

GETTING MARRIED at St John's, Boldre or St Mary's, South Baddesley



God is love - and God is a circle whose centre is everywhere, not only in church – but making your vows in public, and in the sacred space of a church, gives your vows weight and depth, and you will be surrounded by the couples who were married these churches over centuries.

Choosing to be married in church does not mean that you are declaring yourself to be very religious. You do not need to have been baptised or attend church regularly. It simply means that you feel that having your marriage in church, and making your vows before God, will honour the spiritual dimension to the day, and to your married life.

We welcome you to consider having your special day at St Mary's or St John's in this beautiful part of the New Forest where people have prayed, wept, found inspiration and courage, and celebrated their weddings and christenings for centuries – and still do.

St Mary's is an 18th century church, rebuilt when the owners of Pylewell House landscaped their estate and moved the whole village for their pleasure. St John's is a very ancient church standing at the top of a hill, probably on the site of an Anglo-Saxon church. Both churches are set in tranquil churchyards, in outstandingly beautiful forest scenery, and have car parking.

Who can be married in our churches?

- Anyone who lives within the parish of St Mary's, South Baddesley or St John's, Boldre;
- Any member of St Mary's or St John's (wherever they live) if they are on the church's Electoral Roll (not to be confused with the voters' Electoral Register);
- Anyone baptised that church;
- Anyone Confirmed in the Church of England whose Confirmation is registered in that church;
- Anyone with a parent or grandparent married in that church;
- Anyone who has had their usual place of residence in that parish for six months or more at some point in their life;
- Anyone whose parent has had his/her usual place of residence in

the parish for six months or more during their child's lifetime;

- Anyone whose parent has habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least six months.
- Anyone who has habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least six months;

If you are not resident or have no family connection with the church you choose, you will be asked to come and worship regularly for at least six months (to create the last qualifying connection above) in order to become eligible for your Banns to be read there.

The vicar has a legal responsibility to ensure that you are entitled to be married in the parish.

Please provide details of the connection you are claiming and any documentation you have to support your claim. All documents will be returned to you and the information will be confidential.

These requirements are not designed to make life difficult for you or because we are obstructive: they arise because the Banns system was designed on the basis that you are well-known in the parish where you will be married, and if there was a legal impediment to your marriage, someone in the congregation would know it.

A Blessing after a Civil Marriage

can be arranged. This is always recommended if one or both parties are not UK citizens. There is no requirement for a qualifying connection for a service of blessing. The service can be a wedding ceremony, but without the exchange of rings or signing of registers.

Service of Blessing fees.....

Divorce

Divorce is not necessarily a bar to being married here, but you would be required to have a (friendly) chat with the vicar first.

Marriage Preparation Session

Several times in the year we put on a special marriage preparation evening in which we invite couples to the church where we go through the service. It will also give you a chance to meet the organist and clergy as well as discuss flower arrangements.

Reading of Banns

The reading of 'Banns of Marriage' on three consecutive Sundays is a legal requirement for your marriage to take place. It is necessary for them to be called at the church you will be married in, and, if either one of you lives in another parish, at that parish also. They will issue you with a certificate when they have completed the banns, and we will need to receive it. We

recommend that you come to church to hear your banns read – if only to make sure they have been read. Please request them to be read well in advance, if possible.

Rehearsal

At some time in the week before the wedding, the priest conducting your service will hold a rehearsal for you. . It's ideal if your immediate family can come, with the bridesmaids, ushers and Best Man.

The service itself

Our organists will be pleased to help you in choosing music for your wedding. If you would prefer it, you can have an intimate ceremony, with the minimum of four people present: the couple plus two witnesses.

Wedding vows. There are certain words which must be said by law, and certain parts of the Church of England's liturgy must be used, but these can be incorporated into words you might also like to say to each other. You may choose the traditional wedding liturgy, or the contemporary version.

One reading is chosen from the Bible, and you may also like to ask someone to read a favourite poem or piece of prose. There are usually three hymns, and the traditional service has a psalm – often Psalm 67.

Photographs

We are happy for photographers to take photographs (but not flash photographs) throughout the ceremony, or to create a video for you.

Cost

The standard fee for weddings in 2024 is £...

Organ...

Bells...

Choir...

Flowers...

There is a non-returnable deposit of £50 required when booking. The church office will send you an invoice for the balance nearer the time.

Same-sex wedding/blessings

The Church of England has not finally agreed a liturgy for these, so these are not possible at present.

www.bsbb.org.uk

To enquire about booking a wedding please contact:

**The Revd Terence Handley MacMath
Terence@bsbbchurches.com**