

## Living God's Love

### *Prayers for Weddings*

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

1 John 4:16

...

Love is patient love is kind, love is not envious or boastful of arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice in wrongdoings but rejoices in the truth, it bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7



## Contacts

The Rev. Canon Simon Stevenette  
The Rev. Norma McKemey  
The Rev. Daphne Hardwick

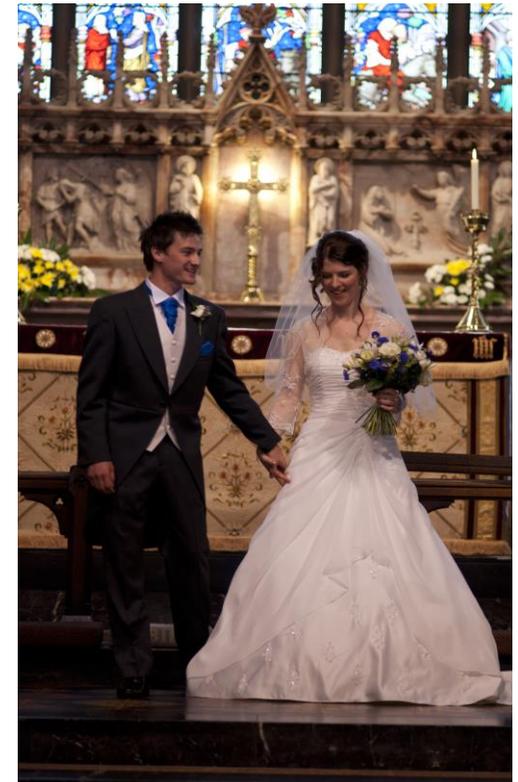
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The Church of England has a very helpful  
website  
[www.yourchurchwedding.org.uk](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org.uk)



# WEDDINGS

Parish of Christ Church  
with  
St. Mary's  
Old Town, SWINDON.



## Are you thinking about getting married in church?



You're welcome to marry in the Church of England whatever your beliefs, whether or not you are christened and regardless of whether you go to church or not. It's your church and we welcome you! We are here to help you prepare your wedding day.

Christ Church with St. Mary's is a worshipping community where for over 160 years couples have come to have their love for each other blessed by God and to make solemn vows of lifelong commitment in front of God and His people.

Couples often describe how a church wedding feels "more proper". It is God's blessing that makes it proper and everyone is welcome to receive that blessing, even if you are not a regular churchgoer.

If you live within the Parish of Christ Church with St. Mary's, Old Town, Swindon you are able to get married here. The first thing to do is to call or email the Parish Office and make an appointment with our Parish Clerk. There are contact details on the back page.

## Who can get married in church?

We try to welcome everyone who wishes be married in church, however as marriage is both a religious and legal ceremony, it is important that we follow the correct legal procedures. The normal legal process is for banns of marriage to be published in church. Banns may be published for:

- *Anyone who lives within the parish of Christ Church with St. Mary's.*
- *Anyone with a 'qualifying connection' within the parish of Christ Church with St. Mary's.*
- *Anyone who is on the church electoral roll of Christ Church with St. Mary's.*

There is more advice about what is a qualifying connection on the C of E website - [www.yourchurchwedding.org.uk](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org.uk).

If in doubt, call us and we can clarify what this means. Likewise if you don't know whether you live in the parish give us a call and we will let you know.

### **Marriage in church after divorce**

The Church teaches that marriage is a lifelong commitment. However we recognise that for a number of reasons some marriages do not survive. Since 2002 the Church has made it possible, in some circumstances, for there to be a subsequent marriage after divorce. If either of you has been married before please mention when you first contact us. There will need to be a frank and open conversation about the previous relationship.

## What is the process?

### **First Contact**

The first thing to do is to call or email the parish office, explaining that you wish to get married and ask for an appointment with the Parish Clerk. When you call we will endeavour to make a time to meet you so we can deal with the administration/legalities.

### **Space to Think**

Early each year, we hold a group session for all our prospective couples entitled "Marriage by Design". It provides you with the opportunity to take some time out from planning the wedding to focus on your relationship. Our couples always find these sessions great fun, full of practical wisdom that helps set the foundations for a long and fulfilling marriage.

### **Meeting with the vicar & planning the service**

About 3 - 4 months before your wedding you will both meet with the vicar who is taking your wedding ceremony. This will be an opportunity to think about the vows you will make to each other before God and also discuss and plan your service.

### **Banns**

We will invite you to hear your banns being called at one of the church services on three consecutive Sundays before your wedding.

### **Rehearsal**

We would like to have a rehearsal one evening in the week before your wedding.