

# GETTING MARRIED

AT



St Hilda's  
Warley Woods

IN 2026



Information about:-  
Preliminary arrangements  
The Marriage Service  
What it will cost  
How to make savings

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Huge congratulations to you both as you take this step of commitment and faith. Be assured of our prayers and our support both now and in the years to come. We are privileged to share the honour of helping both of you as you prepare for your wedding day and the rest of your lives together. And we pledge as a church to be here for you and your family now and in the years to come. We are an ordinary community of people who follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ here in Warley Woods.

## **PRELIMINARY INFORMATION**

Marriage in the Church of England takes place after the "Reading of Banns of Marriage" in Church, or by the obtaining of a licence. Most couples are married after the "Reading of Banns".

Banns are read on three Sundays in the Church(es) of the Parish(es) in which the bride and groom live, and where they are to be married, within three months of the wedding.

If either or both bride and groom live in another parish then Banns must be read in that Church also, they will charge a fee of £54 and give you a certificate.

It is the responsibility of the couple to arrange for Banns to be read and to collect the necessary certificate(s) to be given to the Vicar of the Church in which they are to be married. If a licence is required the Vicar will supply full details.

## **THE MARRIAGE SERVICE**

The Marriage Service has some set words (including legal declarations and vows) which have to be spoken in order for a marriage to be legal.

Of course you choose all sorts of other parts of the service: including the hymns, bible readings (and other kinds of readings or poems), what music you would like played as you come in and out of church or during the signing of the marriage document. There is a lot to think about, but the Church is here to help!

**Music**

Help will be given in the choice of hymns and music. A maximum of three hymns should be chosen. The organist, Mr David Ellis, can be contacted on 0121 429 6267.

**Rehearsal**

A rehearsal will take place a day or two before the ceremony at a time that is mutually agreed. The two of you need to be present at this as we will practice saying the vows and giving of the rings. The rehearsal can also include others such as parents and bridal party, but please keep the numbers to a minimum.

**Flowers**

Apart from during Lent (the six weeks before Easter), flowers are displayed in the Church throughout the year.

**Photographs and Video**

Videos are permitted and full instructions will be given by the Verger and/or priest on the Wedding Day.

**Confetti**

After the service the bride and groom are asked to move to the grassed area where biodegradable confetti may be used.

**Banns to be read at St. Hilda’s on**

**Planning meetings**

(1) .....

(1) .....

(2) .....

(2) .....

(3) .....

**Rehearsal .....**

If you require further information please contact the vicar Jenni on 07377363915 or revjennicrewes@gmail.com

## **What it will cost**

From **1st January 2025** Wedding Fees at St Hilda's will be as follows:-

Marriage Service	£566.00
Banns	£39.00
Verger	£40.00
<b>Standard cost</b>	<b><u>£645.00</u></b>
Organist and video rights*	£100.00
Heating ( <i>October-April</i> )	£100.00

\*this includes making a video recording, and also the use of mobile phones and tablets by guests. Without this payment, video cameras, mobile phones and tablets must not be used on the premises.

We ask for a £100 deposit to confirm your booking and the balance to be paid by the day of the rehearsal. You can pay in installments or in one lump payment – whatever works for you.

Preferred method of payment is by BACS and our details are:

Bank of Scotland  
St Hilda's PCC  
12-05-65  
00677688

Please put one of your surnames and WED as the reference.

If you'd prefer to pay by cheque please make cheques payable to St Hilda's PCC.

## **MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**

You will sign a marriage document on the day of the wedding that will be sent to Sandwell Registry Office to be registered. You will need to arrange ordering your own certificate(s) either online [https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200167/births\\_marriages\\_deaths/2085/get\\_copies\\_of\\_certificates](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200167/births_marriages_deaths/2085/get_copies_of_certificates) or by contacting Sandwell Registry Office on 0121 368 1188.

## **CHANGING YOUR NAME**

Your name(s) do not automatically change after marriage. To find out more about how to change your name(s) go to <https://www.gov.uk/change-name-deed-poll>

## **SUGGESTED MUSIC, HYMNS AND READINGS**

*These are some suggestions about the kinds of music, hymns and readings you might like to research for your wedding day, but you may choose others not on this list. The following can all be found on YouTube (music) or Google (words of hymns and readings).*

### **MUSIC**

#### **The Entrance of the Bride/Groom/bride and groom**

Trumpet Voluntary	Jeremiah Clarke
Bridal March 'Lohengrin'	Wagner
Trumpet Tune in D	Purcell
Nun Danket alle Gott)	
Marche Triomphale)	Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Processional (from Water Music)	Handel
Canon	Pachelbell

#### **Leaving**

Toccata (Symphony No. 5)	Widor
Nun Danket alle Gott)	
Marche Triomphale)	S. Karg-Elert
Wedding March	Mendelssohn
With trumpets and horns	Handel
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	Handel

#### **During the signing of the Marriage Document**

Jesu joy of man's desiring	Bach
Lead me Lord Choir)	Wesley
All things bright and beautiful	John Rutter
Not for tongues of heaven's angels	Michael Joncas
A gift of love (Choir)	Joseph A. Reuter
Ave Maria	Bach-Gounod
(Organ solo if no soloist is available)	

## **HYMNS**

*Please choose 2 or 3 hymns. It is really worth looking at the words as well as listening to the tunes. Some of these you may have heard or sung before and might have a special meaning to you. The Vicar will help you think these things through – so don't worry if you are not sure.*

All people that on earth do dwell

All things bright and beautiful

Amazing grace

Be thou my vision

Give me joy in my heart

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Lord of all hopefulness

Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)

Love divine, all loves excelling

Morning has broken

O for a thousand tongues to sing

O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end

O praise ye the Lord

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

Shine, Jesus, shine

The King of love my Shepherd is

Tell out my soul

The Lord's my Shepherd

We pledge to one another before the Lord above

## **READINGS**

*Please choose one reading. This list is only a guideline. You may choose something else - what is important is that you find something through which God speaks to you both.*

Genesis chapter 1, verses 26 to 31a  
Part of the creation story

Mark chapter 10, verses 6 to 9  
Two become one flesh

John chapter 2, verses 1 to 11  
The wedding party

John chapter 15, verses 9 to 12  
Love one another

1 Corinthians chapter 13  
Paul's hymn of love

Ephesians chapter 3, verses 14 to end  
The love of Christ

Colossians chapter 3, verses 12 to 17  
Christian lifestyle

1 John chapter 4, verses 7 to 12  
Love one another

## **Check list for next meeting**

Contact home parish(es) to arrange banns.

Choose (i) hymns (ii) music (iii) reading(s)

Who would you like to read?

Decide (i) video: yes or no

(ii) order of service details

(iii) you will need two witnesses who are over 16 to sign on the day

Things to think about in the service:

Are you giving rings to each other?

Are there any particular requests for prayer – people you would like us to remember?

In addition to the vows, do you want to say anything else to each – a kind of personal pledge?

How do you want to enter? There are lots of different options to choose from! Bride and groom can walk down the aisle together, the groom can wait at the front for the bride to enter either accompanied by a family member or friend or alone and the groom could walk up the aisle to the bride, also alone or accompanied. Do what feels right for you!

**ALL THESE THINGS CAN BE TALKED WITH THE MINISTER WHEN YOU GET TOGETHER TO PLAN YOUR SERVICE.**

## **KEEPING THE COST DOWN**

*Weddings can be enormously expensive. However, there are many ways to keep the cost down while still making the day really special and memorable. The most important thing is that two people want to marry each other and spend the rest of their lives together, and that they want to ask God to bless that commitment in the sacrament of marriage. They want to make this commitment to God, in church, and in front of their families and friends. Their families and friends can help them plan and enjoy a day that will not cost the earth.*

### Wedding planner

Ask a special friend to help you plan the wedding.

### Wedding invitations

Design your own invitations on a computer.

### Clothing

Make your own or look in smart second-hand clothes shops, or look on eBay.

### Transport

Polish the family car and decorate it with ribbons to make it look festive. Be imaginative about transport. See what is available from family and friends.

### Flowers

Ask people in advance to provide flowers from their gardens. Guide them with colour ideas. If you are organised enough you can ask people to plant flower seeds in advance to go with the colour scheme. The bride and bridesmaids can carry loosely tied bunches of garden flowers. In winter months use greenery and berries tied up with ribbons the same colour as the bridesmaids' dresses. Ask the church flower team for their ideas. Extra flowers that you may wish to provide can be taken from the church to the reception. Or put ribbons at the end of pews instead of flowers. Both flowers and ribbons can be bought from wholesale flower markets at greatly reduced prices if someone is prepared to go very early in the morning.

## Service sheets

Design your own service sheets on a computer. Thread ribbons to match the colour scheme through the sheets to make them look special.

## Music

Do you have any friends who could form a small music group to lead the singing at the service if you don't want to hire the choir or organ, or a friend who plays the piano or sings, and who could then provide gentle background music at the reception?

## Confetti

Make your own out of dried flower petals.

## The reception

Ask people to 'bring and share' plates of food. It is safer if you plan a menu in advance and ask specific people to bring specific items. Although it is traditional to have champagne at weddings, anything fizzy will do. Ask a friend to bake the cake – either traditional fruit cake, or chocolate gateau, or carrot cake. A pyramid made with meringues or profiteroles looks very impressive – several people might help with this.

# THE MARRIAGE VOWS

N and N, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows,  
in the presence of God and his people.

***The bride and bridegroom face each other.***

***The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his.***

I, N , take you, N ,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

***They loose hands.***

***The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says***

I, N , take you, N ,  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

***They loose hands.***

***The minister receives the rings and says this prayer***

Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let *these rings* be to N and N  
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness,  
to remind them of the vow and covenant  
which they have made this day  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

***The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, says***

N, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says***

N, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious, boastful arrogant or rude. It does not insist on getting its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*