



All Saints Church Langton Green

nourishing spirit and soul

www.langtongreenchurch.com

Getting Married At All Saints



Congratulations, we are delighted at your exciting news. This is some information to help you plan your wedding with us at All Saints Church.

Meeting the vicar or church warden

Once you've decided to marry in church, your first contact is most likely to be the vicar, although sometimes you may speak to a church administrator first.

The vicar's job is to make you feel welcome and comfortable about your wedding day and to help you make decisions about the ceremony - they will have had lots of experience in making sure everything runs smoothly.

The first meeting

For the first meeting, there will be two main areas the vicar will want to cover: -

1. To get to know you

Vicars enjoy meeting people and getting to know them. When you marry in a church, you have the vicar's personal, individual attention. If you haven't met before, they'll be interested in your story, how you came to be together, whether they might know any of your relatives and why you decided to get married in the church. The relationship with the vicar often goes well beyond the wedding day. It's possible you could keep in touch with them for many years. They may even be part of other big occasions in your life, like christening your children.

2. To check all is well legally with your intention marry

There will be some forms to complete which are necessary for the vicar's records and they will need to ask a few questions that confirm you're free to marry and that you have a legally-recognised connection with the church. These details are really important to ensure your marriage will be legally sound. At your first meeting, it will be useful for you to bring a passport if you both have one. This provides confirmation of your nationality, which the vicar requires. If you don't have a passport, the vicar will let you know what other documents would be suitable alternatives.

If either of you are a national from a country that is outside the EEA, the vicar will advise you on applying for a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate, now required for all Church of England marriages of non-EEA nationals.

If either of you are divorced, the vicar will need to see your decree absolute. If you have divorce in your background, the vicar has certain responsibilities in these circumstances and it will be something they will want to talk about in some detail. Every vicar will listen to you sensitively and in complete confidence. [Read more about getting married in church after divorce.](#)

Meeting again

After all the legal preparations have been arranged, the vicar will invite you to meet with them again to talk about your ceremony and what kind of service you're hoping for. You may discuss music, hymns, Bible readings, additional readings if you'd like one, and anything else you'd like to include.

They may ask if you'd like to have the church's organist and/or choir, whether you'd like the church to do the flowers, and whether you'd like to have the church bells rung. Now is the time to talk about how much your ceremony is likely to cost. [Read more about the cost of church weddings.](#)

The online Ceremony Planner is a great way to start thinking about some of these things and help you discuss your ideas with the vicar. You might like to see the vicar in church too, if you can go to a few services before your wedding day. You'll be able to see the church in use and get to know other people there too.

Finding a church for your wedding

Lots of people marry in their own local church, but you might like to marry in a different church because it has special significance for you through family or other connections.

It's possible there are a number of churches that you can get married in legally, as a bride and groom-to-be can marry in a church away from where they live if either of them can show just one of seven connections with the parish. Those connections are listed below.

If you're not sure which is your local church, try searching on AChurchNearYou.com to find it. Enter your road name and area into the search box, wait for the address to drop-down and then select it. Click on the search arrow and your local church should be shown within its parish boundary. You can also search using a postcode. If you want to search for a church in a different place, type in the place name instead and churches in that area will be listed in the search results.

Can I marry in church?

As far as it is legally possible, we want to welcome you for a church wedding and Church of England churches have been celebrating this moment with couples for centuries.

It is both a privilege and a duty for your vicar to join a man and a woman in marriage. The good news is that you can marry in church regardless of your beliefs, whether or not you are christened and whether or not you have been a regular churchgoer.

Because getting married gives you a whole new legal status with many benefits, there are considerations for the vicar to make in both UK civil and church law. There are some basic requirements but there could be complications if:-

- One or both of you is a national from a country that is outside the European Economic Area. Special procedures apply to the legal preparations for these marriages, to protect and celebrate those which are genuine and to help prevent those which are not.
- If one or both of you has been married before. There may well be a way forward for you to be re-married in church but the vicar has certain considerations in these circumstances. Read more information about having been married before.

Although same-sex marriage legislation has changed, it remains the case that it is not legally possible for same-sex couples to marry in the Church of England.

Churches are so much more than a wedding venue. They offer friendship, prayer and support before and after a wedding, whether it is a church wedding or not. Find out more about how they can support you.

Legal requirements

There are certain things that must happen in a church wedding to ensure the marriage complies with both UK civil and church law.

In marriage you take on a whole new legal status. The vicar knows how to advise and prepare you for your wedding day and everything must comply with all relevant UK and Church of England laws. These are the main legal points to consider before you begin planning:

You must be old enough

The legal age of marriage in England and Wales has been raised to 18 under the The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022. This means that 16 and 17 year olds are no longer allowed to marry or enter a civil partnership, even if they have parental consent.

Same-sex marriage legislation

It is not legally possible for same-sex couples to marry in the Church of England.

Marrying away from where you live

It's possible to get married in a church that's away from where you live if you have a certain kind of connection with it. You may be legally connected to a number of churches in different ways. [Read more about marrying away from where you live.](#)

Time of wedding

The wedding must take place between 8am and 6pm on any day.

Guidelines for divorcees

There are special guidelines on marriage in the church if you are divorced. There may well be a way forward, but you will need to talk your Vicar about your situation to explore the possibilities for you. [Read more about marriage after divorce.](#)

Reading of Banns

Most Church of England marriages will require banns to be published before the wedding can take place. You won't need to arrange banns until about four months before your wedding date. [Read more about what's special and important about banns.](#)

If there is not enough notice given for the banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or in the case of the marriage of people who are not nationals of a country within the European Economic Area, or if one or both of you does not live in England or Wales, it is recommended that the Licence procedure be used rather than banns.

Licences

There are some circumstances in which you may need a Special Licence, Common Licence or a Marriage Schedule from the register office to marry in church. Your vicar will let you know if these apply to you.

Documents you'll need

- All couples will need to show the vicar their passport as proof of nationality. If you don't have a passport, there are other documents which would be acceptable, so ask your vicar about this.

- If either or both of you are divorced, you will need to bring your decree absolute for the vicar to see.
- You may also be asked to provide evidence of your connection to the church, such as utility bills which show you live or have lived in the parish, or your parents' marriage certificate if they were married there, for example. Your vicar will guide you on acceptable documents for your particular connection.

The cost of church weddings

If you choose to marry in church, it will be a day that is personal and special for you, but that need not mean you spend a fortune.

There is no doubt that the choices you make about your wedding day can make a huge impact on the total cost. Part of the cost will be for the legal fees, and everyone pays this. There are also optional extras which you can choose or decline, according to your budget.

Compulsory costs

There is a required legal fee for marrying in a church. In 2024, the legal fee is a maximum of £641* if you choose to marry away from where you live, and a maximum of £539** if you marry in your home parish.

This is set by the Church of England nationally and is the same for every church.

This basic legal fee includes the cost of the vicar, the church, calling your banns, a banns certificate, lighting and all administration. (After your wedding, when it has been registered at the relevant register office, you will also pay the register office for your marriage certificate - the certificate is no longer issued by churches).

This required fee has ancient origins and ensures your church can maintain essential services like weddings, christenings, funerals and all kinds of other ministries for you and your community.

Optional extras

The statutory wedding fee doesn't include extras you may choose or decline, such as:

- The support of a vergers, who ensures the church is warm, clean and tidy for your wedding and can help with handing out Orders of Service and hymn books etc. They can assist with disability access if needed by your guests and guide people to find their seats, toilets or crèche if

there is one. They can be indispensable in larger churches, freeing up the vicar to give their full attention to you and the wedding service.

- Additional heating in the church. The vicar will let you know if this applies to your wedding.
- Having an organist, choir or bell-ringers - these extra staff will all need to be booked in advance. Sometimes, the church may ask for a deposit to secure these bookings.
- Bear in mind that if your wedding is filmed, musicians like the organist can request an increase in their fee to take into account professional performing rights (read more). Check with the church what the local arrangements are.
- Church flowers - some churches have a local flower arranger who can help you with the flower displays in church.

You do not have to have any of these extras, but many couples are keen to have at least some. If you choose them, they will cost extra. The costs for each will be at your church's local rate.

Affording the costs

Talk to your vicar early on about what the total cost of your wedding is likely to be. It is good practice for the church to provide you with an itemised quote before your wedding so that you can see exactly what you will be paying for.

Once the final church bill has been agreed, some couples are still keen to offer a donation to the church. Donations may help to cover things like administration and the upkeep of the building. While these gifts are very kind, you needn't feel under any obligation.

If you're struggling to afford your wedding costs, or finding yourself in financial difficulties, it is worth mentioning this to your vicar as they might be able to suggest ways to help. If you need to borrow to pay for your wedding, why not consider using a local credit union? Credit unions offer affordable and responsible credit, and some will even offer special deals on loans for weddings. [You can find a credit union near you by following this link.](#)

****The figure for marrying as of March 2025 breaks down as follows if you marry in the parish where you both live (£600):**

- Marriage service in church: £544
- Publication of banns of marriage: £56

If one of you lives in another parish (£656):

- Marriage service in church: £544
- Publication of banns of marriage in the church where you are getting married and one of you lives: £56

- Publication of banns of marriage in the church where the other person lives: £37
- Banns certificate from the other parish: £19

If both of you live in different parishes from each other and other than the one you are getting married in (£768):

- Marriage service in church: £544
- Publication of banns of marriage in the church where you are getting married: £37
- Publication of banns of marriage in the different parishes where you live: £37 x 2
- Banns certificates from the two other parishes: £19 x 2

Costs for 2026 will be declared in January for the new financial year and the same for each year following

