



A Wedding at St Andrew's Oving

Information for a Wedding

A Wedding at St Andrew's

In coming to St Andrew's for your ceremony you will be celebrating on a spot which has been hallowed for 1,000 years or more. The attractiveness of the church itself will add to the special character of the occasion. We, for our part, will do all we can to make your day enjoyable and memorable.

Christianity and Marriage

A wedding ceremony marks only the beginning of a marriage and is a public witness before God to the love that two people have for each other. A Church wedding makes certain themes clearer: the vows and covenant made between two people reflect the promises that God has made to bless the world. A Christian marriage service celebrates God at work in and through our human relationships blessing us on our journey through life.

Marriages after a divorce

At St Andrew's we understand that some marriages fail and we try to help people rebuild their lives in new relationships. Unfortunately the current legislation requires the priest to ascribe responsibility for the breakdown of the previous marriage, and as such judge the suitability of the new relationship. The Clergy do not feel that it is appropriate that we should judge who is and who is not worthy of God's Sacraments. We therefore believe that the fairest way forward is to adopt a universal policy of only marrying those who have not previously been married. If you have been divorced and would like to discuss the possibility of a blessing after a civil marriage, or being married a second time in another church please do not hesitate to speak to one of the clergy.

Civil Partnerships

The law around Civil Partnerships is still quite new and it is not possible to marry same-sex couples in church.

Legal information

Everyone (regardless of nationality) who is resident within the parish boundaries has a right to be married at St Andrew's so long as there is no legal impediment. You do not need to have been baptised. Please note, however, that where one or both of a couple are not British or EU Nationals we are now asked to refer you to a specialist priest or civil registrar to conduct the formal legal checks. Once these are completed, your marriage will still be conducted by the St Andrew's clergy.

It is also possible to get married at St Andrew's if you can show a Qualifying Connection with St Andrew's. For example, this might be that you or one of your parents have ever worshipped here regularly for at least six months or that you have ever lived within the parish boundaries for at least six months or that one of your parents have ever lived within the parish boundaries for at least six months during your lifetime. It might be that you were christened here or that you were prepared for confirmation at St Andrew's or that your parents or grandparents were once married here.

It is also possible to get married at St Andrew's if you have legally joined St Andrew's congregation and are on the church Electoral Roll. This is not the same as the Local Government Electoral Roll, but is the official list of church members. To join the electoral roll you must have been baptised and must have already attended worship at St Andrew's regularly for at least 6 months prior to application. It would normally take at least 9 months between first attending St Andrew's and joining the electoral roll. It would be good to do this if you intend to make St Andrew's your church and might be seeking other services such as baptism some time in the future.

The Church of England & English Marriage Law

Marriage in the Church of England can be authorised in a number of ways.

i) Banns of Marriage are the easiest and most commonly used method. They involve notice of your forthcoming wedding being read out in both the bride and the groom's parish churches on three Sundays in the period three months before the wedding. If you both live in the same parish that is all that you need to do but if one of you lives in another parish banns will have to be called there too. It is customary, but not legally required, for couples to attend the calling of their banns. These will take place during the main act of worship on Sundays. Attendance will help you feel more comfortable with the church surroundings and this will have obvious benefits in terms of your nervousness on the big day.

ii) Licences are a quicker method than Banns but more expensive. A Common Licence is usual where one or both people are foreign nationals, and a Special Licence allows people to be married without the usual requirement of living in the parish, having a qualifying connection or belonging to the Electoral Roll.

iii) Marriage by Superintendent Registrar's Certificate is recommended for couples where the immigration status of one of the people to be married is in question.

1. When to get married.

Most couples get married on a Saturday some time between 10am and 4pm (legally it must be between 8am and 6pm) It is however possible to be married on any day of the week as long as the church is available, and many couples now choose to be married on a Friday or even on a Sunday afternoon. Note, however, that traffic and parking are sometimes a little more difficult on a weekday and that it may not always be possible to arrange to have the church choir as most members of the choir work during the week. In these circumstances we are very happy to help you arrange for a professional choir or for a soloist to sing at your wedding. The fees for a visiting choir or soloist will be different from our usual fees. The wedding service normally lasts about 45 minutes with about 20 minutes of photographs outside afterwards.

Important note:

Only once the booking has been taken and the deposit has been paid can we guarantee the availability of the church. We cannot guarantee which priest will officiate at the service.

2. Preparation.

One of the clergy will want to meet with you over the coming months before your wedding to discuss Christian marriage and the words of the service.

3. Rehearsal

This will be in St Andrew's during the week before the wedding. It is usually on the evening before the wedding at 5pm. Please try to be on time as there might be another event in church immediately after the rehearsal.

It is important that Bride and Groom, Best Man and Bride's Father (or the one who will escort her into church) and any Bridesmaids and Page Boys are present, but anyone else is very welcome to come along. Please bring an Order of Service to the Wedding Rehearsal.

Your wedding rehearsal is

4. Parking & Access

Parking is very limited near the church. We ask that your guests park on the Church Lane or at the Jubilee Hall. There is a disabled parking space at the bottom of the Church Path for guests who have difficulty walking: please inform us if you need to make use of these spaces. The church also has a full flat wheelchair access.

5. Marriage by Banns

If you are being married by banns, these will be called on 3 consecutive Sundays, not more than 3 months before the proposed wedding date. Banns are called at St. Andrew's at the end of the 11am Mass, and it is hoped that you will be able to hear them being called on at least one of the three Sundays.

Date of Banns to be called at St. Andrew's:

Important note: If one or both of you live in another parish your banns must also be called in each of your parish churches in the same way, although not necessarily on the same dates. You must make contact with the parish priest as soon as possible. The fee will be about £35 in the other church (it is included in the fee at St Andrew's) and the priest will issue you with a banns certificate which the officiating priest at St Andrew's must have seen before the wedding.

6. Marriage by Licence or Superintendent Registrar's Certificate

If one of you is a foreign national, or in certain other circumstances, it may be better for you to be married not by banns but by licence. We will advise you about which licence is best for you, depending on your circumstances.

The fee for a licence ranges from £100 to £200.

7. Music

You will need to choose music to come in to and to go out by. You will also need to choose music, to be played during the signing of the register. You must contact the Organist, Alan Jackson about three months before the wedding. (Tel: 01243 822615 or alanandpat@alpat.plus.com)

Important note.

1. We do not have any means of playing CD's at St. Andrew's. If you would like some CD music it is up to you to provide a means of playing it, and someone to work the machine. Please be aware that the player will need to be loud in order to fill the church when it is full of people.
2. We cannot provide a choir. It may however be possible to arrange a professional choir although this will be down to you.

8. Flowers

Everyone's wedding is different and floral decorations vary enormously in colour, size and expense. For this reason flowers are arranged by you on an individual basis and are not included in the fee.

Important note:

1. Because St. Andrew's is a Grade I listed building there are some restrictions on flowers. Floral arrangement may not be pinned, glued or attached to pieces of church furniture.
2. We expect you to be able to leave your flower arrangements in church for the following Sunday. If this is not the case and you wish to take the display away with you there will be an additional charge of £50 to cover church florists time in preparing the Sunday arrangement on Saturday evening.
3. If more than one wedding takes place on one day it is very much hoped that the different wedding parties can agree on a shared floral display and share the cost.
4. You may prefer simply to make a small donation to our regular flower fund, in which case you will have the normal seasonal flowers for the following Sunday. Please note that in Advent (before Christmas) this may mean no flowers.

9. Photography

Guests will be allowed to take photographs only as the couple leave the church at the end of the service. They will not be allowed to take any photographs during the rest of the service.

The professional photographer (or designated family photographer) will be allowed to take photographs throughout the service and must speak to the priest taking the service before the service begins.

Video Cameras, whether professional, or simply belonging to the guests, may not be used in church except with prior agreement.

10. Confetti

Confetti must not be thrown inside the church or within the church doorway, but may be thrown at the churchyard gate on the street. Natural confetti (rose petals etc) may be thrown in the church grounds. Please do not throw multi-coloured paper shaped confetti within the church grounds.

11. Being on time for your wedding

It is very important that your ceremony happens at the time arranged. There may be another service later on the same day, and musicians and other church staff may have other commitments later on in the afternoon.

Therefore:

If you are more than 15 minutes late we may cut one or all of your hymns.

If you are more than 30 minutes late the wedding will be deemed to have been cancelled. You will not be refunded any of the fees you have paid.

12. Service Booklets

These are not essential, but many couples decide to print personalised orders of service.

This is your responsibility but will need to be agreed by the officiating priest prior to printing. Please send this priest a draft order of service before instructing your printer to proceed.

The usual order of events for a wedding is as given here, other services are similar but there may be minor differences.

The Parish Administrator (via the email address provided) can provide you with a picture or line drawing of the church if you would like one.

It is usually possible to include other readings and music within the order of service. Non-biblical readings and non-sacred music should be agreed with the officiating priest. Care should be taken to make sure that guests know the music they will be asked to sing, that the service is not too long, and that the flow of the service from the entrance of the Bride, the marriage at the chancel step, the signing of the registers and the final blessing at the altar rail is not disrupted.

It is always possible to arrange for Holy Communion to be celebrated as part of the wedding service. This will lengthen the service by about 20 minutes.

A minister who is a friend or a family member may also take part in the service. If he is a licensed priest in the Church of England or Church in Wales then they may preside over the marriage vows.

A normal order of Service is:

Entrance Music
Welcome and Preface
Declarations
Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading
(Hymn)
Vows
Giving of Rings
Proclamation
Blessing of the Marriage
Registration of the marriage
(Hymn or Music)
Prayers
Dismissal
Final Music

13. Order of Service

We use the Common Worship Marriage Service. Other authorised Church of England marriage services exist and can be used by arrangement with the officiating priest. Even if the idea of 'traditional language' appeals, we urge you to read carefully the text of older services (1662 and 1928 Books of Common Prayer) and consider whether their understanding of the purpose of marriage and the relationship between the sexes coincide with your own. What is said is more important than the language in which it is said!!

15. What do we do next?

Please email the Parish office at standrew.oving@sky.com, please include a proposed date and time. They will get back in touch with you as soon as they can and arrange a meeting between you, they will also arrange for a meeting with the Priest who will conduct your wedding .

You may bring the completed application form with you then, or after you have spoken with one of the parish clergy you may send the form to the Parish Office with a non-returnable deposit of £50, Cheques made payable to 'St Andrew, Oving'.

The Cost of the Wedding

There is a flat fee of £500 for a Wedding at St Andrew's, Oving.

This includes:

The Cost of publishing the Banns (at St Andrew's only)

The Cost of the Service itself

The Cost of the Clergy

The Cost of the Organist

The Cost of the Verger

The Administrative costs involved.

It does not include Flowers, any extra Musicians or Service Sheets.

Please pay a non-refundable deposit of £50 when you book your Wedding Service, and the balance at least one calendar month before the date of the service. Cheques made payable to 'St Andrew, Oving'.

The Words of the Marriage Service

The text of the 2000 Common Worship Wedding Ceremony.

<http://www.churchofengland.org/media/1173941/cw%20pastoral%20services%20marriage%20web.pdf>

The text of the 1928 (old language) Wedding Ceremony

<http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/1928/series-one-form-of-solemnization-of-matrimony.aspx>

The text of the 1662 (very old language) Wedding Ceremony

<http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/book-of-common-prayer/the-form-of-solemnization-of-matrimony.aspx>

Some extra information

What Bible reading should I have?

- Love, actually! The number 1 most popular reading for weddings is ([1 Corinthians Chapter 13](#))
- God creates women and men to look after the earth ([Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 26-28](#))
- A love poem between two lovers ([Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, verses 10-13](#); [Chapter 8, verses 6&7](#))
- Jesus teaches how to live a life that brings true happiness ([Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 1-10](#))
- Jesus teaches about marriage, and welcomes children ([Mark, Chapter 10, verses 6-9](#) and [13-16](#))
- What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception ([John, Chapter 2, verses 1 - 11](#))
- Committing to each other ([Ephesians Chapter 5, verses 21-33](#))
- Seeing the good side... ([Philippians Chapter 4, verses 4 - 9](#))
- Getting the perfect relationship ([Colossians Chapter 3, verses 12 - 17](#))
- Being a good lover! ([1 John Chapter 4 verses 7 - 12](#))

What music should I have?

The music you choose is up to you, although unfortunately we do not have the ability to play CD's in Church. Many people come into the traditional "Bridal March" by Wagner and leave to Mendelssohn's "Wedding March".

Other popular pieces of music are:

- The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba – GF Handel
- Canon in D major – Pachelbel
- Trumpet Tune in D – H Purcell
- Firework Music (La Rejouissance) - GF Handel
- Alleluia Chorus – GF Handel
- Prelude to the Te Deum – M A Charpentier

What about Hymns?

You do not need to have hymns as part of your wedding service if you do not want to, however many people choose to do so. When picking hymns it is important to think about which ones you think that your guests will know. You do not want to be the only two singing in Church!

Popular wedding hymns include:

- Love Divine, all loves excelling
- Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
- Dear Lord and father of mankind
- Lord of all hopefulness
- Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Application Form

| | The Groom | The Bride |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Full Name | | |
| Age at the Proposed date of Wedding | | |
| Condition | Bachelor Widower | Spinster |
| Rank, Profession or Occupation | | |
| Place of residence at time of publishing Banns | | |
| Father's Full Name (If deceased add deceased) | | |
| Father's Rank, Profession or Occupation | | |
| Nationality | | |
| Date of Birth | | |
| Have you been previously married? | | |
| If so was the marriage terminated by death? | | |
| Have you been Baptised/Christened? If so where? | | |
| How long have you lived at your current residence? | | |
| Which is your Parish Church? | | |
| Are you related, or connected by Marriage? If so, how? | | |

You only need to tick one of the following boxes. (please tick the easiest one to prove)

1. Residence in the parish for at least six months now or at some previous time.

Address:

From _____ to _____

2. Residence in the parish for at least six months now or at some previous time of a parent of one of the applicants during his / her lifetime.

Address:

From _____ to _____

3. One of the couple's parents or grandparents were married in St Andrew's

4. One of the couple were baptized at St Andrew's or confirmed through St Andrew's.

5. One of the couple has ever habitually attended worship for at least six months.

From _____ to _____

6. One of the couple is or intends to be on St Andrew's Church Electoral Roll.

7. One of the couple's parents has ever habitually attended worship for at least six months during the lifetime of the applicant.

From _____ to _____

8. Other _____

Please note you may be asked to prove any of the above statements.

Contact Details

Main Contacts Name:

Telephone Numbers: Landline

Mobile

E-mail address: