

The Church of England in Central Windsor

Your Wedding



Parish Church of St John the Baptist
Parish Church of St Stephen & St Agnes
Holy Trinity Parish & Garrison Church
All Saints' Church

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage!
We want your day to be special and one that you will remember.

We would like to share in your celebrations and to assist you as you plan your wedding. This booklet is to help you as you make decisions about the place, the service and other important features of your special day.

CHURCHES

There are four Anglican (Church of England) Churches in central Windsor. Each church has its own unique features and character. Please feel free to visit them either at our regular worship times or at a time to suit you.

Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, High Street: open every day
www.windsorparishchurch.org.uk

Parish Church of St Stephen and St Agnes, Vansittart Road:
open most days www.ststephenwindsor.org.uk

All Saints' Church; Frances Road: open Tuesday & Saturday
www.allsaintswindsor.org.uk

Holy Trinity Parish & Garrison Church, Claremont Road: open 9:30-11:30am,
Weds - Sat www.holytrinitywindsor.org.uk

Anyone who currently resides within the parish boundaries of these four churches is likely to be able to get married in one of the Team churches.

You can find out if you live within the Team boundaries by looking on
www.achurchnearyou.com

Below are other ways that you can qualify; -

If you or your fiancé(e)

is on the (church) electoral roll of one of the four churches

has been baptised in one of the four churches

has been prepared for confirmation within the Team

has at any time lived within the Team boundaries for at least 6 months.

has attended any Team church service regularly on a Sunday for at least 6 months

Or if the parent(s) of either at any time after you were born:

Have lived within the Team boundaries for a period of at least 6 months

Or if either of your parents or grandparents:

were married in one of the Team churches

If you do not qualify under any of the above, then you may choose to attend any one of the Team churches regularly on a Sunday (at least once a month) for a period of at least eight months before the date of your wedding. We can help you to show that you have been meeting these criteria.

It may be necessary to prove your entitlement to marry in Windsor by showing proof of residency, your parents' or grandparents' marriage certificate, your baptism or confirmation certificate. We will also ask to see your passports.

MARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE

If one of you has been married before please speak with one of the clergy who will be happy to discuss this with you.

It may be possible in the Church of England to marry in church even if one or both partners have been divorced. We will talk with you about your situation and your hopes for a new beginning together and advise you.

The church also offers a Service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage (sometimes called a 'Marriage Blessing').

YOUR WEDDING

Marriages may take place on any day of the week between 8am and 6pm. However, we do not accept weddings during Holy Week i.e. the seven days preceding Easter Sunday. We will liaise with you about the place, time and date of your wedding. Please remember that there are regular church services on Sundays and at other times during the week.

BANNS AND LICENCES

Most couples are married 'by banns' (see page 6).

In certain circumstances marriages are by Common Licence or by Special Licence. If one party is a non - UK national the marriage may be by way of Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule (see below).

MARRIAGE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

If you or your fiancée are not British nationals you will require a Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule. We will be able to advise you when you speak to us about your wedding but the previous regulations concerning qualification to marry also apply.

WEDDING PREPARATION

We believe it is very important that those who want to get married take time to consider deeply the steps being taken as they commit themselves to each other in a life-long relationship. We invite each couple to one of our Marriage Preparation courses. These are usually held on a Saturday at one of the Team churches. There will also be plenty of opportunity to meet the member of clergy who will conduct your wedding.

THE SERVICE

Most couples choose to produce an order of service for their wedding. We can guide you about the content and layout for your order of service. Please ensure that you check your order of service with us before it is printed.

You may choose two or three hymns to be sung during the service and one or two readings, one of which must be a bible reading; we can guide you on your choice of suitable bible passages. Our Director of Music is happy to advise you about music for the beginning, during and end of the service, choice of hymns and options for the parish choir, a professional choir, solo singers and instrumentalists if you wish. Please contact him in good time to discuss your requirements. If you choose to use your own organist, the church organist is entitled to an additional fee.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

A professional photographer may take photos during the service though we ask that your photographer liaises with us before the service so that we can ensure that he/she is discreet and does not disrupt your wedding. We do not allow flash photography and discourage others from taking photos during the marriage service. If you choose to have a video of your wedding, you may require a video licence because of copyright issues. You can obtain more information from www.prsformusic.com. Please note that both our organist and any professional singers/musicians may charge an extra fee for their performance if it is being recorded.

CONFETTI

Biodegradable confetti may be thrown outside after the service, away from the main church doors.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

You will have a rehearsal shortly before your wedding,

FEES FOR WEDDINGS IN 2021 IN ALL THE TEAM CHURCHES

Marriage Service inc banns	£495
Verger's fee	£45
Organist (+£40 if video taken)	£120**
Parish Choir	£140**
(Fees for professional choir/musicians to be agreed with organist)**	
Bells (Parish Church of St John the Baptist)	£170**
Carillon (Holy Trinity Church)	£30**
Heating (from 1st Oct to 30th April if necessary)	£100

** optional

FINALLY

You have chosen to make your vows and promises to each other in church before God. Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God. Your wedding is a public recognition of the love you have for one another – a love that reflects the love that God has for each of us.

As you make your vows to one another, remember that this is a place of prayer where people have gathered together to worship God for many years and continue to do so. There is plenty of helpful information about getting married in church on the Church of England website:

www.yourchurchwedding.org.

If you would like to learn more about being a Christian or are thinking about being baptised, we would be delighted to talk with you in complete confidence.

YOUR BANNS

Most weddings in the Church of England follow the calling of banns.

These are read in the church/parish where you are being married and in the church(es) where you both live in the three months preceding your marriage.

We will automatically call them here and let you know when this will be (please check with the clergy). If one or both of you live in another parish, contact should be made with that vicar, four to five months before the wedding. You can find your parish church by putting your postcode into www.achurchnearyou.com.

They will arrange for your banns to be called on three Sundays during the three months before your wedding. There is a small fee. Please ask them for a 'Banns Certificate' when they have been read and forward this to us as soon as possible. **Without this certificate(s) the marriage cannot take place.**

The fee is usually paid to your home parish on booking. The cost for calling your banns in our Team is included in the fees for your marriage.

Please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that your banns are read by another church if you do not live in one of the Team parishes, but we can help and advise you as necessary.

REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

The introduction in May 2021 of a new system for registration of marriages means that newly married couples no longer receive their marriage certificate on the day of the wedding. The new procedure is that after the wedding, the "Marriage Document" which the bride and groom and their witnesses sign on the day of the wedding is returned to the Register Office by the officiant (or someone on his/her behalf). Once received by the Register Office, the marriage will be registered formally on the computer system within 7 days. After this has happened, the bride and groom are able to apply for a certified copy or copies by email certificate.applications@rbwm.gov.uk. A website link will then be provided to order and pay for the certificate(s).

For further information, contact:

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Registry Office

Town Hall

St Ives Road

Maidenhead

SL6 1RF

Email: registrar@rbwm.gov.uk

Telephone: 01628 796422

WEDDING MUSIC

Our Director of Music, John Halsey, has put together the following information which we hope you will find helpful.

Contact details: t: 01628 602706 m: 07824 344 044
jphalsey@btinternet.com.

It is often useful to meet up at an early stage, so we can demonstrate how various pieces of music sound in the particular church where you are getting married, and help you choose the music you would like to have at your wedding or wedding blessing.

HYMNS

There are more than a thousand to choose from! Hymns that have been sung here at weddings in recent years include:

All people that on earth do dwell
All things bright and beautiful
And did those feet in ancient time (Jerusalem)
Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Give me joy in my heart
Guide me, O thou great Redeemer
I danced in the morning (Lord of the dance)
I vow to thee, my country
Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
Lord of all hopefulness
Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus, Shine)
Love divine, all loves excelling
Make me a channel of your peace
Morning has broken
Now thank we all our God
O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height
One more step along the world I go
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Aim to choose hymns that you both know and love and which your guests will join in singing enthusiastically. Also, check that all the text is appropriate for your wedding (for example you might think twice about 'I danced in the morning' which includes the words 'The sky turned black' and 'The devil on your back').

Some hymns have various versions of the words. Be careful if you download words from the internet to include in your printed order of service, as the version you download could for example be a version used in the USA but unfamiliar in the UK, or it could be a historically outdated version.

In order to help you choose the hymns, and also to get the most appropriate version of the hymns, you may be able to borrow a hymn book from the clergy or the director of music. The hymn books available in our churches are: New English Hymnal, Common Praise; Mission Praise. You can of course choose other hymns not in these books.

Some hymns have more than one possible tune. When you meet the organist, do check that the tune you want is the one that will be played.

ORGAN MUSIC

A wide range of music is possible. The pieces listed below are amongst the most popular choices ...

At the entrance of the bride:

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	Handel
Bridal chorus, from 'Lohengrin'	Wagner
Trumpet voluntary (The Prince of Denmark's March)*	Clarke
Trumpet tune, from Te Deum*	Charpentier
A thousand years	Christina Perri

* these can also be performed with trumpeter

During Registration of the Marriage:

Ave Maria (optionally also with soprano soloist) arr. Gounod	JS Bach,
Laudate Dominum (with soprano soloist)	Mozart
Let the bright seraphim (with soprano and trumpet)	Handel
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Jesu, joy of man's desiring (optionally, also with choir)	JS Bach
Air from Suite No. 3 in D	JS Bach

For the Recessional (as the bride and groom leave the church):

Finale from Symphonie No.1	Vierne
Prelude & Fugue in G, BWV541	JS Bach
Toccata, from Symphonie No. 5	Widor
Trumpet tune*	Purcell
Trumpet voluntary, from Op.6 No.5*	Stanley
Wedding March, from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'	Mendelssohn

* these can also be performed with trumpeter

TEAM CHOIR

Anthems suitable for singing during registration of the marriage:

A Clare Benediction	Rutter
A Gaelic Blessing	Rutter
Ave verum	Elgar
Ave verum	Mozart
For the beauty of the earth	Rutter
God be in my head	Walford Davies
Jesu, joy of man's desiring	JS Bach
Panis angelicus	Franck

PROFESSIONAL CHOIR

Anthems suitable for singing during registration of the marriage:

Any of the Parish Choir items listed, plus many others including:

Beati quorum via (6 voices)	Stanford
My beloved spake (8 voices)	Hadley
Set me as a seal upon thy heart(6 voices)	Walton
The heavens are telling (4 voices)	Haydn

OTHER OPTIONS

Consider including a trumpeter or a vocal soloist to add something extra special to the music (see options listed under "Organ Music" above).

It is often possible to make special arrangements of other pieces of popular and classical music, and to fix vocal and instrumental soloists according to your requirements. Please discuss this with the Director of Music. At the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, the piano may be used instead of the organ to play during the registration and to accompany singers or other instrumentalists. You may prefer to have recorded music played from a CD on the church sound system. That's fine, but if you do choose this, then please test the system well in advance and make sure that one of your guests or someone from the church is well briefed on which buttons to press when! And remember that recorded music never sounds as good in church as live music!

COPYRIGHT

If you are making a sound or video recording of copyright music, you may need to apply for a licence. Please check this with your videographer.

VIDEO FEES

If you have a professional videographer additional musicians' fees apply. The clergy and organist will let you know the details. However, these fees do not apply if the video recording is made discreetly by a member of the congregation who remains stationary in their place and who uses a hand-held device (e.g. mobile phone or small video camera).

OUTLINE OF ORDER OF SERVICE

Before the service – music or organ playing

Entrance of the bride – music of your choice

Hymn/song (of your choice)

Marriage Preface

Declarations

Collect

Reading (non Bible reading if wanted)

Reading from the Bible

Sermon/address

Hymn/song (of your choice)

The Marriage, including Vows & Exchange of Rings

Blessing of the Marriage

Registration of the Marriage (music of your choice)

Hymn/song (of your choice)

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Exit of the bride and groom – music of your choice

SUGGESTED BIBLE READINGS FOR WEDDINGS

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6,7

My beloved speaks and says to me:
‘Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.
Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of one’s house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Romans 12.1,2,9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 4.7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Introduction

THE WELCOME

The minister welcomes the people using these or other appropriate words

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you
All and also with you.

This sentence may be used
God is love, and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

This prayer may be said
**All God of wonder and of joy:
grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Without you, we cannot please you;
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you now
with thankful hearts
and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A hymn may be sung.

PREFACE

These words are said
In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we have come together
to witness the marriage of N and N,
to pray for God's blessing on them,
to share their joy
and to celebrate their love.
Marriage is a gift of God in creation
through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.
It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,
they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind,
as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together
in the delight and tenderness of sexual union
and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.
It is given as the foundation of family life
in which children are (born and) nurtured
and in which each member of the family,
in good times and in bad,
may find strength, companionship and comfort,
and grow to maturity in love.
Marriage is a way of life made holy by God,
and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.
Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty
which all should uphold and honour.
It enriches society and strengthens community.
No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly
but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.
N and N are now to enter this way of life.
They will each give their consent to the other
and make solemn vows,
and in token of this they will (each) give and receive a ring.
We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen
them,
that they may fulfil God's purposes
for the whole of their earthly life together.

THE DECLARATIONS

The minister says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

The minister says to the bridegroom

N, will you take N to be your wife?

*Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?*

He answers

I will.

The minister says to the bride

N, will you take N to be your husband?

*Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?*

She answers

I will.

The minister says to the congregation

*Will you, the families and friends of N and N,
support and uphold them in their marriage
now and in the years to come?*

*All **We will.***

THE COLLECT

The minister says the Collect

God our Father,

from the beginning

you have blessed creation with abundant life.

Pour out your blessings upon N and N,

*that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.*

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All **Amen.***

READINGS

A reading from the Bible is used. Another reading may also be included

SERMON

THE MARRIAGE

A hymn may be sung.

The couple stand before the minister.

THE VOWS

The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words
*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.
These words are used*

*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 GIVING OF RINGS

The minister receives the ring(s), 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.

If rings are exchanged, 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.

If only one ring is used, before they loose hands the bride says
N, I receive 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.

THE PROCLAMATION

The minister addresses the people
In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
N and N have given their consent
and made their marriage vows to each other.
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands
and by the giving and receiving of rings.
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says
Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The husband and wife kneel. The minister may use the following blessing

Blessed are you, heavenly Father.

All **You give joy to bridegroom and bride.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All **You bring life to the world.**

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God.

All **You bind us together in love.**

Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The minister says to the couple

God the Father,

God the Son,

God the Holy Spirit,

bless, preserve and keep you;

the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,

that you may please him both in body and soul,

and, living together in faith and love,

may receive the blessings of eternal life.

All **Amen.**

REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

A hymn may be sung

PRAYERS

Prayers are said concluding with The Lord's Prayer

THE DISMISSAL

The minister says

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,

defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

You are welcome to come along to any of the Team church services (see below) or please contact us on windsor.churchoffice@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our pattern of services at this time is one service in one of our Team churches at 10:00am each Sunday.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons, material from which is included here is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006 and published by Church House Publishing.