

Thank you for considering St John’s for your special day.

We will do all we can to help you prepare for your wedding, and to make sure the service itself reflects you as a couple, and a family. We will help you choose your music, hymns and readings and the sort of prayers you would like, as well as walking you through a rehearsal for the big day.

St John’s can comfortably hold 150 people and the church can be ‘ dressed’ to suit our style if you would like that.

You can choose to have our organist and if you like, our choir, or you can add your own musical choices either to be played on our piano or through our PA system.

We are wheelchair accessable and an induction loop for those who need it, and we will do all we can to accommodate any additional needs you or your guests may have.

This booklet will help you design your marriage service and make our own order of service for the day. You can find further resources by visiting [www.yourchurchwedding.org](https://www.yourchurchwedding.org)

You can contact us on

Rev. Liz Rowles [revlizrowles@outlook.com](mailto:revlizrowles@outlook.com) 0161 964 3928

**Legalities and practicalities.**

In order to get married in England you must by 18yrs of age.

It is not legally possible to marry same sex couples in the church of England.

**Getting married by Banns.**

You do not usually need a special License to get married, however Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives and well as the church in which you are to be married, if that is somewhere else.

Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.

You will be married after the reading of Banns at St John’s. Your Banns will be read on the first 3 Sundays of the month proceeding your wedding. It is customary to come to church to listen to the reading.

If you live outside the parish boundary you need to make sure that your Banns are also read in the parish where you live. Please contact the Parish Priest at last 3 months before you are due to be married. There will be a fee to pay for this. If you are not sure where your parish church is, please ask or visit [www.achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) and enter your postcode.

In order to get married at St John’s you need to have a ‘’qualifying connection”, such as

* Living in the parish for at least six months.
* Being baptised in the parish.
* Having regularly attended services in the parish church for at least six months.
* Being confirmed in the parish.

You can join us a church on

Sundays at 11:15am.

Or on Tuesday mornings at 10:00.

Please visit <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15828/> for up-to-date information about services.

### **Guidelines for divorcees.** There are special guidelines on marriage in the church if you are divorced. There may well be a way forward, but you will need to talk to us about your situation to explore the possibilities for you.

### **Licences**. There are some circumstances in which you may need a Special Licence, Common Licence or a Marriage Schedule from the register office to marry in church. Your vicar will let you know if these apply to you.

### **Documents you’ll need** All couples will need to show the vicar their passport as proof of nationality. If you don’t have a passport, there are other documents which would be acceptable, so ask us about this. If either or both of you are divorced, you will need to bring your decree absolute for the vicar to see.You may also be asked to provide evidence of your connection to the church, such as utility bills which show you live or have lived in the parish, or your parents’ marriage certificate if they were married there, for example. We will guide you on acceptable documents for your particular connection.

You may find the following website useful. <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding>



Weddings