

For more information please contact:

the Rector, Andrew Smith 01354 279232

Welcome to Planning your Wedding.

WE ARE PLEASED that you have chosen this church for your wedding. Marriage is an important and significant step, and we hope to give couples, whatever their background, best wishes for their future life together.

MEANING OF MARRIAGE. *Please have a look through the marriage service we have given you, and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us.*

Can I also invite you to read the Introduction on the front page of the order of service you have been given, which indicates how special and important marriage is.

In the wedding service there are three acts which seal the marriage; the giving of consent, for marriage is voluntary; the promises, the same for each person, for marriage is a relationship of equals with roles that change and develop; and the giving of rings, for rings are circular without end, have people at their centre, and are made of precious and valuable material.

The service also includes celebration and prayer, and an opportunity for all those present to express their support for you, and to promise to support you in your new life together.

You and the witnesses will also sign the marriage registers and certificate, and we also hope to provide opportunities for you to record and remember this significant and happy occasion.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

The legal requirements for marriage in the Church of England are those of the Law of the Land. You have to be over 16, not too closely related, nor detained under mental health legislation and not married to anyone else. At St. Peter's and St. Mary's, we welcome those who have been married previously, and hope to give all people support for their new life together.

The rules assume it is normal for people to get married at the parish church where one or both live (or have lived) or habitually worshipped; or where there is a family connection. We hope to find ways for your special day to be in the place of significance for you.

In most cases people get married via the legal process of reading of Banns of Marriage. This announcement of your intention to marry is made on three consecutive Sundays, in a main Sunday Service, not more than three months before your wedding day. Banns have to be read in the church where the wedding will be held, and (if different) also in the churches in whose parishes the bride or groom live.

If either or both of you live outside March, we hope to tell you which is your parish church – but **YOU** will have to pay and ensure that the banns are read, and collect a certificate to give to us. We encourage all those wishing to be married to come to either of our main services, which are every Sunday at 9.15am at St Mary's or 10.45am at St Peter's for about six months before their wedding, to show their connection to Church.

If the bride or bridegroom are not resident in England or Wales, you will have to get married by Special Licence.

If either one of you are non-EU nationals, it is necessary to obtain permission to marry from the Registrar.

You are still welcome and able to get married. We will advise and help you if either of these are the case.

CONFETTI. Please feel free to use confetti as much as you like and wherever you like in the church grounds. Please try to use confetti that the birds and the squirrels can eat or use, avoiding foil confetti or otherwise non-biodegradable. Please can people put the empty boxes in the bins provided.

PHOTOGRAPHS and VIDEOS. You are welcome to take these before, during and after the service by family, friends or professionals; but please ask people to use their common sense and not be too prominent. We will do our best to enable you to have ways to remember your special day. The church will make **NO** charge for any photos or videos, however the organist does for professional videos.

READINGS. We always have one bible reading, suggestions are included in the wedding service leaflet. These can be read by your family and friends, or the minister is happy, and frequently does the bible reading.

MUSIC. We usually have three hymns in the service, as well as music as you come in and out and during the signing of the register. We can provide a list of the most common hymns. Many people choose to have the traditional wedding marches at entry and exit, and the organist to play from his wide repertoire during the signing. Sometimes people choose a CD of special personal music to play during the register signing.

FLOWERS. You are welcome to make arrangements to provide your own flowers. Please let us know in good time your plans for flowers so we can ensure access.

BANNS. You will be asked nearer the time, to indicate preference for the month for the banns to be read at church, and they are read at the main service, 9.15am at St Mary's or 10.45 at St Peter's, depending on which church you are getting married in. If the banns need to be read in another church you must make the arrangements and give the certificate to us.

If you are printing your own **ORDER OF SERVICE**, please contact the clergy at an early stage to discuss its format.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING THIS DAY WITH YOU

We hope to get to know you during your attendance at church. Around three months before the wedding, as well as ensuring banns are read, we will want to arrange a date for a rehearsal. The priest who is taking your wedding service will contact you to arrange this. It is usually in the week before, and is an opportunity to calm nerves so that you can enjoy your big day with confidence.