



Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding. We hope these notes will help you with planning and preparing for the “big day “.

Getting Married in Church

Getting married in church is different and special for two main reasons, firstly it’s in front of God. Wedding services are worship as well as a marriage and in that we look to God to bless our marriages. Secondly church weddings happen in the parish church at the centre of our communities. We look forward to celebrating with you in this way.

Church Contacts

- Mark Cresswell (Mark@carlfordchurches.org) is the first point of contact to arrange a wedding and will guide you through the early stages.
- Weddings will be conducted by one of our ordained clergy however we welcome visiting clergy to preach and lead prayers.

Fees

These fees are set nationally and rise each year. For 2024:

- Publication of banns of marriage £36.00. Certificate £18.
- Marriage Service fee £531.00

N.B. If one of you is not resident in one of our parishes, your banns will have to be read in the parish in which you live. The fee for this is charged by the church that reads them. You cannot be married without this certificate from your home parish!!

There are also fees for organist, bells, and flower arranging, should you wish any of these, please discuss them with the people concerned, see the end of this leaflet for details.

There is a voluntary fee of £35.00 to cover the cost of a vergers, who ensures the church is open, and gets everything ready for the service, is available throughout the service to deal with any issues that may arise and clears up after the service is over.

In cold weather there is a fee of £25.00 as a contribution towards heating costs. Around the time of the Wedding, we will send you an invoice for these fees with payment details.

Legalities

There are several legal requirements in getting married. We

- If either one of you is resident in the parish, the wedding can take place after the readings of banns, in this parish and the parish of the other party if not the same.
- Non-resident couples may also need to establish a connection with the parish like living or having lived in the parish or regularly attended worship (normally monthly for 6 months before).
- If either of you have been married before there is not an automatic right to marriage in the parish church. Discussion should be had an early stage with benefice clergy.

It's also a requirement for you to provide ID's like passports or birth certificates and a proof of your address.

Making the service special to you

Weddings are very special days and we'll support you as much as we can in making the service 'yours'. There are certain parts that have to stay for the marriage to be made, but in the hymns, readings and other music the couple have lots of choice:

- Normally would have one or two readings – one of which would be from the bible. These would be read by friends or family. The Bible readings may reflect a theme, such as love, commitment, foundations

for living, or more specifically about the love of God and the example Jesus gives us.

- You can choose two or three hymns to be sung or have other music.
- And you have the choice of music to come into, have played during the registration of the marriage and to leave to.

The Church of England Website <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/> offers lots of suggestions for hymns, readings and music.

The Marriage Sessions

Marriage Preparation is different to Wedding preparation as it's all about laying the foundations for a successful and long-lasting marriage. It's something we strongly recommend.



Each year we'll run a one day group to think about how to build a solid marriage no matter how long you've been in a relationship,

this is normally early in the calendar year and details are on the website under Weddings.

The course is based on video input from Care for the Family and giving time to discuss the course covers topics such as "The forgotten Vow", "The art of communication", "Handling conflict well" and "When the going gets tough" with an additional discussion on "Getting married in Church". There is a small charge per couple.

Planning Meetings

To start the preparation for the service we will need to have some planning meetings with you. These can be done online or face to face.

Just before three months before the date we need to meet to get (if we don't already have) your identity details, marital status, and citizenship/right to remain status and that inevitably means we'll need to take copies of your passports and proof of address. At that stage we will look at the broad outline of the service and timings.

For most couples banns are read just after about three months before and can be read in any of our churches. – Please do check with us when that would be and you'll be most welcome at those (or any) services.

In the run up to the service we will discuss the details of the service. This will include your music choices, readings and readers, and the order of service.

A couple of days before the service, usually in the evening, the person taking the service will have a rehearsal with you and all those who are playing a role like bridesmaids and the best man. It's a very good time to iron out any remaining questions and uncertainties.

Other arrangements:

Music please liaise with the minister conducting your wedding.

Organist's fees are normally £80. Organist's fee is £100 at Grundisburgh and Burgh. If the wedding is to be recorded the fee rises to £100.00 or £140 in Grundisburgh and Burgh.

To discuss and make all the necessary musical arrangements, please contact **John Cooper** for a wedding in **Grundisburgh and Burgh** 01473 254132 and in **Hasketon and Boulge Maurice Jones** 01473 735545. For other churches please ask your minister.

The choir at Grundisburgh charges £10 per head, with a maximum charge of £100. At Hasketon and Boulge the fee is £85

Bells- please contact at Otley: Jimmy Wightman - 01473 890258; Clopton : David Stanford -01394 384017; at Ashbocking – Liz Christian 01473 890767.

To book bells in other churches: If you require bells for your wedding, please contact Stephen Pettman, the Ringing Master, by email initially - qualdisc@clara.net