



Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes
St. Sampson's, Cricklade
St. John's, Latton
All Saints', Leigh

The Upper Thames Group of Churches

We are delighted to welcome you as you consider having a church wedding at one of our Upper Thames Group Churches – St Sampson's Cricklade, St John the Baptist Latton, Holy Cross Church Ashton Keynes and All Saints The Leigh. We hope that this leaflet will help you plan your wedding service as part of your wedding day ceremony and will help you prepare for marriage. "A wedding lasts one day; a marriage, for ever"

Marriage preparation evenings are held over two Friday evenings (usually 7.30 - 9.30pm) or on one Saturday (10am - 2.30pm). These have been much appreciated and enjoyed by all the couples that attend so please don't be daunted at the prospect! We do expect all couples will make every effort to come and the evenings are usually held either in March or April. A member of the marriage preparation team will be in contact with details and dates in the December before your wedding.

Reading the Banns

Normally marriage is preceded by the calling of banns both in the parish in which you are marrying and in your home parish(es) if one or both of you lives in another parish. You must see the vicar of the other parish at least three months before your wedding to organise having the banns read. (There will be a cost as you need a banns certificate).

When the Banns have been called in the parish in which you live (if it isn't where you are getting married) you must let us have the certificate. Without a banns certificate proving the banns have been read we cannot marry you, so please make sure you organise this. Couples do sometimes forget about this – please don't!!

Banns will automatically be read in the Upper Thames Group church in which you will be married two months before the month of your wedding. It isn't compulsory to hear your banns but it is a good opportunity to attend the church and a wise precaution to make sure they are being read!

If neither you nor your fiancé(e) live in the parish and are not eligible by virtue of your connection with the parish to be married by banns (this will be explained when you book your wedding) please make sure that you understand the regulations that govern marriage in your case. There are other ways of getting married in the church you have chosen, but again we need to make sure that you fulfil the legal requirements.

If you cannot be married by banns please make sure you receive the appropriate sheet giving you more information.

Meeting with the minister who is taking your marriage service

Weddings are taken by clergy – either Shirley Danby or another clergy person. You will need to meet with whoever is taking your wedding to have an informal chat and to plan the service together, ideally 6-12 months before your proposed wedding date. They will help you complete the application form and discuss with you all the aspects of a church wedding (including banns requirements etc.). After that the parish office (admin@upperthames.org.uk) will be the point of contact for administrative details (including any changes of address etc.).

Wedding rehearsal

We recommend a rehearsal, which will be arranged when you meet with the clergy. It will usually be in the week before your wedding takes place.

Practical Details...

Flowers

We ask that you make contact with the person responsible for flowers in the church in which you will be married, whether or not you're having a florist, please contact:

- o Ashton Keynes: Shirley Massey 01285 861382
- o Cricklade: Gloria Light 01793 759181
- o Latton: Jean Richardson 01793 752047
- o Leigh: Suzi Tipper 01793 750778

Confetti

Please only use bio-degradable confetti and as you leave the churchyard. Please ask your guests to help to keep it well away from the church porch or doorway.

Music

Please contact our organist Jane Templeton - janetempleton.c@gmail.com - to discuss the music you would like for entering and leaving the church and during the signing of the registers. (See notes on the service information sheet). Please tell both Jane and the person taking the wedding your final choice of music including hymns.

Bells

A bell-ringing team can be requested to ring at your wedding, except for All Saints' Church. However, please note that while we will do our best to provide a team to ring, it is not possible to guarantee that ringers will be available on the day.

Photographs

We ask that photographs are not taken by the congregation during service, but only during the processions in and out. As you leave the church it is worthwhile to pause for a minute on the chancel step to allow people to take some photos.

Your official photographer(s) usually talks to the minister taking the service, but we would ask you when you meet with the photographer beforehand to let him/her know that we allow (and he/she will be able to take) non-flash photographs from the rear of the church during the service and at the signing of the registers. Please could you request that they don't walk around the church during the service as it becomes very distracting for all present.

Should the bride be late?

Tradition suggests that the bride can be late. We ask you not to be!

You're holding up your family and friends as well as your caterers and reception staff and any choir, bellringers and minister. It takes a few minutes to get into and out of the car and walk up to the church.

Costs of your wedding service

You will find information sheets about the costs associated with a church wedding and information which we hope will help you plan your service, all of which will be discussed when we meet. You will be sent an invoice about 6-8 weeks prior to your wedding day but you can pay at any time prior to that.

We look forward to meeting you soon. Please be assured of our prayers and support.