

Your Church Wedding



At

**All Saints Church or St Nicholas' Church in the Sutton Team
Ministry**

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE!

Marriage is one of the most important steps in life that you will ever take and your Wedding Day should be the most memorable day in your life.

The purpose of this booklet is to make sure that your Marriage Service at St Nicholas/All Saints will run smoothly. Obviously every wedding is different and there maybe other items that you want to ask about. Please feel free to contact the Parish Office at any time regarding arrangements for your wedding.

The Parish Office telephone no. is 01744 813841 and the opening hours are 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. If there is no one there, you can either leave a message or e-mail suttonparish@btconnect.com

MEETING THE VICAR

By now, you will have probably already booked the date and time of your wedding through the Parish Office. You will be asked to attend a preparation for marriage with the Vicar. This may be alongside other couples being married in Sutton Team Parish in the forthcoming months, but you will also have an opportunity to meet the vicar alone. These meetings are times to discuss marriage in general, the role of the Church in your marriage and the details of your wedding service. Arrangements will also be made for your wedding rehearsal.

Please try to have an idea as to what Processional music, hymns, readings etc., you want for your marriage service when you meet the Vicar. If you are unsure as to what to choose, please don't worry as part of the meeting is to give you more information to make the right choices for your wedding.

Although these are the usual meetings with the Vicar, please feel free to contact him/her at any other time if you want to discuss anything or have any concerns regarding your wedding.

Sometimes, circumstances change: You may have moved house, changed your mobile phone or it may be necessary to alter the time or date of your wedding.

Please contact the Parish Office immediately to let us know of any changes to your booking or contact details.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Before you can be married in Church, there is a legal requirement that banns are called.

In the Parish in which you are to be married; and:

In the Parish in which each partner resides if you live outside Sutton Parish.

If you both live within the Parish boundaries, you do not need to make any other arrangements. However, if one of you lives outside the Parish you will need to contact the Vicar of the Parish in which you live and arrange for the banns to be called in the parish church there. You should do this at least three months before the wedding. You will be issued a certificate of banns by this parish (you may need to go and collect this from them) and that must be shown to the vicar who will be taking your wedding at your wedding rehearsal. There is a charge for a Certificate of Banns.

Please remember that banns must be called in the Anglican (CofE) Parish Church.

Banns are a legal requirement and a wedding cannot take place without the correct banns certificate. If you do not have your banns called, the only means by which you may be able to be married on the appointed day is by obtaining a Surrogate's licence, for which an extra fee of £200 has to be paid to the Registrar's office – please contact the Register office in St Helens on 01744 456789.

If you are in any doubt about your banns, ask the Vicar!

YOUR MARRIAGE SERVICE

Every marriage is seen as an important occasion within the ministry of the Christian Church.

It is of greatest importance to the couple being married. As you make your lifelong commitments to each other before God and before your family and friends, you should feel comfortable with the words spoken to you by the Vicar and with the vows you make to each other.

The service will be from the Church of England Common Worship Book which uses contemporary language. However, some couples still choose the Book of Common Prayer

Marriage Service. Within both services, there is a choice of vows either including or excluding a woman's vow to *obey* her husband and a man's vow to *worship* his wife. It is important that you discuss these choices between yourselves and with the Vicar when you meet with him/her. If you are both full members of the Christian Church you may wish to include a celebration of Holy Communion in your marriage service. Please ask about this.

If both of you are regular worshippers at different churches or denominations, it may well have been difficult for you to choose the church in which to be married. If you would like a priest or minister from another church to take part in the service, please talk to the Vicar when you meet him/her. You may wish to have a friend or family member read the lesson at the service. Once again, let the Vicar know when you meet with him/her.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

In comparison to all other wedding expenses, the fees for your marriage service are relatively low.

Most of the basic charges are standard rates set by the Church of England Archbishops Council for all weddings in Anglican (Church of England) churches and are revised annually.

The basic wedding fee for a service in 2016 is £490: this includes the administration, preparation meetings, the service, publication of banns at St Nicholas' Church and your marriage certificate.

The additional fees if applicable, are:

Heating £60

Organist £80

Video Rights £50

Choir £60 (Please note that the Choir is not available for weddings on weekdays.)

Please pay all your wedding fees at least a week prior to your wedding at the Parish Office by cheque

Cheques should be made payable to Sutton Team PCC.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Although wedding rehearsals are held before the wedding day, they are a vital part of its success. This is an opportunity to talk through your service so that you will be more relaxed on the big day. There is no need to remember it all.

You may also want to invite your photographer to the rehearsal.

At the rehearsal, the Vicar will run through the service giving all the details of who does what, who says what, where to stand, when to move and to where, and so on.

It is important, therefore, that the Bride and Groom, Bridesmaids and Pageboys, the Best Man and the Bride's father (or person who will escort her into Church).

The Bride's mother may also want to be involved, if only to watch. You may also wish to include ushers or anyone else who is going to take part in the service, for example, ushers and anyone doing any reading or saying prayers.

THE MARRIAGE REGISTERS

AND THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

Your marriage certificate is a copy of the entry in the Marriage registers. It is important to keep this document safely, as there is a charge for duplicate copies.

When you sign the register, please write your full name (not initials). The same applies to your witnesses. Although it may seem impressive to have a fancy signature, these are legal documents and all those who sign the register must write clearly so that the name can be easily read.

The Bride will sign with her starting surname, not her new marital surname.

FLOWERS

Wedding flowers may be arranged by the Church Florists, unless they have a prior engagement at very competitive prices.

Arrangements can be placed in many positions in the Church. In addition, ribbon bows may be placed on the ends of the pews by arrangement with your own florist and Mrs Carrington. Arrangements can be left in Church after the service, or you can take them onto your reception or give away as gifts.

During Advent and Lent all flowers must be removed after the service. The Church Florists have special arrangements to enable decoration of the St Nicholas Lych-gate. Please ask if you want this entrance way decorated.

The colour and number of arrangements is your choice unless there are more weddings on the same day. In that event, agreement must be reached between the different parties.

The charges for flowers from the Church Florists are as follows:

Altar (2 displays)	£60.00
Pulpit (2 displays)	£60.00
Vicar's Pews (2 displays)	£30.00
Stands	£35.00 each
Back window (Big window facing the church doors)	£30.00
Font	£25,.00
Pew ends in flowers	£7.50 each
Pew ends in Bows	£10.00 each
Memorial Corner	£40.00
Side Windows	£20.00 each
Topiary (Two trees)	£10.00
Lych Gate Garlands	£10 for 2

Payments must be made 4 weeks prior to the wedding date in order to allow the purchase of the relevant flowers.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS

Weddings are 'one-off' events and it is understandable that people wish to try to capture the special day. However, weddings are primarily acts of worship that have their own, often complex, dynamics. We are grateful that most photographers and videographers are professional, discrete and considerate. However, experience has shown that some are less discrete and are not considerate. To avoid this distraction, we therefore only permit official photographers to take photos during a wedding, and then only if they have consulted with the vicar prior to the service.

Informal photographs can, of course, be taken by guests after the signing of the Registers as you process out and afterwards in the grounds surrounding the church or in the church itself, providing there is no other wedding imminent.

ORDERS OF SERVICE

Many couples decide to have an Order of Service printed for their wedding, although hymn books are available. Please consult the Vicar before printing.

Whatever you decide upon, it is helpful that you see the Vicar with your proposed Order of Service, and that you have agreed all the music with the organist **before** the order of service is printed. Some couples decide to have just the processional music and hymns printed. Others have the service printed in full, it is possible to have a simple order of service printed at St. Nicholas' Parish Office at a cost of £15.00 for 100 copies.

CONFETTI

Weddings are times of celebration, and that can often include the throwing of confetti when the couples leave the church or during photographs. However, this can cause considerable distress to others visiting the church or churchyard, particularly if we have a funeral or someone is visiting a grave. This is particularly important at St. Nicholas where the grounds have many regularly visited graves and the sight of confetti covering them may cause distress.

Please ask your guests not to throw confetti outside the church or on the surrounding grounds.

We recommend the use of biodegradable confetti, such as rose petals, and that this is thrown beyond the lych-gate when you depart.

Thank you for your consideration and care.

PRAYERS

The prayers are an integral part of the church service, including your wedding. The Vicar will lead these unless you tell him/ her that you would like a family member or friend to say the prayers.

If someone other than the Vicar is leading the prayers, they must ensure that they are appropriate for the Christian commitment you are making; guidance on their content can be provided by your Vicar.

READING

The main reading during a wedding service needs to be one chosen from the Bible, as this is a Christian service. There are many appropriate readings for a wedding and some of these can be found on the Church of England website:

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/your-wedding/reading.aspx>

Please consider your choices and come prepared to discuss this with the Vicar when you meet prior to the wedding rehearsal. Your choice of reading will reflect the short talk the Vicar will give as part of the service. You may want the Vicar to read, or have a family member or friend that would read this for you. Either choice is fine, but you will need to let the Vicar know if he or she are reading or not.

You may also want to have the other readings to compliment and add to your service, such as appropriate poems or extracts from a book. Please discuss your choices with your Vicar so that he or she can include them as appropriate as they prepare for your wedding service.

MUSIC

The organist at St. Nicholas, Mr. George Swift, will be pleased to assist you with the choice of music for your marriage service.

Processional Music

Many couples use the traditional “Bridal March” from Lohengrin by Wagner, or the “Wedding March” by Mendelssohn.

However, there is a great deal of other music which can be chosen, so if you would prefer something different, please talk to the organist.

HYMNS

There are usually two or three hymns during the service. Your choice of hymns will help to create the overall theme of the service.

Some of the more popular hymns for weddings are listed below:

Hymns of Praise

All my hope on God is founded
All things bright and beautiful
Angel voices ever singing
For the beauty of the earth
O worship the king all glorious above
O praise ye the Lord!
Praise my soul the king of heaven
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
For Joining Together

Come down O love divine
God of mercy, God of grace
Lead us heavenly Father
Lord of all hopefulness
Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
Make me a channel of peace
The King of love my shepherd is
For Dedication

Father hear the prayer we offer
Give me joy in my heart
Love divine, all loves excelling
Now thank we all our God

Before you make any final decisions about music at your wedding, please speak to the organist. The organist has experience of many weddings and can help you make the right choice for your service.

THE DAY ITSELF

It is important to be relaxed on your wedding day so you can enjoy it. Spend the time before the service getting yourself ready - let everyone else do the running around, panicking about the buttonholes and where mum put her new shoes!

The bridegroom and best man should arrive at the Church at least half an hour before the start of the service. Arrange for the wedding car to get the bride to the Church 10 minutes before the start of the service so that photographs can be taken without being rushed. If one car is doing multiple journeys, ferrying bridesmaids before the bride then please plan very carefully to be early.

It may seem traditional and desirable to be late and keep the groom waiting, but to arrive late at Church means being flustered at a time when you need to be calm and collected. The vicar will still make sure that the bride is fashionably late for her wedding! This will allow any latecomers to arrive before she does. Being on time for your service will also impact on any later events. If you are late, then you need to be aware that the vicar reserves the right to cut the non-essential parts of the service.

The service itself is about the two of you and you should enjoy it. It can all be a bit overwhelming and nerve-wracking, but everyone in Church loves you and has come to support you. You may remember nothing from your rehearsal, but the vicar does know what you need to do, so you can relax and enjoy your wedding as he/she guides you through every step until they send you down the aisle as a newly married husband and wife!

THE HONEYMOON

If you are going abroad for your honeymoon, brides may wish to have their passport changed to their married name. You will need to get a form from the Passport Office to be completed by the Vicar. You should do this at least three months before the date of your wedding.

NOW YOU ARE MARRIED...

In all good fairy tales, the couple live happily ever after...

But the marriage vows you'll say in Church include the words "For better, for worse...". Marriage is about the union of two people's lives and marriage, like life, has its ups and downs. So don't feel that your marriage is failing just because things don't run smoothly or you are experiencing some difficulties. If you are having difficulties of any sort, don't be afraid to seek help.

You can go to someone you trust and respect. You can contact one of the specialist marital counselling agencies, like Relate. Or you are always free to contact one of our team clergy, maybe the Vicar who married you, through the parish office - part of our commitment to you as the church is that we will offer ongoing support if you ask us to.

Marriage is also filled with joys and pleasures.

You are just about to start a new chapter in your lives and everyone in the 3 churches of Sutton Team Parish wishes you God's blessing and every joy and happiness in your future life together.

May you and your family know all the riches of God's blessing!

CHECKLIST

This booklet contains helpful guidance about what you need to do and when you need to do it. This checklist should provide an easy to follow guide of when things need to be done.

As soon as you decide to get married:

Contact the Parish Office to arrange a time and a date for the wedding - this usually needs to be done at the same time as you organise your wedding reception and at least 6 months before your desired wedding date. There are legal considerations to be mindful of so the earlier the better.

At least three months before:

Contact the Vicar of the Parish (or Parishes) where you live to have your banns published. Check you have an appointment to see the Vicar to discuss the details of your wedding.

Contact the Organist to discuss the details of the music and hymns you want for the service.

Have your orders of service printed **AFTER** you have seen the Vicar and the Organist. Contact Mrs Carrington to discuss the flowers that you want and the decoration of the church.

The week before:

Make final arrangements with Mrs. Carrington regarding the flowers

Pay the final balance of the fees at the parish office.

Attend the wedding rehearsal and bring along with you:

- The banns certificate if from a different parish
- The video indemnity form
- At least 3 copies of the order of service

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office 01744 813841 or e-mail suttonparish@btconnect.com.

Opening hours are 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Monday to Friday

Flowers- Mrs. Carrington 01744 634578 or Mrs. Fairhurst 01744 621691