
Weddings at St Peter's and St James



2023 Guide Booklet

**'Showing Jesus is Lord in our
worship, witness, prayer and care'**



What do Christians believe about marriage?

The marriage service begins with a summary of what Christians believe marriage is for.

Three important reasons are given:

- 1) It is to be our best and closest friend
- 2) It offers the right place for the fulfillment of our sexuality. Sex is a wonderful God-given gift, experienced at its best in the context of a totally committed relationship
- 3) It provides a happy, stable and secure environment for bringing up children.

This is the Christian ideal for marriage and no true lovers would want to take vows that implied less.

The marriage ceremony is a public declaration of your love for each other and a new statement of your commitment to an ongoing relationship. It will give you a new legal status as husband and wife and a new stability within which your relationship can grow and flourish. In choosing to get married in church you are also saying that you want God to be part of your relationship.

The Bible is full of references to love, and Christians believe that the love we have for each other is a reflection of God's love for his people on earth. Jesus demonstrated this love most perfectly by being prepared to sacrifice himself, even to die for us, on the cross at Calvary. Christians believe that in this amazing example of unconditional love, Jesus dealt once and for all with the problems of sinfulness. Even though we are still not perfect people, He made it possible for us to have and enjoy a new relationship with God as we believe and put our trust in Him.

In our marriages we can try to follow this model by loving our partner in a self-sacrificial way, always putting their needs before your own. Including God in your marriage doesn't mean that you will necessarily avoid the usual ups and downs, but you will know that you can look to him for help and guidance and that His love will sustain you in the years ahead.

You will also have the support and encouragement of the Christian church family to rely upon. We sincerely hope that you will keep in touch with us after your marriage.



"Wherever you go,
go with all your
heart"

Loveable



Christian marriage is both wonderful and meaningful and, therefore, we take great care in our preparation with you for the big day. Here is the full programme:

BOOK WEDDING

AGREE DATES WITH THE PARISH OFFICE FOR THE BANNS TO BE READ IN CHURCH

MEET MINISTER 3 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION AND TO ARRANGE SERVICE DETAILS

ATTEND A CHURCH SERVICE ON AT LEAST ONE OF THE AGREED DATES TO HEAR BANNS READ

REHEARSAL IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE

Wedding day

Marriage Preparation - When you meet with the Minister for marriage preparation, it is essential that both of you are present for the meeting and that you have your passport with you. If you do not have a passport you must contact the Parish Office immediately to discuss what alternatives there are.

Banns - If both of you live in the parish, then we arrange for your banns to be called at either St Peter's or St James Church. If, however, one of you lives in another parish, then you must arrange for the banns to be called there. This should be done not more than ten weeks and not less than five weeks prior to the wedding. When your banns have been called at the other parish, then the minister there will issue you with a banns certificate (for which there is a fee) and you must bring this when you attend the rehearsal.

Organist - The Parish Office will book an organist as soon as the wedding booking is received. The cost of this is included in the fee.

Music to arrive ('Introit') and recess ('Recessional') to

You are welcome to come into church and process out of church to any music you would like, a CD player is linked to the sound system in both churches. However, here is a suggestion of some more traditional music for a wedding:

Wagner: The Bridal March from
Lohengrin
Handel: Solomon – The Arrival of the
Queen of Sheba
Mendelssohn: Wedding March

JS Bach: Toccata and Fugue in D minor
Pachelbel: Canon
JS Bach: Suite No.1 – Prelude
Clarke: Trumpet Voluntary
Widor: Toccata from Symphony No. 5

During the wedding we advise three hymns as part of the service, here is a selection of popular wedding hymns:

All Things Bright and Beautiful Amazing Grace As man and woman we were made At Cana's wedding long ago Be still for the presence of the Lord Come to a wedding	For the beauty of the earth Give me joy in my heart Love divine all loves excelling The Lord's my Shepherd Be thou my vision Morning has broken Lord of the dance	The King of Love my shepherd is Prasie my soul, the King of heaven Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us Guide me O my great Redeemer Make me a channel of your peace
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These are only a selection and there may be other hymns you prefer, so please discuss them with the minister who is conducting your wedding. More are available here yourchurchwedding.org/hymns



Flowers - You may put your own flowers in church or arrange to have a florist, if you do want other decorations then we ask that these are taken away after the wedding. To arrange these to be put into the church please speak to the Parish Office.

2023 Fee - The cost of your wedding is £625, which includes the Organist's and Verger's fees but does not include the cost of Banns (£34). There is an additional supplement for heating of £25 in Sept, Oct and March, and £50 for Nov to Feb. All fees should please be paid in full before the wedding. Cheques should be made payable to "SPSJ PCC". You can also pay by BACS:- Sort Code 40-52-40, Account no. 00022284, Name:- St Peter's with St Owen and St James PCC.

Video – If your wedding service is to be recorded by a videographer, family friend – or even someone with a mobile phone – the only licence required is the Church Copyright (which the church has), provided the service only includes live music. Permission is also required from all participants in the service (musicians, readers etc.) if their performance is to be recorded.

If a recording of the service is made whilst a sound recording is being played (e.g. a CD), that sound recording is, in effect, being copied (dubbed). Therefore the videographer or wedding couple needs to get a Limited Manufacture Licence (LML) from the PRS for Music website at

<https://www.prsformusic.com/licences/releasing-music-products/limited-manufacture>

Please bring your licence to the rehearsal

Rehearsal - The rehearsal usually takes place in the last week before the wedding. It is helpful if the Best Man, Chief Bridesmaid and the person leading the bride into church can attend – as well as the Bride and Groom. Others are welcome as well!

Verger – A member of the Church will act as Verger at the wedding, ensuring that all practical matters (for example, the monitoring of the sound system) proceed smoothly.

Registers – Two witnessess as well as the bride and groom need to sign the registers. During the signing of the registers, our organist will play appropriate music, but if you would like different music, please discuss with the minister conducting your wedding.

Printed Order of Service –You should agree the final layout of the internal contents with the Minister taking your service BEFORE having them printed and ensure that you bring a copy with you to the rehearsal. The order of service should include the following items:-

Introit (named)
The Welcome (Rev.)
Hymn (print words)
Bible Reading (give reference)
The Address
Hymn (print words)
The Marriage
The Prayers
The Blessing
Hymn (print words)
The Signing of the Registers
Recessional (named)



We also have samples, which you can have a look at or borrow.

Confetti – We should be grateful if you would ask your guests to use only biodegradable confetti in the church yard away from the main doors.



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Happily Ever After



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