

# Interested in getting married in one of our parish churches?



### **Can anyone be married in church?**

We are always delighted to talk to couples interested in getting married in church. Because we are the established church, there are legal stipulations about who can be married in a Church of England place of worship. The couple must already have, or establish, a connection with the parish. Common examples include living (or having previously lived, or parents who live) in the parish, regularly attending services in the parish (for a minimum period of 6 months), having been baptised in the parish, or having parents or grandparents who were married in the parish.

### **Who will marry us?**

All wedding ceremonies are legally required to take the form of the Church of England marriage service and must be led by a Church of England minister, usually the Rector or a member of the clergy team of the parish.

### **Where can I get married?**

We have three beautiful churches in the parish - St Mary de Crypt on Southgate Street, St Mary de Lode on Archdeacon Street, and St Swithun's in Hempsted.

### **What will it cost?**

A church wedding doesn't have to cost the earth. There are set fees for the Marriage Service, as well as the calling of banns. For 2026 costs start at £605.00. There may be additional costs for heating (depending on time of year), or an organist or the bell ringers if you would like to book them.

We ask for a non-refundable deposit of £100 on confirmation of the wedding, and invoice the remaining fees about six weeks before the wedding date.

### **What if I've been married before?**

If you have been married before don't let that put you off getting in touch with us. It just means that a member of our clergy team will want to sit down and chat to you before we progress any booking.

### **How much notice do I need to give?**

Many weddings are booked at least a year in advance, but that's not essential. If you don't already have a demonstrable connection to the parish we recommend a minimum of 9 months to a year's notice, allowing you time to attend church services regularly (at least once a month) for the necessary six months.

### **What happens next?**

If you'd like to talk to us about arranging a wedding in one of our churches please contact the church office [admin@swithunandmary.org.uk](mailto:admin@swithunandmary.org.uk).

We will need to know when and where you'd like to be married, and will ask you to fill in an application form and possibly speak to a member of our clergy team.

After that we are legally required to confirm your identities and see proof of your current name and address. We always do this in person and for many people this is as simple as producing your passport and driving licence. There are other options available, much like opening a bank account, and we can share this information with you if needed.

Once the application form and legal checks are completed we'll provide you with a formal confirmation letter and invoice for your non-refundable deposit.

## **Where else can I get information on planning a church wedding?**

We recommend reading this website produced by the Church of England

- <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding>

## **How can I tell if I live in the parish?**

Enter your postcode at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com), and look to see which church is listed as 'the parish church' in the search results

## **Contact Information**

*Parish Administrator*

Claire Saunders [admin@swithunandmary.org.uk](mailto:admin@swithunandmary.org.uk)

*St Mary de Lode, Archdeacon Street, Gloucester*  
Churchwarden - Richard Lane (01452 521670)

*St Swithun's, St Swithun's Lane, Hempsted*  
Churchwarden - David Knight  
(edwinknight49@gmail.com)

*St Mary de Crypt, Southgate Street, Gloucester*  
Ops Manager - Hellen O'Connor  
(hellen.oconnor@discoverdecrypt.org.uk)