



Your Guide To getting Married In the Loveden Deanery Group of Churches

Legal Requirements for a Church Wedding

You can marry from the age of 18 onwards in a church wedding ceremony. If you're aged 16 or 17, you will need your parents' approval in England and Wales, but not in Scotland where it's legal without consent providing there are two witnesses. Church wedding ceremonies must take place between 8am and 6pm and be witnessed by at least two people. You've probably heard about 'having your banns read' in connection to a church wedding – this is required before the marriage takes place as it signifies your intention to marry. Your banns will be read out in the parish where each of you lives as well as in the church where you're planning on marrying for three Sundays during the three months leading up to the wedding. If you're marrying in a hurry it is possible to skip having your banns read, but you will need to apply for a common licence for this. They cost from £200. You may also need a licence if one of you isn't a British citizen or currently lives outside of the UK. In Scotland you're required to give 15 days' notice with the local registrar.

BANNS

Most Church of England marriages require banns to be read out in church before the wedding can take place. Although a legal requirement, banns can be a special occasion too. Here's your essential guide to Church of England banns:-

Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.

Banns are an ancient legal tradition and have been read out every week in churches across the land for millions of couples, over many centuries.

After your forthcoming marriage is announced, the congregation may be invited to pray for you both. It can be quite special and moving to hear this, so do go along if you can.

Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married, if that is somewhere else.

You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. This is usually done over three consecutive Sundays but does not have to be.

As well as being a legal requirement, your banns readings are special public occasions when people in church hear of your intention to marry. It's an exciting and happy time, so you're welcome to invite your family and friends to hear your banns too, if you'd like.

If there is not enough notice given for the banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or if one or both of you are British but do not live in England (or Wales), the Common Licence procedure needs to be used rather than banns.

If one or both of you is a national of a country which is outside the European Economic Area, you will require a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to marry, rather than have banns read

Common Licence

- You may need a Common Licence if:-
- One or both of you are British but live abroad.
- One or both of you live in the UK but your home is not in England or Wales.
- Your home address is likely to change during the time when banns would normally be read out.
- Your wedding date is too soon to allow enough time for banns to be read.

Here are some key facts about Common Licences:-

- A Common Licence replaces the need for banns.
- If you already have a legally-recognised connection to the church where you're getting married, a Common Licence application is usually straightforward and the vicar will guide you on this.
- If you don't have one of the connections with your marrying church, and don't have time before your wedding to create one, applying for a Special Licence or Superintendent Registrar's Certificate may be suggested, depending on your circumstances.
- The granting of a Common Licence is at the discretion of the church legal official to whom the application is made, so is not necessarily a guaranteed route to marrying in a particular church.
- Part of the Common Licence application process requires you to swear an oath in person (in England) before a legal official. Couples who live abroad need to bear this in mind when planning a wedding in England
- Common Licences can only be granted for a marriage to take place in a particular church and are only valid for three months.
- The fee for a Common Licence is around £200.

NB If one or both of you are a national of a country outside the European Economic Area, you will each need a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to be able to marry. The only exception to this is if you have been granted a Special Licence by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Do I have to attend the church to get married there?

The Church of England gives all British citizens with no former partner still living the right to get married in the parish church of the town where they live, or where either of the couple are on the church's electoral roll. You can also get married in church to which you have a connection, such as:

- Either of you lived in that church's parish for six months or more
- One of you regularly attended worship in that parish for six months or more
- Either of you were baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish
- One of your parents lived in the parish/regularly attended worship there for six months or more in their child's lifetime
- Your parents or grandparents were married in the parish

- If you attend services at your chosen church for six months – even if you only attend a single service a month – that can help your case.

How far in advance should I book my church wedding ceremony?

It works the same way as booking a civil wedding ceremony in that places will get booked up months in advance. Talk to your vicar or the church office as soon as possible, particularly if you're hoping to marry in peak wedding season. Bear in mind most Church of England churches won't host ceremonies during Lent, although this isn't usually the case for Catholic ceremonies.

How much does a church wedding ceremony cost?

It costs around £549 to get married in a church in England, so make sure you factor this into your wedding budget. This cost covers the expense of reading of the banns, the certificate, the vicar and the use of the church itself. Extras such as the Verger, flowers, having the bells rung (where possible) organist or choir will incur additional costs.

Can we use our own vows in a church wedding ceremony?

If you're planning on writing your own wedding vows, a church ceremony might not be for you. In England and Wales you cannot change any part of the wedding vows, however in Scotland you can vary the traditional vows or write your own as long as the minister approves them. You can include poems, readings or songs in your vows as long as your vicar is okay with it.

Can I decorate the church with my own flowers?

Most churches will be able to recommend someone from the parish who can decorate the church for you, but it shouldn't be a problem to bring in your own floral displays. Just check with your vicar where you can have the flowers as you wouldn't want a large arrangement to get in the way during the ceremony.

What is a wedding rehearsal?

Lots of churches offer the chance to have a wedding rehearsal – this allows you, your partner and your bridal party to run through the service ahead of the big day so you know what to expect and when.

Can we have confetti at our church wedding?

This varies from church to church so check with your vicar and let your guests know in advance. If wedding confetti is not allowed, find out if they'll allow you to use a natural or bio-degradable type of confetti instead.

Marriage Certificates - These are now issued by the Registrar at Lincoln after the service, not at the service. After the Ceremony. You will need to apply to the Registrar either by telephone on 01522 782244 or apply online regist@lincolnshire.gov.uk

- The Registrar will register the marriage on the electronic register and post certificates within 7 working days of receiving the marriage document (if the couple have pre-ordered certificates)

Order a certificate

You can order your certificates online using a credit or debit card.

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/certificates

(Wedding Fees for 2024)

Service	£531
Reading of Banns (The church you are to be married in)	£36
Banns Certificate (If you live outside the area you are to be married in)	£18

Local Fees

Verger	£50
Organist	£100 - £150
Bells (not available in every church)	Varies depending on Church
Heating should it be required	Depending on time of year

Contacts

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Links below to Various helpful Wedding Planning Sites

[Church of England Weddings](#)

[Just Engaged](#)

[Hitched](#)



Passport to Marrying in the Loveden Deanery

List of Churches

Names

Church

Date and Time of Wedding

To qualify to marry in one of our churches you need to attend church at least once a month for a period of six consecutive months, ideally in the church in which you intend to marry, but it may be in another church in the benefice.

Up to date details of services can be found at [insert website details](#)

Please leave enough time after your attendance for the banns to be read before your wedding - about another two months should be enough

Date of attendance

Authorised Signatory
Minister Church Warden

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Example Order of Service

The Marriage of



Best Men

Bridesmaids

Ushers

Introit:

Bridal March

Wagner

THE WELCOME

HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through
this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy pow'rful hand: bread of heaven,
bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing
stream doth flow; let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through: strong deliv'rer,
strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my
strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious
fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on
Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

PREFACE

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together
to witness the marriage of ***** and -----, to pray for
God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may
know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in
love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as
Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and
tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.

It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are born and
nurtured and in which each member of the family,

in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort,
and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God and blessed by the presence of our
Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It
enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly
or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God. -----
and ***** are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to

the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring.

We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

THE DECLARATIONS

The minister says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

The minister says to the bridegroom

----- will you take ***** to be your wife?

Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall
live?

He answers

I will.

The minister says to the bride

***** will you take ----- to be your husband?

Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall
live?

She answers

I will.

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

THE VOWS

The minister introduces the vows

***** and ----- I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in
the presence of God and his people.

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says

I, -----, take you, ***** , to be
my wife,

to have and to hold from
this day forward; for
better, for worse, for
richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to
love and to cherish,
till death us do part; according
to God's holy law.
In the presence of God, I make this vow.

They loose hands.

The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says

I, *****, take you, -----, to
be my husband,
to have and to hold from
this day forward; for
better, for worse, for
richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to
love and to cherish,
till death us do part; according
to God's holy law.
In the presence of God, I make this vow.

They loose hands.

THE GIVING OF RINGS

The minister receives the ring, and says

Heavenly Father, by your blessing,
let these rings be to ----- and *****
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to
remind them of the vow and covenant which they
have made this day
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left
hand and, holding it there, says*

***** I give you this ring as a
sign of our marriage. With my
body I honour you, all that I am
I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The bride replies

----- I give you this ring as a
sign of our marriage. With my

body I honour you, all that I am
I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE PROCLAMATION

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
----- and ***** have given their consent and made their marriage vows
to each other. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands
and by the giving and receiving of rings, I therefore proclaim that they are
husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

BLESSING

God the Father,
God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace, that
you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love, may
receive the blessings of eternal life. All
Amen.

REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

Harpist / Music from Organ /CD?

READINGS

ADDRESS

HYMN

O lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the works thy hand has made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, My saviour God, to thee How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my saviour God, to thee, How great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God his son not sparing, Sent him to die - I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home - what joy shall fill my heart Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Tr. Stuart. Hine (1899-1989)

THE PRAYERS

Faithful God, holy and eternal, source of life and spring of love, we thank and praise you for bringing ***** and ----- to this day, and we pray for them.

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long, enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace; may they bring comfort and confidence to each other in faithfulness and trust.

May the hospitality of their home bring refreshment and joy to all round them; may their love overflow to neighbours in need and embrace those in distress.

May they discern in your word order and purpose for their lives; and may the power of your Holy Spirit lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

May they nurture their family with devotion, see their children grow in body, mind and spirit and come at last to the end of their lives with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.

We remember those family and friends who have not been able to join us today.

We join together in the family prayer of the church

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy
will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those**

who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but
deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the
power, and the glory, for ever
and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The minister says

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

HYMN

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us; Set us free by the truth you now bring us — shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance; by your blood I may enter your brightness: search me, try me, consume all my darkness — shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory: mirrored here, may our lives tell your story — shine on me, shine on me.

Exeunt:

Wedding March

Mendelsohn