

Reading the Banns

It is an ancient custom (and a legal requirement) that “banns” are read in the parish church where each of you live for three Sundays before the wedding. We strongly recommend that you attend the relevant services to hear your banns read.

If you both live in the Parish, the fee for this is included in the figure overleaf. If one of you lives in another parish, you **MUST** ensure that the banns are read in the church there, too, and there will be an additional fee charged by that parish (see over).

Official Photographs, Cameras and Videos

Guests and professional photographers are welcome to take pictures before and after the wedding but, to maintain the sense of holiness during the service, all other photography has to be agreed in advance with the priest taking the service.

If you wish to video the service this must be agreed well in advance so that discussions can take place about how this may be done. Recording services has licencing implications and also for the scale of fees for organists and musicians.

Finally ...

If you decide to be married in our church, we shall pray for you in our Sunday services during the weeks when banns are read. May God bless you both – whatever you decide!

Parish Office: 01237 441142
(Tuesday mornings)
hartlandcoastparishes@gmail.com

Team Rector: Revd. Jane Skinner
Associate Priest: Revd. Jane Hayes



GETTING MARRIED IN ONE OF OUR CHURCHES



St Andrew, Alwington
St Mary & St Benedict, Buckland Brewer
St Anne, Bucks Mills
All Saints, Clovelly
St Nectan, Hartland
St. Helen, Lundy
St James, Parkham
St Nectan, Welcombe
All Hallows, Woolsery

December 2025
www.hartlandcoastparishes.org

Congratulations on your engagement!

We want your wedding day to be as happy and trouble-free as possible. This leaflet sets out much of the information that you will need to help you decide whether you want to be married in one of our churches within the Hartland Coast Mission Community.

Why get married in church?

These days you can get married in all sorts of places. We believe that marriage is a life-long commitment that can best be made in the presence, and with the blessing, of God.

Choosing the Day

Quite often it is harder to find a suitable date for the reception at your chosen venue than it is to find a date for the church service. Many couples, therefore, fix the reception first and then find out if the church is available.

However, to avoid disappointment, we suggest that you check with the church before making a firm booking for the reception.

Who can be married in the Parish Church?

If either the bride or the bridegroom lives in one of the parishes, or if one of you is on the parish electoral roll, you have a legal right to be married here. If not, you may still qualify if one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish concerned
- has at any time regularly attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months
- has a parent who, at any time after you were born, has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- has a parent who has regularly attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months
- has a parent or grandparent who was married in the parish

Where church services are mentioned - i.e. attendance at normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage - this refers only to Church of England services.

Even if you cannot demonstrate any of these connections, we want to help you explore whether it may still be possible for you to marry in your special church, so get in touch well in advance to discuss the options open to you.

What will it cost?

The basic fees are laid down by the Church Commissioners and each church charges additional fees for form filling, marriage preparation and the vergers, who ensures that everything runs smoothly on the day. The 2026 charge for a wedding service is £645, or £704 if one you lives outside the parish (£59 is payable to the other parish for a banns certificate).

When a member of the clergy has spoken with you and agreed that you may be married in the church, the date will be confirmed on payment of a non-returnable £100 booking fee which will be deducted from the total cost, unless the wedding is cancelled. The balance must be paid at least one month before the wedding.

Planning the Service

The priest taking your wedding will need to have at least one individual meeting with you both to plan the form of the service and to discuss the religious significance of what you are undertaking. You may also be invited to attend a marriage preparation day.

If you want flowers in church, these can be arranged by yourselves and your friends and family, a professional florist or in some of our churches we can arrange to do this for you. The cost of this will need to be discussed with our 'Church Flower Organisers'. Whoever arranges your flowers we will need to know in advance when the flowers are coming into church because of other services and events taking place. We can also book the bells for you if you wish these to be rung - it currently costs £150. Our Parish Administrator can provide you with the details of the appropriate people to be contacted for each church.