like us to do so.

There is no choir at St Anne's.