



ST JOHN'S  
WEDDING  
GUIDE

# Welcome to the St John's Church Wedding Guide!



We are delighted that you have chosen St John's Church as the venue for your wedding.

This guide has been prepared to help you in planning your wedding in church. It contains all the information that you need about church weddings, including the legal and practical side. We at St John's Church very much hope that this will help you to make all the necessary arrangements with the minimum of anxiety.

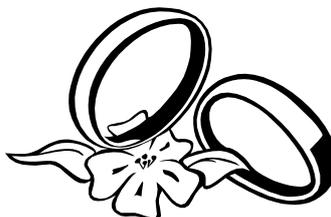
It is our aim at St John's Church to offer a wedding service that is personal to each couple who comes to us. We hope that when the big day arrives, it is not just another wedding, but your very special day.

*Every wedding service is, of course, special. At its heart stands a couple who love each other and who wish to make a loving commitment to each other in the presence of God. They are also taking their marriage vows surrounded by their family and friends who are there to offer their loving support.*

We feel privileged as a church to be part of your wedding and your special day. We pray that God will bless you as you prepare for and plan your wedding service. It is a very special time and we are here to support you in whatever way we can.

*A prayer from the wedding service:*

*God our Father,  
from the beginning  
you have blessed creation with abundant life.  
Pour out your blessing upon these your children,  
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,  
in holiness and commitment to each other.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
AMEN.*



## **Who can get married in St. John's Church?**

One or both of you must live in Heath Hayes, you must be UK or EU citizens, and you and your partner must be legally entitled to get married. If you are in doubt about whether or not you live in the Parish and whether you are eligible to get married at St John's Church, you should contact the Church Office or the Vicar.

Sometimes people who do not live within the Parish can be married at St John's Church.

Firstly, if either of you (or both), regularly attends St. John's Church services you may qualify to become a member of the Electoral roll of the church and would therefore be entitled to get married here.

Secondly, you may have what is called a 'qualifying connection' to St. John's church - a personal or family connection to the church that gives you the right to be married here. A qualifying connection may exist if you were baptised or confirmed in the church, if you or your parents lived within the parish or worshipped regularly at the church for up to 6 months at some point in the past, or if your parents or grandparents were married here.

Thirdly, you may be able to apply for a special licence from the Archbishop allowing you to marry in St. John's. The snag with this is that it costs a lot of money - but it is an option for people who have a real link with the church or the parish that does not fall into the categories outlined above.

The fourth option is to have a civil ceremony at a Registry Office or other licensed place, followed by a Blessing of your marriage in church. Blessing services can be very full and moving, with music and hymns. The difference is that the couple arrive as husband and wife and then join with their family and friends to celebrate their marriage and to have their union blessed. There are no restrictions on who may have a Blessing service at St. John's.

## **What about divorced people?**

People who are divorced and whose former spouse is living may, under certain circumstances, be married in church. Couples in this situation are encouraged to discuss their situation with the Vicar at a very early stage. Every couple will be given a sympathetic hearing and complete confidence is guaranteed. A wedding booking cannot be made until the Vicar has given their support to the application.

# Before a Church Wedding

## Booking

You will need to book your service. To do this you should come to the Church Office between 6pm and 7pm on Monday's and 10am to 12 noon on a Saturday. **BOTH OF YOU SHOULD ATTEND, AND BRING A FORM OF PHOTO ID** (eg UK driver's license or passport).

(If you are divorced you should arrange to see a member of the Clergy Staff **before** you book your wedding.) A definite booking is made upon receipt of the booking form and deposit. A booking form is enclosed in this guide.

## Banns

Before you can be married in church your Banns must be read. This means that it must be announced in your local church that you intend to get married. The banns are a legal requirement, which give people the opportunity to say if they know of a reason why you should not be married. The congregation at the wedding service will also get this opportunity.

If you both live in the Parish, the banns will be organised and read automatically for you. However, if either of you lives outside Heath Hayes, you will **ALSO** need to have your banns read at your local Church of England church - which means you need to contact the minister of that church **AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING**. A form is enclosed in the guide for you to complete and take to the appropriate church.

If you are not sure which church you should approach, then our church office will advise you. Even if you are a Methodist or a Roman Catholic or any other denomination, you will need to go to your local Church of England Church.

After your banns have been called, you will then need a certificate of Banns of Marriage from the church where you had them read. There will be a charge for this. You will need to deliver the certificate to the St John's Church Office or hand it in at the wedding rehearsal at the latest. Your wedding will be put at risk if you fail to do this.

Here at St John's Church, Banns are normally read out **two months** before your wedding, at the **10.00 am service** on the **first three Sundays of that month** (E.g. if you are getting married in June, your Banns will be read on the first three Sundays of April).

It is wise to attend church on at least one of the Sundays when your Banns are being read out to make sure that they are being read out correctly. If there is any error, you must alert the person who read the Banns, as it is important that every detail is absolutely correct.

## Payment

Details of the basic charge for a wedding or a wedding blessing at St John's Church are enclosed in this booklet.

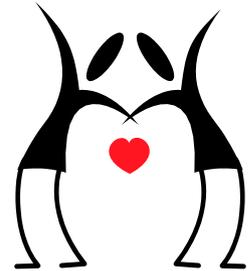
We are happy to provide flower arrangements at a very reasonable charge.

If you wish someone, either professional or amateur, to video record all or part of the service, then a licence will need to be purchased - details are enclosed.

You may, if you wish, pay for your wedding by instalments as long as long as the final amount is paid one month before the date of your wedding.

## Preparing for marriage

We at St John's church believe that we have a responsibility in preparing couples for marriage and for the new roles and responsibilities that this brings.



We hold an informal preparation evening. This preparation session is included in our wedding package, covering major issues in marriage including finance, expectations and handling conflict as well as being an opportunity to get to know other couples planning weddings and meeting some who have been married a while!

You may find it useful to visit the following website where you can plan your own wedding service and listen to the hymns on-line before making your choice.

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org>

## Wedding Rehearsal

Some time before your Wedding day, the minister who will be officiating at the service will make contact with you to organise a time and date for the rehearsal. Both of you should attend, together with the person supporting/giving away the bride, the best man, bridesmaids and pages (if any).

At the wedding rehearsal, the minister will guide you through the service and discuss any personal options with you. Please feel free, however, to make contact with the minister at any time before this, especially if there are any difficulties or if you want to check any details (for example if you want to produce an order of service and are not sure how to present this).





Wedding services are beautiful and moving occasions at which family and friends gather to witness the vows and to surround the couple with their prayers and support. In preparing the service, the minister and couple will always have these aims uppermost in their minds.

The order of service is set by the Church of England. The bride will arrive with her bridesmaids and pages (if there are any) and with whomever is there to support her/give her away. After the bride has arrived, everyone is welcomed and opening prayers will be said. The first hymn will then be sung.

The minister will then read out a passage in which the church's view of marriage is presented. Then after the legal requirement of asking if anyone knows any reason why the couple cannot be married, the marriage promises and vows are made and the rings exchanged. (There are two alternative sets of vows - you may choose your vows at the rehearsal). The couple are then declared to be married and their marriage is blessed.

It is normal at St John's church for a reading and a short address to be given, followed by the final prayers. A hymn may be sung after the address and before the prayers.

After the final prayer of blessing, a closing hymn is sung and then the registers are signed. The registers can be signed in the main part of the church in the presence of the witnesses and the full congregation or, if desired, can be signed with just the witnesses and close family in the Lady Chapel.

After the registers have been signed, the newly married couple and their families will process from the church.

There is plenty of scope to make every wedding service really personal and appropriate to the couple. Music and hymns can be discussed with the Wedding Co-ordinator, as well as with family and friends. A minister will also be very happy to discuss the whole service, including the vows, reading and the prayers - and would be delighted to help the couple add their own personal touches to the service. A selection of readings and prayers is included in this guide, but please ask if you wish to look at other options.

**GOD IS LOVE,  
AND THOSE WHO LIVE IN LOVE LIVE IN GOD  
AND GOD LIVES IN THEM**



# Wedding Fees 2013

Item	£
<b>Statutory fee for Wedding Service (including the reading of Banns and Marriage Certificate if marrying at St John's)</b> <b>Fees made up as follows:</b> <b>LDBF</b> <b>Church</b>	381  175 206
<b>Additional heating during winter December to April</b>	50
<b>Organist</b>	50
<b>Use of Organ</b>	25
<b>Copyright Fee (for Video)</b>	40.00
<b>Basic Flower Package (flowers left in church)</b>	On enquiry
<b>Delux Flower Package (flowers removed for reception)</b>	On enquiry
<b>Verger</b>	25
<b>Bell Ringer (single bell)</b>	20

Wedding fees are reviewed annually in January and so you should be aware that there may be some increase between when you book you wedding and are finally invoiced.

**\* YOUR WEDDING CHECKLIST \***

**BOOKING FORM COMPLETED WITH DEPOSIT**

**READING OF BANNS REQUESTED \*  
(WHERE ONE OF YOU IS RESIDENT  
OUTSIDE THE PARISH OF HEATH HAYES)**

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION SESSION BOOKED**

**OPTIONS FORM COMPLETED**

**MUSIC FORM COMPLETED**

**FLOWERS REQUESTED (IF APPLICABLE)**

**PERMISSION TO VIDEO SERVICE (IF APPLICABLE)**

.....

**WEDDING REHEARSAL CONFIRMED BY THE MINISTER**

**DATE..... TIME.....**

**FEES PAID IN FULL**

**\* BANNS CERTIFICATE COLLECTED  
AND DELIVERED TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICE**

.....



## BANNS FORM

If one of you lives outside of the Parish, eg if you live in Hednesford, Burntwood, Cannock or parts of Wimblebury etc, you will need to arrange to have your Banns called at your local parish church at least one month before the wedding itself.

When the Banns have been read in that church, you will be able to collect a certificate from them, which then needs to be brought to the St John's Church Office.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR BANNS ARE READ IN THE OTHER PARISH**

**WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PROCEED WITH THE WEDDING WITHOUT THE BANNS CERTIFICATE FROM THE OTHER PARISH**

**YOU MAY USE THE FORM BELOW AND TAKE IT TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH CHURCH**

.....  
We are getting married at St John's Church, in the Parish of Heath Hayes. Since one of us lives in this parish we would like to have our Banns called in this church.

Bride's Full Name.....

Bride's Address.....  
.....

Groom's Full name.....

Groom's Address.....  
.....

Date of Wedding.....

at St John's Church, Heath Hayes



## WEDDING BOOKING FORM

It is essential you notify the Church Office if any information given on this form changes. In particular, if you change your address you must inform the Church Office as this may affect the legality of the bans.

	BRIDEGROOM	BRIDE
NAME (in full)		
NATIONALITY		
Date of Birth		
AGE (at time of marriage)		
MARITAL STATUS *please delete as necessary	Single* Widower Previous Marriage Dissolved Civil Partnership Dissolved	Single* Widow Previous Marriage Dissolved Civil Partnership Dissolved
OCCUPATION		
ADDRESS *see note below Including a daytime telephone number	Tel:	Tel:
PARISH (Please give the name of your local Church of England Parish)		
FATHER'S/STEPFATHER'S FULL NAME		
IS FATHER LIVING?		
FATHER'S OCCUPATION (even if deceased)		
After your wedding what will be your permanent address?		

Proposed date of wedding .....

Proposed time of wedding .....

We certify that the information given in this form is correct.

Groom ..... Bride .....

**If either of you is under the age of 18 on the day you get married, you must get your parents or guardians to complete and sign the FORM OF CONSENT.**



## FORM OF CONSENT

(only use if one of you is under 18 on the day you get married)

WE HEREBY TESTIFY OUR CONSENT OF THE MARRIAGE OF

SON or WARD .....

TO .....

Signatures (1) ..... (2) .....

PARENT/GUARDIAN\* (delete as appropriate)

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

WE HEREBY TESTIFY OUR CONSENT THE MARRIAGE OF

DAUGHTER or WARD .....

TO .....

Signatures (1) ..... (2).....

PARENT/GUARDIAN\* (delete as appropriate)

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....



# OPTIONS FORM

Please fill in the options you would like for your wedding service

Name of Bride .....

Name of Groom.....

Address .....

.....

Date of Wedding .....

How many rings do you intend to have one/two\*

Are you having an order of service? Yes/No\*

**(IF YOU ARE HAVING AN ORDER OF SERVICE MADE BY SOMEONE PLEASE LET US HAVE A COPY IN ADVANCE SO THAT WE CAN CHECK IT IS CORRECT)**

Which reading would you like .....

Would you like a friend to read the lesson for you? Yes/No\*

Where would you like to sign the registers In Church with the congregation /In Chapel with immediate family\*

Are there any special people for whom you would like to pray ? (please give details) .....

.....

Which Lord's Prayer would you like? Traditional/Modern\*

Would you like the prayer for Children? Yes/No\*

Are there any other particular requirements you might have?

.....

.....

.....

\* Please delete as necessary

# WEDDING MUSIC FORM



Date of Wedding .....

Time .....

Bride's Name .....

Bridegroom's Name .....

Telephone .....

Address ..... Choir      yes/no  
.....  
.....

## HYMNS

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

## SPECIAL ORGAN PIECES

1. ....

2. ....

We are delighted that you have decided to have your wedding here at St John's Church and have pleasure in enclosing a list of appropriate hymns and music suitable for the occasion.

We would stress, however, that this is not a complete list - they are only suggestions. This is your day and as such you may wish to choose other hymns which you can discuss with our organist.

Unless otherwise requested, the organist will play:-

1. Bridal Chorus (Wagner) at the entrance of the Bride
2. Wedding March (Mendelssohn) at the end of the service

Unless otherwise requested, suitable music will be played before the service and during the signing of the registers.

Should you require any further information about wedding music, please contact the church office.

## SUGGESTED HYMNS

All things bright and beautiful  
Alleluia, sing to Jesus  
Amazing grace  
And did those feet (Jerusalem)  
At the name of Jesus  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord  
Be thou my vision  
Bind us together, Lord  
Come down, O love divine  
Dear Lord and Father of mankind  
Father, hear the prayer we offer  
Father, I place into your hands  
Fill thou my life  
For the beauty of the earth  
Give me joy in my heart (Sing hosanna)  
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)  
Lord of all hopefulness  
Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus, Shine)  
Love divine, all loves excelling  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Morning has broken  
Now thank we all our God  
O Jesus I have promised  
O Lord my God (How great thou art)  
O perfect love  
O praise ye the Lord  
O worship the King  
One more step along the world I go  
Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
The King of love my shepherd is  
The Lord's my shepherd

## INCIDENTAL ORGAN MUSIC

Trumpet voluntary	J. Clarke
Trumpet Tune & Airs	H. Purcell
Jesu, joy of man's desiring	J. S. Bach
Sheep may safely graze	J. S. Bach
Water Music	G. F. Handel
Fireworks Music	G. F. Handel
Salut d'Amour	E. Elgar
Chanson de Matin	E. Elgar
Cavatina	S. Myers
Love Changes Everything	A. Lloyd Webber



# FLOWERS FORM

If you would like us to organise flowers to decorate the church for your wedding, we can do so at very competitive rates.

If you would like to take advantage of this service, please complete the form below:-

Names.....

Date/time of wedding.....

Address.....

Tel No:.....E-mail.....

We will arrange for someone to contact you to discuss requirements and charges, but it would help us to have some idea of the following:-

How many pedestals would you like? (Up to four).....

What is your colour scheme.....

Would you like bows on the pew ends?

Will you be leaving the flowers in church afterwards, or arranging for them to be taken out?

If you would prefer, you can arrange for an outside florist to organise your flowers for you. However, if you do this, please ask your florist to get in touch with us to arrange access.

Florist Name.....Tel. No:-.....

## A SELECTION OF READINGS

### Genesis 1 verses 26 - 28 and verse 31

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### Mark 10 verses 6 - 9

But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

### John 2 verses 1 - 11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

## **John 15 verses 9 - 12**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

## **1 Corinthians 13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## **Ephesians 3 verses 14 to the end**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## A SELECTION OF PRAYERS

These are a short selection of the kind of prayers that you might want included in your wedding service. There are many more prayers that can be used covering a wide range of themes and needs. If you want particular prayers for a particular situation, then we will be only too happy to oblige. We can also include prayers to remember loved ones who are no longer with you, but whom you would especially like to be remembered as your families are gathered together in church.

God of love,  
we thank you for the gift of marriage and for the joys it brings.  
Bless us as we share in this wedding.  
We thank you for the love  
which has brought N and N to each other  
and for their desire to share that  
love for the rest of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

Almighty God,  
you send your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of all your people.  
Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace,  
that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

Eternal God,  
without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.  
Strengthen N and N with patience, kindness, gentleness  
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
so that they may fulfil the vows they have made.  
Keep them faithful to each other and to you.  
Fill them with such love and joy  
that they may build a home of peace and welcome.  
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love  
in this broken world,  
that unity may overcome estrangement,  
forgiveness heal guilt,  
and joy conquer despair;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
look graciously upon the world which you have made  
and for which your Son gave his life,  
and especially on all whom you make to be one flesh  
in holy marriage.

May their lives together be a sign of your love to this broken world,  
so that unity may overcome estrangement,  
forgiveness heal guilt,  
and joy overcome despair;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

O God of love,  
look mercifully upon N and N in the new life  
which they begin together this day.  
Unite them evermore in your love.  
Keep them faithful to the vows they have made one to the other;  
strengthen them with every good gift;  
and let your peace be with them,  
now and always;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

Lord of life,  
you shape us in your image,  
and by your gracious gift  
the human family is increased.  
Grant to N and N the blessing of children.  
Fill them with wisdom and love  
as they care for their family,  
so that they and their children  
may know and love you;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.