

WEDDINGS at



Easthampstead
Parish Church

01844 212 123
Parish of Easthampstead
Church of St. Mary & St. Nicholas
"The Church of the Holy Trinity"
Easthampstead, Isle of Wight
www.easthampsteadparish.org.uk
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Welcome

Congratulations on your engagement! An exciting and happy time lies ahead and there will be so much to think about. I want to thank you in advance for your enquiry into holding your church wedding at All Easthampstead Parish Church.

For such a special day, you want a special place. A church is much more than a wedding venue. God will be there with you to bless you—on the day and always. It's a spiritual, personal and beautiful ceremony, a place where people will pray for you, before, during and after the big day. You'll say ancient and amazing vows that you can only make in a

church. It's a place that connects you with the history of the town, it's a place that will be part of your history and could become part of your future story to.



This publication has been created to help guide you through the personal choices in planning your special day. We at Easthampstead Parish Church will do everything we can to ensure your ceremony is all you would wish for and becomes a lasting and wonderful memory for you and your guests. This guide will also take you through the legal formalities, but we are here to help and guide you through this.

Revd Gareth Morley
Rector



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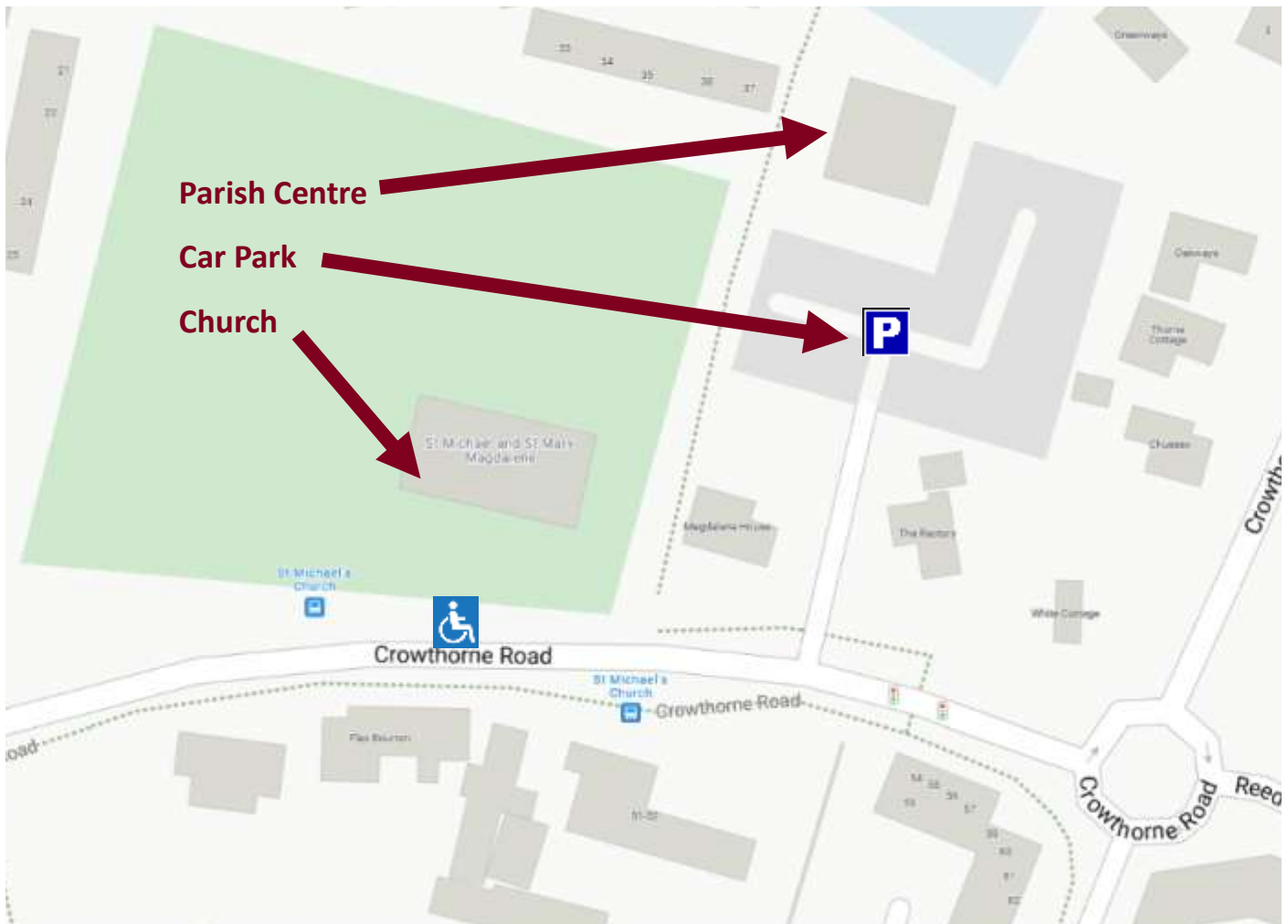
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Every care has been taken to ensure the information contained is valid and all information was correct at the time of publication in January 2025.



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Location



We are located on Crowthorne Road in Easthampstead. We own and operate our own car park shown on the map. We also have good bus links to the town centre and railway station.

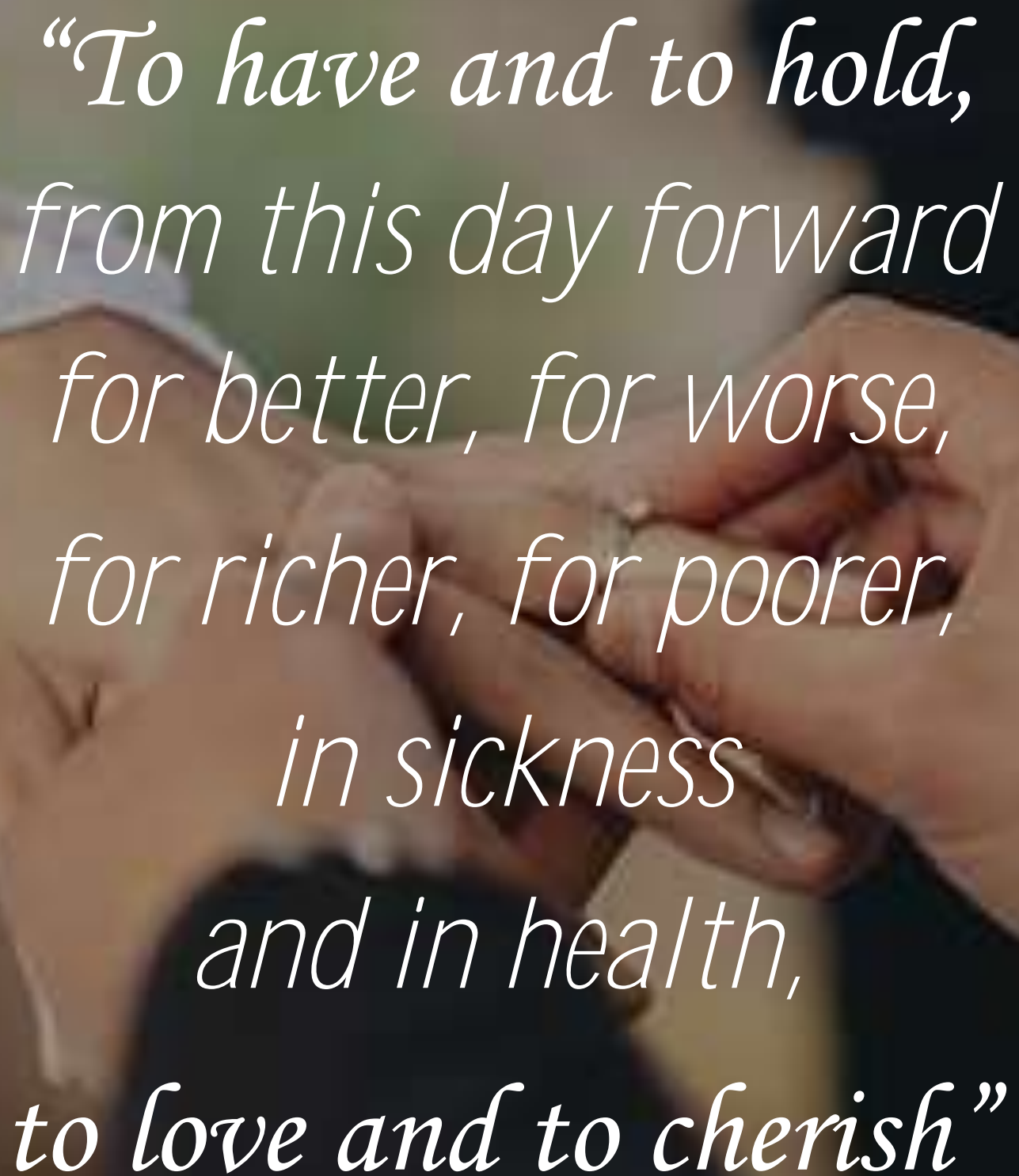
Disabled parking is available both in the car park and on Crowthorne Road.

Note: Should you seek to hold your reception at **South Hill Park** it is just 5 minutes away by car, and **Easthampstead Park** is 7 minutes by car.

If you have any questions contact us and ask

01344 425205


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*“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”*

What if...?

...we're not really religious?

You're welcome to talk to us and have a church wedding.

...we don't go to church?

You can still have a church wedding.

...one or both of us are not christened/baptised?

You can have a church wedding whether you are christened/baptised or not.

...we don't have much money?

For all that's legally required at a minimum, a church wedding costs £639. You don't need to spend a fortune. If it's too expensive tell us as some or all the fees can be waived (*depending on circumstances*).

...we want to marry here, but we don't live here?

That's possible, contact us to discover how that would be possible.



If you have any questions do contact us and ask

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History

Did you know that Easthampstead Parish Church is over 900 year old. The exact date the church was built is unknown but research shows it was likely built around the 11th or 12th Century. The building was reconstructed in 1867 and is full of Victorian treasures as well as those of the old church.

Imagine all the couples over all that time who have lived, worshipped and married in this church. When you get married in this church you become part of that continuous history of the community.



Personal

You will be involved in making choices about your ceremony. You can choose the music, readings and prayers. You also have options as to the words of the service. Whether you prefer the service in contemporary language or more traditional language which has words such as 'thee' and 'thou' instead of 'you'.

"Our advice to future couples would be if you've got a dream for your wedding, don't be afraid to ask the church what you can do. You might be surprised at the answer you get."

Quote from a bride



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Music

Music is a key part of a wedding service and Hymns are a traditional part of church weddings and there are so many to choose from. Visit the website at the bottom and check out our wedding planner to hear samples of popular choices.

Whether you wanted traditional hymns, organ music, a choir, something more contemporary or classical. You can use pre-recorded music, the musicians available at the church or you could bring in your own musicians. The choice is yours.

(All music has a fee payable)



Readings

You choose the bible reading for the service. Choosing your readings is one of the ways a wedding can be made really personal. Popular Bible passages can be found in our wedding planner, but we can help with choosing alternatives if you'd like something different..

You can also customise your wedding further by adding things such as poetry readings to the service. If you wanted to do this then tell us what you would like and we can talk this through with you further.



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Prayers

Your service will certainly include prayers. We will be very happy to help you develop some prayers that have special and personal meaning for you. It is possible for one of your guests to read prayers during the service. If this is something you would like to happen at your wedding, talk to us about how it could be incorporated.

When supporting you in something as important as marriage, the church will pray for you before, during and after your wedding.



Flowers

The choice is yours in how many flowers you would like and where. Do contact us, or get your florist to contact us, about any ideas you have regarding flower arrangements for your wedding. We are open to all kinds of ideas on what you would like to achieve, whether modest, extravagant or anything in-between.

We are able to arrange displays of flowers for a fee in the church using our own team. If this is something you would like then contact the office and we will get someone from our team to discuss your requirements.



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Bells

Imagine coming to church in your wedding gown to the sound of the bells. Now imagine your family and friends ready to greet you as newly weds outside the church, showering you with confetti to the sound of the church bells chiming.

We have a team of bellringers and eight church bells at Easthampstead. They would be delighted to ring for you at your church wedding.

(As professional musicians there is a fee for their service)



AV

You will want to make sure you capture the big day on camera. To help we have high definition cameras in the church, linked to our sound system, that can be used to record and/or livestream services. We offer a basic and a premium package.

(There is a fee for this service)

If you use your own videographer do please discuss this with us.

We are very welcoming to plans photographers have. As long as they don't swing from the ceiling!



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A photograph of a bride and groom in a church. The bride is wearing a long white gown and veil, and the groom is in a dark suit. They are standing in the aisle, facing each other. The background shows the church's interior with pews, a altar, and stained glass windows. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font.

*"We had the most
incredible wedding at
your church, thank you
so much! Everyone said
how lovely
the service was!"
(from a happily married couple)*

Countdown to your wedding

Whether you plan to get married in a couple of years or in just a few months, we will help you through the process of booking and planning the ceremony. The following timings follow a typical pattern and may serve as a general guide.

One-two years ahead

It's often about 18 – 24 months ahead when couples start planning. The first step is usually booking the reception venue, but make sure you talk to us as well to agree the date so that everything fits together. We will make arrangements for you to meet with us so that we can get to know you a little and complete the necessary forms.



Now is the time to ask whether you will require a licence to get married. Most people will not – we will advise if this applies to you at your first meeting. We will also explain to you about having to get your banns read, especially if that will be in more than one church.

One year-six months ahead

During the next few months, you will probably pop in to your reception venue a few times. In a similar way, visit us and discover more about what happens here. If you are creating a connection to the church by attending for six months, this is the time to go along regularly each month. You may not hear from us until about six months before the wedding – especially if you have booked a long time ahead. But don't worry, we will be in touch. This is also the time to consider your ceremony and making some of the choices as already mentioned in this booklet.

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We will offer you the time and space to think about what marriage entails, the meaning of the marriage vows and understanding the service. This we hope will prepare you for married life. It is not compulsory, but if you do choose to take this up, we will usually arrange to meet with you within the six months preceding the wedding.

Around six months ahead of the wedding might also be a good time to book your flower arranger and bell-ringers if you are having them. We may also contact you during this time to remind you of the dates your banns will be read.



Three months ahead

The majority of marriages require that banns are read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. Many couples like to be in the church when their banns are read. The congregation will be praying for you and your marriage, and this can be a reassuring and special experience. It also helps you get to know us if you are unfamiliar with us.

You might like to review how your ceremony is shaping up and make any final decisions with us at around this time. Also check with photographers that they are aware of our guidelines on photographs. See if you can visit the church together with the photographer and introduce them to us. Coordinating your other wedding suppliers with our team will help things run as smoothly as possible.

One-two weeks ahead

We will hold a rehearsal for the wedding, which will usually be during the week before the wedding. This will help you relax and ask any final questions about where to stand and so on. It's ideal if everyone who has a part to play on the day comes along, as it all helps to make the day run smoothly.

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The day before

This can be a nerve-wracking time for both bride and groom, so finding time to relax in the evening may help you sleep better. You may find it helpful to light a candle and say the following prayer:

*This day has been so long coming,
so long planned,
so long anticipated,
Help us relax enough to enjoy it.
Help us to concentrate enough to appreciate it.
Be with those who have a special part to play
and with everyone as they travel to join us.
May this day be all we have hoped for.
May it be a wonderful start to the rest of our lives.
Amen.*

*Prayer by Andrew Body from Pocket Prayers for
Marriage compiled by Andrew & Pippa Body*



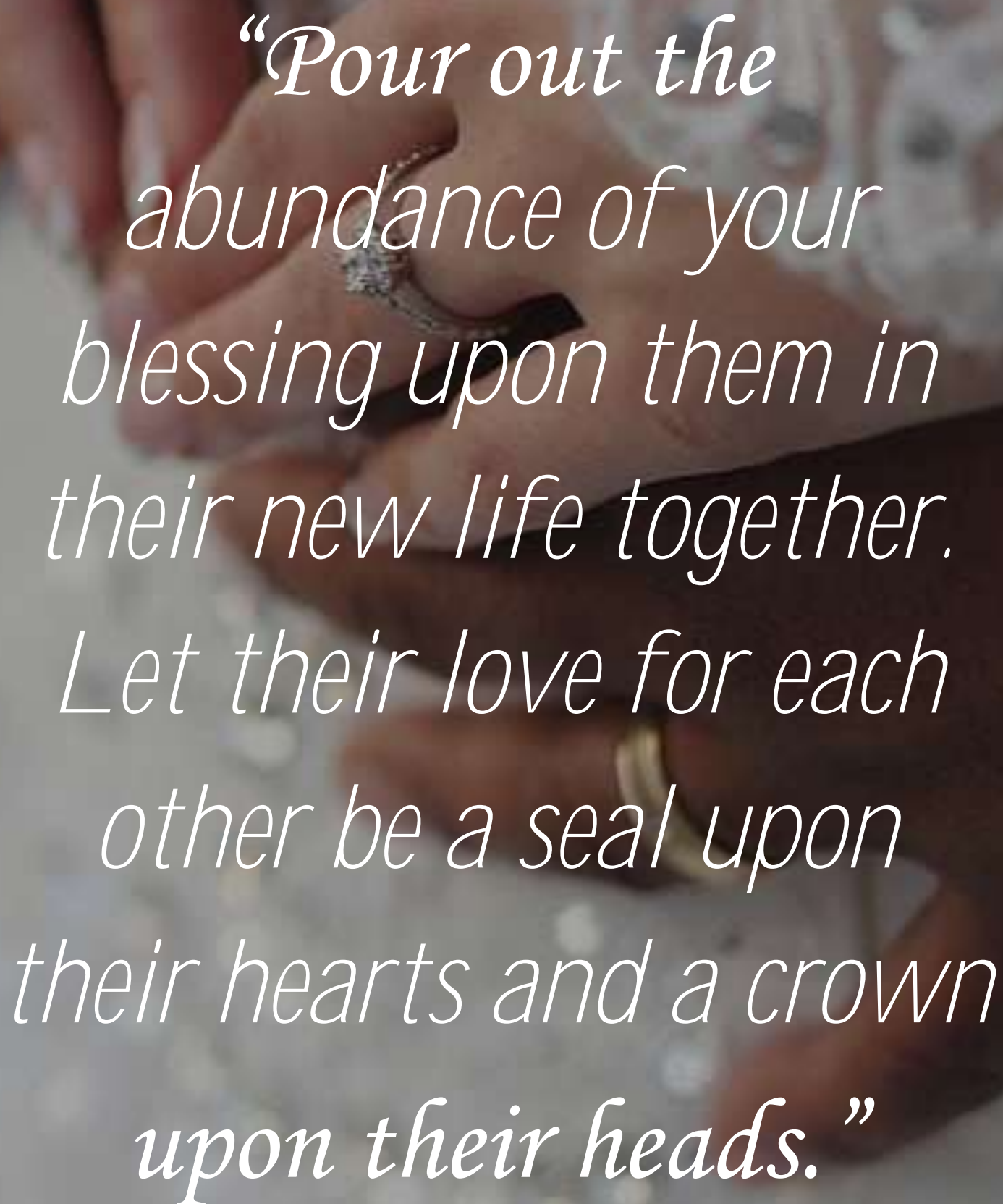
The Big Day

When the day finally arrives all that remains is for you to enjoy each moment! Ushers may want to arrive about 45 minutes early to check Orders of Service are in place, or ready to give out as people arrive.

The groom and best man arrive before the bride too. Everyone (except the bride, her father or the person walking her down the aisle, bridesmaids and/or page boy if you have them), should be seated and ready about 10-15 minutes before the service is due to start. The priest may have a couple of brief notices to read at this point.

When you walk into your beautiful church to make this great commitment, know that God's love and our prayers are with you. Relax and enjoy your day!

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*“Pour out the
abundance of your
blessing upon them in
their new life together.
Let their love for each
other be a seal upon
their hearts and a crown
upon their heads.”*

Order of Service

A ceremony typically usually lasts between 30-45 minutes depending on whether you have any music and the choice of readings. We will talk through with you the order of service and the options you have to personalise your wedding. In order to prepare for this we do encourage you to visit our website (shown below) and click on life events then Wedding, and then the Wedding Service Planner button.

Arriving at the church

When the bride arrives she will have time before you enter the church. The bride may walk down the aisle alone or accompanied. When arriving at the front of the church the bride and groom stand side by side

Welcome

The priest will begin with a few words of welcome to all present. A hymn or some music can be played at this point. After which the priest will introduce and begin the service.

Declaration and vows

The priest will ask everyone if they have any legal objection to the wedding proceeding. There may be a reading or the priest will proceed with the vows.

Exchange of rings and blessing

The best man typically passes the rings to the priest so they can be blessed and then exchanged by the bride and groom. After this the priest will proclaim the bride and groom husband and wife.

Readings

There will always be a bible reading and a talk by the priest. This may or may not be accompanied by other readings as you choose.

Signing the register

The register will be signed by the bride, groom, priest and two witnesses. It only takes a few minutes. Typically some form of music is played at this time.

End of the service

After the register is signed the priest, bride and groom head to the altar where the priest will bless the couple.

Leaving the church

The newly married couple leave followed by the best man, bridesmaids and parents. Outside there will be photographs and confetti!

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Some legal issues

In marriage you take on a whole new legal status. We will advise and prepare you for your wedding day and everything must comply with all UK and Church of England laws covering issues such as...

...Banns or licence

Most Church of England marriages will require banns to be published before the wedding can take place. There are some circumstances though in which you may need a Special Licence, Common Licence or a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to marry in church. We will let you know if these apply to you.

...Time of wedding

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

...Marrying away from where you live

It's possible to get married in our church if you live outside the parish providing you have a certain kind of connection with us. You may be legally connected to a number of churches in different ways. We will talk you through this.

...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 to us about your situation and there will be a need to explore the possibilities for you of getting married in the church with the priest.



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Parish Centre



You can hold your wedding reception in the Parish Centre. This way your wedding and reception will all be in the same location. With a warm atmosphere, and a commitment to hospitality, we invite you to consider our hall as the inviting venue for your special moment.

The hall is a spacious venue which is 10 meters by 17meters. It has a kitchen with a separate bar serving area. The kitchen does not have an oven but does have a warmer that can help keep food warm before it is served. Hall rental is **£25 per hour** and of course always subject to availability. We do offer wedding couples a special arrangement if they are planning a Saturday wedding whereby they can have the hall from Friday evening until Sunday morning for **£600**.

"We wanted to keep wedding costs low and so rented the hall and organised a hog roast and a DJ.

We were able to come in and set the hall up as we wanted and had a great day!"

Quote from a bride and groom

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Fees

A wedding in a Church costs less than you think.

Publication of banns of marriage	£37
Certificate of banns	£19
Marriage service	£544
Verger fee	£40
TOTAL	£639*

*If this is all beyond your financial means then please speak to us. Money should never be an obstacle to people getting married. Depending on your financial circumstances some or all of the fees can be waived, including some of the fees below. You will need to provide proof of financial hardship.

Optional Fees

Heating (required only in winter months)	£66
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Bell ringers	£174
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(Whether you want recorded music, an organist, or your own musicians the fee is the same)

Music fee	£91
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(If you would like our choir to sing at your wedding (it does depend on availability of the choir)

Music fee + choir fee	£236
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Single image on screens during service	£6
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Simple slideshow with up to 25 photos	£60
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+ additional photos (up to 25 photos)	£60
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(Images submitted must be a minimum of 1000 pixels in height, we will not be able to display images if they are of low quality and will ask you to resubmit them if they are of poor quality. Suggested resolution is 1920x1080. Images must be provided on a USB, email or web transfer)

Video recording and/or webcast of the service	£180 basic service, £540 premium service
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(The basic service is where we position the camera to cover the front the church and record/webcast the service. It does not include changing camera angles or a slideshow as part of this fee. The premium service includes multiple camera angles with zooming in on individual elements, and it also includes a slideshow as part of the package.)

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Contact us

Our Parish Office is located in the Parish Centre. It is only open at certain time throughout the week and we suggest you call first. The address is:

Parish Office
Parish Centre
Crowthorne Road
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 7ER

You can also phone: or email us as follows:

01344 425205

office@stmichaelseasthampstead.org.uk

To enquire about holding your Church Wedding please complete the [Wedding Enquiry Form](#).



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