

Guidance notes for those wishing to get married at St Andrew's Wraysbury, St Michael's Horton or St Thomas's Colnbrook.

Firstly, welcome to St Thomas's, St Michael's and St Andrew's churches.

We are delighted that you are thinking about celebrating your marriage with us here in our villages and we hope that this pack will prove helpful as you begin to make your plans and work on the details of the ceremony.

We have set it out as a series of common questions and answers but there are contact details at the end of this document, which you are free to use if you have further queries.

Can we get married here?

Yes, provided you are a man and woman of legal age (!), UK citizens and one of you lives in the parish. If you live outside the parish but have past family connections with the church then that may suffice. If you live outside the parish and have no previous connection then it becomes more difficult but speak to us and we will try to help in any way we can. You will need to provide evidence that you are eligible to be married at the church you have chosen [A list of suitable documents is available here](#)

Similarly if either of you has been previously married it is not necessarily an obstacle to being remarried in church, but you will need to talk to us as soon as possible.

Assuming all is well, before doing anything else, the date and time of your wedding must be arranged. There is a form to complete which is available on the St Andrew's website and we will need to see some identification documents.

What has to be done?

Assuming you are both UK citizens, your Banns of Marriage must be read in each Parish Church where the parties live and the church where you are getting married. We will arrange for them to be read in our church but if one or both of you live outside the parish it is your responsibility to arrange for them to be read at your parish church. Once they have been read 3 times you will get a certificate. This will need to be brought to us as the wedding cannot go ahead without it. There is a charge for the certificate. You can check your local church and contact the vicar using the A Church Near You website (<https://www.AChurchNearYou.com/>). If you move between now and the wedding the banns need to be read at the church in your new parish too

Marriage Preparation & Rehearsals

You will be invited to come in one evening to spend some time thinking about what marriage is – and how marriage in church may differ. There will also be a rehearsal in the church to get the choreography right, about a week before your wedding, on a mutually convenient evening. We may well do both sessions on the same evening. The bride and the groom are essential for this, but it's great if the best man, bridesmaids, parents and any other interested parties can attend too. Banns certificates from other churches must be presented at this time at the latest

Costs

The fees we collect from weddings go a long way to keeping your parish church open. The current fees schedule as decided by the Council of Bishops is available on the St Andrew's website. The 2026 statutory fees are £566 for the service, plus £59 to have the banns read and a certificate prepared. We charge a fee for a vergers and for the admin involved, and there may be a charge for heating depending on whether this is required. The final fee can only be set in the same year as your wedding.

If you would like the bells rung, a choir or an organist to play there will be additional costs.

We take just a £100 deposit to secure the dates, the outstanding monies should be paid before the rehearsal: please pay the church's money by BACS if possible.

Wraysbury Parochial Church Council (Wraysbury PCC), 20-81-11, 40989746

Horton Parochial Church Council, 40-42-08, 00446157

Colnbrook Parochial Church Council, please ask for bank details

Recording the service

Photographs may be taken coming in and going out of church and during the signing of the register – please let the photographer know that there are restrictions as the service will be interrupted if the vicar thinks a distraction is occurring. There is very limited space for camera operators and their equipment. Please remind the photographers that as this is a church service they may not be able to get all the photos they might take as a venue. The priest is more important than the camera team! Please let us know if you are planning a video

Guests

Can you please let us know how many guests you are inviting. We suggest that you limit it to 150, with an absolute maximum of 175: even then many of your guests will be standing for the service and won't be able to see you. A rough map of the seating is available on the website - this might help with planning

Bridal Cars at St Michael's Horton:

We know that bridal cars tend to be bigger than normal cars but please consider that we are on a main road and residents will need access to pick up children from school etc, so please arrange for the cars to wait elsewhere as much as possible so as not to inconvenience residents and other road users

Parking:

All three churches are amongst residential properties: please be considerate of our neighbours when parking.

St Andrew's has a small car park in front of the church.

St Thomas's has spaces for a few cars at the front and there is a public car park across the road.

At St Michael's there is only street parking outside the church. Nearby Champney Hall car park may be available for guests to use. Please book via ChampneyHall@gmail.com. A small fee will be charged

Flowers and confetti

There are almost always flowers in church anyway but you are welcome to add some from your own florist. If access is required we need to know what time to open up. Please be aware that

we do not allow nails or staples to fix flowers to pew ends, and sticky tape is only permitted if it is all removed when the flowers go after the service.

Flowers on the Lych gate or on pew ends will need to be removed after the service. There are always flowers in the church so it will look lovely even if you don't add any flowers (please note that we ask no flowers in church during Lent)

Confetti is allowed at the lych gates only and it must be biodegradable rice paper or dried flower petals only. Thank you.

The Service and Music

Much of the Service is set out in the Church of England's publications but if there are particular things you would like to think about then please speak to us. It is usual to have two or three hymns at weddings. We suggest you choose hymns that your families and friends will know, and a list of suggestions is available. Familiar, cheerful hymns will set the tone of the whole wedding day. We have hymn books that you may look at covering most styles of music. Sometimes people like to have a USB with 2 or 3 favourite tracks during the signing of the registers. The organist, if booked, can play suitable voluntaries before and after the service, and during the signing of the register if you like. If you want something out of the ordinary, please don't hesitate to ask. You might find this website useful: <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>. As an alternative to the organist you could instead provide a CD of your chosen music? If you would like this to be available we will need to arrange for someone to cover the sound desk - so please give us as much notice as possible, and we will need the music on CD at least a week in advance. We have a couple of versions of recordings of the Wedding March if that helps. [Please see this document about what we cant and cant play](#)

Order of service.

This is not essential but you may wish to consider a printed order of service and it is a nice memento for your guests. It is probably a good idea to run these past the vicar before they are printed as mistakes are often made. A sample is available on our website

More useful information

You may find the Church of England Wedding website useful: <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

What's next

A few varieties of application form are available on the website. You can complete one online or can print one and complete it by hand. Please note you both need to complete a separate form

The Admin team will contact you for the names of your witnesses, arrangements regarding bells, flowers, music etc.

After the wedding

We no longer issue the wedding certificate. Changes to the ways marriages are registered were introduced in 2021. Following the wedding, the Church staff will arrange for the Marriage Document or Schedule to be delivered to a Civil Registrar's Office. The marriage will then be registered in a new electronic marriage register and a Marriage Certificate will be available for purchase from the local registration district or General Register Office. Please use this link to request a certificate for Horton and Wraysbury weddings, <https://my.rbwm.gov.uk/webform/request-marriage-certificates>, and <https://www.slough.gov.uk/births-deaths-ceremonies/copy-certificates> for Colnbrook weddings

Please do not hesitate to contact the admin team if you have any questions or concerns – we are happy to help.

Other important info:

- Please advise your guests that no smoking is permitted in the church or the church grounds.
- Please be aware that a late start (>10 minutes) could result in a shortened service or in the worst case the wedding having to be rearranged – the organist, bell ringers or vicar may have other weddings to attend

Phew - well done for getting to the end! Don't worry if you forget stuff, we'll remind you: it's our job to make sure all the admin is sorted - it's your job to have a great day and if you have any questions at all we are here to answer them!!

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