



**Who can get married at St. Mary's Church?** You can if:

1. You or your partner are resident in the parish.
2. One or both of you are entered on the church electoral roll (at least one of you must have habitually attended Sunday worship at least once a month for a period of six months prior to the wedding, and signed the Visitor's Book on each occasion, to be eligible for entry on the electoral roll).

From 2008 new regulations came into force regarding who can legally qualify to get married at St. Mary's Church. Couples need to establish a 'qualifying connection' by virtue of one or more of the following:

3. By being baptised in St. Mary's and having an entry in the Baptism Register.
4. By being confirmed in St. Mary's and having an entry in the Confirmation Register.
5. By having your usual place of residence in the Parish for at least six months.
6. By habitually attending public worship at St. Mary's for at least six months.
7. By having a parent whose usual place of residence has been in the Parish for at least six months during your lifetime.
8. By one parent habitually attending public worship at St. Mary's for at least six months.
9. By having a parent or grandparent who was married in St. Mary's and having an entry in the wedding registers.

Do talk to our Church Administrator in the first instance who will be able to offer you advice.

The Church of England teaches that marriage is for life. It also recognises that some marriages sadly do fail, and if this should happen, it seeks to be available for all involved.

The Church accepts that, **in exceptional circumstances**, a divorced person may marry again in church during the lifetime of a former spouse. So if either party has had a previous marriage dissolved then this must be discussed with the Vicar in accordance with the Church of England guidelines, having first completed the appropriate form.

### **Wedding Preparation Evening**

In plenty of time for you to plan your wedding we will be in touch to let you know the dates of your Wedding Preparation Evening at which you will meet all the church folk responsible for helping you practically and spiritually prepare for your big day. Your Preparation Evening will cover practical areas such as flowers, choice of music and hymns, seating and so on, in addition to a brief look at what will happen on the day, what words will be said and the vows you will be making to one another. The Marriage Preparation Course will offer some helpful, down to earth skills for making even the very best relationship just that much better!

### **Banns of Marriage**

Banns are a legal preliminary to a wedding. Your intention to be married is announced during a service in church on three Sundays within three months of the date that your wedding is to take place. In this parish we read Banns of Marriage on the second third & fourth Sunday services. If either of you live outside the Parish of St. Mary's your Banns must also be called in the parish where you are resident. It is your responsibility to arrange with your Parish Priest to read your Banns there. You will need to obtain a certificate that you must give to us before the wedding takes place.

### **Music and Singers**

If you require the Organist to be present at your service, you must contact the Church Office. If you would like our Worship Group or a Singing group to be in attendance then please contact the Church Office.

In addition to leading the singing of worship songs and hymns during your service, they could sing while the registers are being signed. The Organist is booked when you book your wedding as we need to give him plenty of notice. It is possible to invite other musicians to play during your service, but only if this is agreed in advance with the Church Office. For your information, we also have a Worship Band who can play more contemporary music. Music

pre-recorded on CD may also be used; please contact the Facilities Supervisor, via the Church Office to arrange this. The Supervisor is responsible for the organisation of your ushers, in addition to general management of all lighting, sound and other matters to ensure your wedding is the very best St. Mary's can offer.

### **Photographs and Recording**

Please make sure your photographer knows photographs are permitted only at the arrival of the bride and groom, during the signing of the registers, when you leave in the procession and outside the Church. Under copyright legislation couples now have to apply individually to the Performing Rights Society for a licence to video their wedding. The fee is variable depending on how long the music lasts and how many copies will be made to give to friends and family. If you wish to video record your wedding, **you** must apply to [www.prsformusic.com/lm](http://www.prsformusic.com/lm). If you have any queries about this telephone 020 8378 7555. The focus of the service is the bride and groom so it is important that the person making the recording remains in the designated area and does not distract from the couple getting married. Please note that guests are not permitted to take photos or videos during the service.

### **Service Sheets**

These are helpful to the congregation because a couple's choice may often be from a number of different hymn books. If you intend to have these printed, do allow plenty of time. Three weeks before your wedding is a good rule of thumb if you are using a professional printer.

### **Flowers**

The church is decorated with flowers throughout the year, with the exception of the six weeks before Easter (Lent). If you would like our Church Flower Team to do arrangements for you please contact Pen Barnes-Gorell via the Church Office.

### **Confetti**

You are welcome to use confetti outside the Church, as long as it is biodegradable.

### **Bells**

There are eight bells at St. Mary's that can be rung as the wedding party leaves the church if you wish. To book the bells please contact the Office.

## Fees

Below are the costs for weddings, in St. Mary's. Please feel free to discuss your particular requirements with the Church Administrator. Do note that there are some additional costs if your service is videoed. The figures in this leaflet are for 2019 and do change each year. We reserve the right to make alterations at any time.

The Cost of a Marriage Service in 2019 will be: £559  
(includes £50 booking fee deducted from the final bill,  
Wedding Certificate, publication of Banns, Church, Minister  
And verger for rehearsal and Wedding Service)

Additional Marriage Certificate produced on the day £4

### Optional additional costs for all services:

Organist's Fees	£120
Worship Group	£80
Singers' Fees	£80
Bell Ringers' Fees	£180
Use of screens and Visuals Technician	£30

These fees should be paid at **the latest** three weeks before the marriage date (the service will not take place if the fees have not been paid).

You may pay the Fees by personal or building society cheque, made payable to "St. Mary's General Account" or by credit or debit card or by BACS Transfer. It is also possible to pay by instalments.

### Being on Time for the Service

It is important to be on time for your wedding as there may well be another service after yours. If you are late, your service may have to be shortened and if you have asked for bells they will be rung for a shorter time than usual so as not to unfairly inconvenience the wedding following you.

We hope that these notes are useful, please contact the Church Office you have any further questions, we would be delighted to help you.

Our contact details are: St Mary's Church Office The Church Centre  
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