



St. John The Baptist Wittersham

Information for couples considering marriage.

If you are considering a marriage service at our church, the enclosed information may be helpful. If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Judy Darkins by email (judy.darkins@btinternet.com), or on

01797 270227.

“Above all, love each other deeply,”

1 Peter 4:8

BANNS:

A marriage in church normally takes place after the 'reading of banns'. Banns must be read within three months of the wedding, on three consecutive Sundays, in the parish or parishes where the bride and groom are resident. If they are being married outside of these parishes, in the church where they are regular worshippers, on the 'electoral roll' (as church members), or have a qualifying connection they must have their banns read there too. This is a legal requirement. A priest cannot conduct a marriage service, until he has received certificates from the relevant churches, to show that the banns have been read. If one or other of you has a foreign passport, then a Common license is generally required in place of banns. We always pray for couples, when their banns are read. We would be delighted to see you on these days, and indeed I would encourage you to come on other occasions too as part of your spiritual preparation.

Many couples plan their weddings well in advance of their wedding, and often move before their wedding. It is therefore very important for you to let me know in writing any change of address. It is also likely you will need to arrange to have your Banns called local to your new address. If you fail to inform of a change of address, this can invalidate your marriage.

To find out which parish you live in, use the following website: www.acny.org.uk/parishmap.php

QUALIFYING CONNECTIONS:

You can marry in a Church of England church if you can show: -

1. That one of you:

- a) has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, or
- b) was baptised in the parish concerned, or
- c) was prepared in the parish for confirmation, or
- d) has at any time attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months, or

2. That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- a) has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, or
- b) has regularly attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months, or

3. That one of your parents or grandparents:

was married in the parish.

In all cases involving church services – i.e. going to normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage – this applies only to Church of England services.

MUSIC AND HYMNS

Our regular organist is: Giles Ridley 01797 270370 You will need to contact him at a later date to discuss and agree the music.

- Music at the Entry of the Bride
- 1st Hymn
- 2nd Hymn
- 3rd Hymn
- Music during the Signing of the Register
- Music at the Exit of the Bride and Groom

FLOWERS

Please discuss arrangements for wedding flowers with Jill Dahlhoff 01797 270364

Even if couples are using 'outside' florists the couple should discuss their plans and wishes with the flower coordinators.

There are times of the year when there are restrictions as to what can be arranged in the way of flowers. Particularly for weddings in the seasons of Lent (6 weeks before Easter) and Advent (4 weeks before Christmas), where normally we don't have flowers in church. Please speak to the Rector about this.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs may only be taken without flash. Photographers need to be sensitive, and aware of the intrusion excessive number of photos during the ceremony can cause. The congregation are requested not to take photographs.

VIDEOS

To video your wedding you will need : A general Video licence. This is necessary if the music you have chosen is in copyright, and applies both for your service and at your reception. A licence can be obtained from www.wvrl.co.uk,

SERVICE LEAFLET

We encourage you to create a special service booklet/leaflet for your wedding. But please show us a draft before printing.

READINGS

Texts can be seen on line at www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/marriage/marriagefront.html Go to 'Readings and Psalms'. Other poems or readings can also be included

WEDDING FEES

Statutory fees for the banns and for the church service are fixed by the Church Commissioners and are set at the start of every year. We would be grateful if all church fees could be settled at the calling of the Banns..

WEDDING FEES 2016

Statutory Fees:

Publication of Banns of Marriage £27.00

Certificate of Banns (if required) £13.00

Marriage Service

(inclusive of all preparatory meetings) £415.00

Wedding Certificate £4.00

Additional Wedding Certificate £10.00

Additional Charges:

Verger £30.00

Organist £150.00

Standard choir £150.00

Extended choir by negotiation

Bells £200.00

Church Heating £25.00 (If in the time when heating is needed)