

Most importantly, keep in touch with the Vicar before the wedding and make an appointment for the rehearsal.



Vicar:

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Wedding Co-ordinator:

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Useful link:

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/> contains several web pages which may help you in your planning of a Church Wedding



Welcome to **Y**our
living church sharing the
good news of Jesus



Marriage

at

St Peter & St Paul, Old Brampton
St Lawrence, Great Barlow
Loundsley Green Church

Your Wedding

Introduction

A wedding is one of life's great moments: solemn commitment, feasting and delight. Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God and it is intended by God to be a creative relationship in which the needs of the relationship come before your own. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses. The marriage ceremony gives you a new legal status as husband and wife, and a new stability within which your relationship can flourish and grow. Christians believe that marriage offers the right place for fulfilment of sexuality and that it provides the best environment for bringing up children.

Why get married in church?

By choosing to get married in church, you are acknowledging that God is involved, and accepting that God's resources and strength are available to help you. This doesn't mean that you will avoid all the usual ups and downs, but you know that you can look to God for guidance and sustaining love. You will also have the support and encouragement of the Christian Church family.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Where can I get married?

- ✚ The law entitles you to be married in the Church of England Parish Church where one or other of you lives. For the boundaries of Barlow Parish, Old Brampton Parish or Loundsley Green Parish, visit <http://achurchnearyou.com>
- ✚ You can be married in your parish church if you can demonstrate some connection with it – for example, if you used to live in the parish, or if you were baptised or confirmed there, or used to attend the church or if your parents or grandparents were married in the parish
- ✚ You can be married in one of these parish churches if you attend regularly for six months

(If you are marrying someone who is not a UK citizen, certain criteria may apply. If none of the above is appropriate to you, please contact us as we may be able to assist in other ways.)

Commonly chosen hymns include:

Love divine all loves excelling
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
Praise my soul the king of heaven
Now thank we all our God
All things bright and beautiful
Lord of all hopefulness
Dear Lord and Father of mankind
O perfect love
Amazing grace
Morning has broken
One more step along the world I go
Come down, O love divine
Immortal invisible God only wise
The king of love my shepherd is
The Lord's my shepherd
Give me joy in my heart
Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the king of creation

Finally, some reminders:

- ✚ For a wedding where one partner lives out the parish, the banns need to be read in their local Church of England parish church. Don't forget to pick up the banns certificate and give it to the vicar performing your marriage service. The wedding cannot take place without it!
- ✚ Inform the wedding co-ordinator immediately if any circumstances change
- ✚ Arrange for the officiating vicar to sign form PD2 for a honeymoon passport if you are going abroad and ensure that the name on your travel documents match your passport
- ✚ Ensure your photographer/video operator contacts the vicar for instructions
- ✚ Don't forget to bring payment (in cash) for your wedding with you when you attend the rehearsal
- ✚ Keep in touch with the wedding co-ordinator regarding all queries and changes that need to be made to your original application

This would have the words of the hymns included and it may be a good 'keepsake' afterwards. The church has a copyright permission licence, which covers the reproduction of most wedding hymns – but not all, so discuss this with the organist. We recommend that you bring the orders of service to the rehearsal, they will then be kept safe for you in church, thus preventing the panic of them being left at home, or locked in a car boot! Some couples prefer to use church hymn books rather than have an Order of Service, the choice is yours and remember it's now quite easy to produce your own with the aid of a computer and a bit of imagination!

What about readings?

You can have several readings, but we recommend no more than three otherwise the service could end up being too long, two readings gives a good balance. At least one of the readings has to be from the Bible, the others could be an extract from a book, a poem, or something that has been specially prepared for you.

A few ideas for Bible readings:

John Ch. 15 verses 9 – 17	Love one another
Mark Ch. 10 verses 6-9, 13-16	From the beginning of creation
1 John Ch. 3 verses 18-end	Love one another
Colossians Ch. 3 verse 12	Forgive one another
Ephesians Ch. 5 verses 21-end	Be subject to one another
Philippians Ch. 4 verses 4-9	Let your gentleness be known to everyone
Ephesians Ch. 3 verses 14 –end	I bow my knees before the Father
Corinthians Ch. 13	Faith, hope and love abide
Romans Ch. 15 verses 1-3, 5-7, 13	Live in harmony with one another
Romans Ch. 12 verses 1,2,9-13	Let love be genuine
Song of Solomon Ch. 2 verses 10-13; 8,6,7	My beloved speaks

What music should we choose?

We encourage you to be involved in the choice of music. Two or three hymns are enough and you should choose hymns your guests will know. The list below gives suggestions but it is not meant to limit your choice, so once again look on the Church of England website for more suggestions. Our organist will be happy to advise you.

What are the legal requirements?

- ✚ You must have your banns read out in church on three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. Banns are an announcement of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward an objection. Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives, as well as at the church in which you are to be married (if different)
- ✚ If you are under eighteen, you need your parents' consent in writing
- ✚ If one of you is divorced, see below

How much will it cost?

The cost of the marriage ceremony in church includes:

- ✚ Legal fees set by the state, which cover the publication of the banns, certificate of banns (if necessary), the marriage service and a certificate of marriage
- ✚ Charges set by the church covering payment to the vergers, use of the church and copyright fees
- ✚ A charge if you decide to have the organist, the choir, the bell ringers or the in-house florist where applicable
- ✚ If you are able to give a voluntary donation towards the upkeep of the church, it is always welcome. Ask about the 'free will' gift envelopes that help us to reclaim tax.

The wedding co-ordinator can supply details of current fees and charges. Alternatively visit our website.

What if one of us is divorced?

The Church of England teaches that marriage is for life, but it recognises that some marriages fail, and may allow a divorced person to marry again in church during the lifetime of the former spouse. The Bishop of Derby has issued guidelines to his clergy, and so the decision is a matter of judgment by Revd. Peter who will need to know about the past, your hopes for the future and your understanding of marriage. Please note that a divorced person has no right to be remarried in church, and if it's not possible, the Revd. Peter may suggest other options such as a Service of Prayer and Dedication after a civil ceremony.

Planning the Wedding Ceremony

You can choose to have a modern service or one in more traditional language. Either service will contain one or more readings from Holy Scripture – Revd. Peter can help you select the most appropriate. There are prayers, which may help you to choose, or you may like to write your own. It is possible for family or friends to read, or lead, the prayers. There is also the opportunity to include a non-scriptural reading, and for people to make musical contributions.

Rings

One or two? It's up to you.

There are appropriate vows for whatever you decide.

Signing of the registers

This takes place in the church at the end of the service. After the signing, the photographer will normally want you to pose for photographs. Rev'd. Peter or (other officiating vicar) will issue a marriage certificate which will be signed by both of you and two witnesses whom you will appoint.

Witnesses must be over 18

Length of the service

The service in church is approximately 45 minutes. Please try not to be late as there may be another ceremony following yours. If you arrive late, the service may have to be shortened, or even cancelled if there is another wedding taking place after yours. Please ignore the old saying that 'a bride should always be late!' It can cause stress and often leads to a restless congregation, especially if young children are present.

When should we have a rehearsal?

A rehearsal is held in the church usually in the week before the ceremony. Contact the Rev'd. Peter to arrange a convenient date and time. Please try to bring the Best Man, Bridesmaids and the person who is 'giving away' the Bride. You need to bring the fees – payable in cash please – and the banns certificate(s) from other churches and the orders of service if you're having them.

Vows

The modern vows we use in our Order of Service reflect the equality in the partnership. If you want traditional vows (the Bride 'obeying'), do say so. But don't be forced. If the Bride does say 'obey', the Groom will promise to 'worship' the Bride. It's worth pointing out that both these words – obey and worship – have slightly different meanings now than when they were first used in these services centuries ago.

Ushers and Seating

It is helpful if you provide ushers who will welcome and assist arriving guests. Ushers should be present half an hour before the wedding. It's traditional for the Groom's family to sit on the right-hand side of the church, behind the Groom. The family of the Bride sit on the left with a space saved for the person 'giving away' the Bride. However this is a tradition, not a rule.

Photographers and video

It is normally possible to have a video recording of the ceremony, but please discuss this with the vicar. Photographers should remain unobtrusive throughout the ceremony and flash photography is not permitted except at the signing of the registers.

Confetti

Your guests may throw this down by the lychgate at Old Brampton and at Barlow. Please use bio-degradable confetti.

How can I change my passport name before I get married?

If you need to apply in advance for a passport in your new name, obtain form PD1 and PD2 from the post office (or online) and take it to the vicar who will perform the ceremony. However, remember that the name on your travelling documents must match the name on your passport!

Orders of Service

Some couples like to have their own orders of service, however, please have it checked by the vicar before having them printed.