

The Wedding Guide



Updated 01/01/19

St Mary the Virgin
Whickham

Congratulations!

We at St Mary's are delighted that you're thinking of getting married, or perhaps are looking to renew your vows in our historic and beautiful church. Marriage is a decision of a life time. Whether you are seeking:

- *Marriage,*
- *or a wedding blessing following a civil service,*
- *or wish to renew your vows after many happy years together*

we believe our depth of experience will prove invaluable in helping you plan and prepare for the 'big day' and beyond.

Is a Church Wedding for me?

We believe in the importance of Christian Marriage. At the core of every marriage is the expectation of a shared, loving and spiritual journey. Christians believe that marriage is a gift of God through which husband and wife come to know his love and grace. It is also the foundation of family life in which children are loved and nurtured; where all may find strength, companionship and comfort. A church wedding is a living sign of unity and loyalty which enriches society and strengthens family and community. Christian Marriage has a central place in shaping a community.

Can I be married at St Mary's?

Normally the answer will be yes! If you are eighteen, single and

- *one of you lives in the Parish of Wickham, or*
 - *one of you regularly worships at the church, or*
 - *one of you has a special connection with the church,*
- then we will be pleased to marry you. Even if you fall outside of these requirements we will treat each application on merit.



Appendix C: Provisional Application for Marriage/Service of Blessing/Renewal of Vows

| Full Name | Age at time of service | Condition | Profession | Address at time of publishing Banns including Tel. No. | Father's full name | Father's Profession |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| Man | | Bachelor Widower Divorcee | | | | |
| Woman | | Spinster Widower Divorcee | | | | |

| Nationality | What is your DoB? | Baptised? If yes, where? | How long have you lived at your present address? | What is the name of your Parish Church? (CoE) | Date of Service: | Time: |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--|---|------------------|-------|
| Man | | Yes/No | | | | |
| Woman | | Yes/No | | | | |

Office use only:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Rights of Residency? | Y/N |
| Electoral roll member? | Y/N |
| Church connections? | Y/N |
| Banns to be read on... | Y/N |
| Licence required? | Y/N |
| £200 deposit received? | Y/N |
| Date | |

Template for an Order of Service

This template is based on a folded sheet of A4, producing 4 pages. The headings reflect our usual pattern of service and have proven useful to couples in the production of their own Order of Service.

| |
|----------------------------------|
| St Mary the Virgin Whickham |
| The marriage of |
| <i>Full Name and Full Name</i> |
| Saturday 23 July 2018 at 1.00pm |
| The service will be conducted by |
| The Revd <i>Full Name</i> |

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| At the Entrance of the Bride |
| Trumpet Voluntary.....Clarke |
| The Welcome and Opening Prayers |
| Hymn (<i>write out in full</i>) |

| |
|---|
| Reading: John 15: 9-7.....read by Name |
| The Vows |
| The Giving of the Rings |
| The Blessing of the Marriage |
| Reading: Love is a temporary madness.....read by Name |
| Hymn or Anthem |

| |
|---|
| Prayers |
| Hymn (<i>write out in full</i>) |
| Registration of the Marriage |
| Anthem |
| Ave Verum.....Mozart: sung by St Mary's Choir |
| The Final Blessing |
| Recessional |
| Wedding March.....Mendelssohn |

I'm not baptised, I don't attend a church. Can I still get married at St Mary's?

Yes! None of this precludes you. We are just happy you want us to be part of your day.

I'm divorced, can I still get married at St Mary's?

Yes, in most cases. We believe that marriage is for life but recognise that some marriages fail. At St Mary's we believe in a God of grace and love who always gives us a second chance. A discussion with Fr Barry (*there are one or two things he needs to check out*) will normally result in a 'green light'. It would be helpful if you could bring the original *decree absolute* when you come to book the wedding.

Can we marry on any day?

Generally yes, as long as the church is free and Fr Barry has agreed the date and time.

Why do we need marriage preparation?

We know the 'big day' is important, but more so is the rest of your life together. On occasions, we will invite you to attend at least one of our 'marriage suppers', held quarterly in the St Mary's Centre. The evening will run from 7pm-9pm and include a pleasant meal shared with other couples... complete with a guest speaker! These evenings offer a consistent and quality approach to those preparing for marriage, as well as support, for those recently married. At this evening we will ask you for your music/readings and other details for the service (Appendices A & B)

Do we have to contact the local Registrar?

No. Church of England ordained ministers are Registrars in their own right. Fr Barry will guide you through the necessary legalities and paperwork.

How much will it cost to get married?

Our standard church wedding costs £734 This includes the fees for the church, verger, organist and flowers. Should you want the choir and/or bell ringers, an additional £120 is charged for each. (However on week days, because we rely on bell ringers from further afield, the charge rises to £150). A non returnable deposit of £250 secures your booking.

I'm considering having a 'civil marriage' at home or maybe abroad, can I have my marriage blessed in church?

Yes. We know many factors will have influenced your decision in choosing where to marry. If you decide not to marry in church we are still happy to offer a Service of Blessing. This will be a special occasion where God gives his blessing to you and promises to be with you in your married life. It's also an opportunity for your family and friends to gather around you as you stand in God's presence. It's also a chance to wear that beautiful dress again!

We would like to renew our vows, can you help?

Yes. There is something very special when a couple come to church to give thanks to God for their marriage and to publicly recommit to one another in the renewing of marriage vows. The service can be as grand or as intimate as you wish.

Appendix B: Service checklist

What music do you want at the beginning and end of the service?

Entrance of the bride

End of service procession

What hymns do you want?

1.

2.

3.

What readings do you want?

1.

2.

Do you want the choir?

Yes

No

If yes, what anthem do you want the choir to sing?

Do you want bells?

Yes

No

Do you want flowers?

Yes

No

Are you filming the service?

Yes

No

Are you creating an Order of Service?

Yes

No

Do you have any requests?

Yes

No

If yes, what is it you would like to suggest?

Number of:

Bridesmaids?

Flower girls?

Page boys?

Best men?

Ring bearers?

Ushers?

Appendix A: Music & Reading suggestions

Entrance of the Bride:

Bridal March: Lohengrin-Wager
Prince of Denmark: Clarke
Trumpet Tune in D: Purcell
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba: Handel
Prelude to a Te Deum: Charpentier
Trumpet Tune: John Stanley

Hymns:

Christ is our corner stone
Come down, O Love Divine
Father hear the prayer we offer
God of mercy. God of grace
Lord, Jesus Christ
Lord the light of your Love is shining
Make me a channel of your peace
O Jesus I have promised
Such Love
We shall go out with joy
Give me joy in heart (Sing Hosanna)

Anthems: Sung by Choir

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| A Gaelic Blessing, | Ave verum, | Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire, |
| Come, Holy Spirit, | Lead me, Lord, | Jesu, joy of man's desiring, |
| Love one another with pure heart, | | O come ye servants of the Lord, |
| O Holy Spirit Lord of grace, | | The Lord bless you and keep you, |

The above are suggestions only. For further guidance please speak with our Director of Music, Michael Grave on 01207 506208.

Readings:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Song of Solomon | 2: 10-13 | Matthew | 5: 1-10 |
| John | 2: 1-11 | 1 Corinthians | 13: 1-13 |
| Philippians | 4: 4-9 | 1 John | 4: 7-12 |

The above are suggestions only. For further guidance contact Fr Barry.

How much does it cost to have a Service of Blessing or a Service of Renewal of Vows?

As there are no legal requirements involved with these services, the cost is less. Our basic is to be negotiated. This includes the fees for the church, vergers, and organist. Couples often want to recreate the atmosphere of a wedding, flowers can be arranged through our Flower Guild for £60. We can organise the choir and/or bell ringers, at an additional fee of £120 each. (However on week days, because we rely on bell ringers from further afield, the charge rises to £150). A non returnable deposit of £250 secures your booking.

Can you help with our reception?

Yes. We have good facilities in the nearby St Mary's Centre and are able to put you in contact with local caterers. Please speak to our Parish Manager on 0191 488 1553 who will be happy to discuss your needs and the costs involved.

Can we be involved in planning the service?

Yes! As far as possible we would love you to help shape the service. Below you will find some suggestions for music, hymns and readings (Appendix A) There is also a useful check list for you to use and a template for an order of service (Appendix B).



Can you tell me more about the Choir and Bell Ringers?

We have a good choir and a good team of bell ringers and they add to the atmosphere and sense of occasion of the day. There is an additional charge for their services (see Pages 3 & 4). In both cases, we will endeavour to meet your requirements depending upon the availability of singers and ringers.

Wherever possible we will try to meet your music choices as long as we have plenty of notice, so it is important to have a firm idea of your choices when you come to one of the 'wedding suppers'.

Can we have flowers in church?

Yes, flowers will enhance your big day. All arrangements are made through St Mary's Flower Guild. The Guild provide high quality displays at very reasonable prices. They understand both the needs of couples as well as the needs of the church. Please contact Mrs S. Renton (0191 488 3944). The Guild will make every endeavour to fulfil your needs with beautiful displays for your wedding.

If other couples are being married on the same day as you, we ask you to contact the people involved. This will allow you to coordinate and agree colour schemes. Unless you state otherwise, we will assume we may give your telephone number to other couples for this purpose. We provide the very best of blooms through local suppliers at reasonable costs.



Want to know what other people think of our weddings?

'The service was exactly what we had wanted and we had a wonderful day. The team at St Mary's really made our day'.

'We would like to thank you for a lovely wedding service it really made our day. Everything in the church was perfect'.

'It was so nice to share one of our proudest days with you, our family and friends. Many of the guests said they thought the service was so personal'.

'Just a note to say thank you for the wonderful ceremony you provided on our wedding day. Every word was so meaningful to us and many of our guests were inspired by the service. We are thoroughly enjoying married life'.

'Thanks for making our day special'.

'Words could never begin to express how grateful we are to you, for preparing us for marriage, and allowing us to be married in St Mary's Whickham. To exchange our vows as part of a religious ceremony was important to us. It was a wonderful service'.

Need more information?

Fr Barry: 0191 488 7397, bjabbott@virginmedia.com

Parish Office: 0191 488 1553, stmaryswhickham@hotmail.co.uk

www.stmaryswhickham.com

www.churchofengland.org



What do we have to do now?

To find out more about our weddings and services of Blessing or Renewal of Vows, come along to St Mary's any Tuesday between 5.30pm-6.30pm. We will be happy to show you around and answer any further questions. If you are intending to make a booking please bring with you the completed application form (Appendix C) and deposit.

Whatever your situation we want to meet your needs and make your day special. We believe this is what God wants for you too. As the words of the marriage service tells us:

'Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. 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.'



Will my friend be able to sing in church, can photographs be taken and a video made of the ceremony?

Friends or family may sing appropriate songs during the service. The building has a good acoustic and suits most types of voice, particularly when accompanied by musicians. However requests for the use of backing tapes/discs, or performers using their own amplifiers and microphones will be declined.

The dignity of any service is important and we ask you to let your photographer know that 'stills photography' is strictly controlled during the service, allowed only at the signing of the registers/certificate and the final procession. However, one movie of the service may be made, with the camera positioned at one of three designated points. Please note the recording of the ceremony in which music and songs are used requires you to obtain a video licence available from **www.prsformusic.com**

All photographers, videographers and musicians are asked to recognise the sacred space of the church building and the religious worship taking place. They should not be invited to attend the wedding rehearsal as this is a special time of preparation shared between the priest, couple and family.

