

## Marriage Preparation

Every March we hold a marriage preparation day on a Saturday morning to which we invite all the couples getting married in the coming year. In addition the minister conducting your service will contact you to arrange to visit you at home (providing you are relatively local) about two months before your wedding to begin to help you put your Order of Service together and to answer any practical questions you might have. This takes around an hour and is a good way of getting to know each other, so that by the time of your wedding, you can feel as well prepared and relaxed as possible.

## Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually held two nights prior to the wedding at which the Bride and Groom, Best Man, Father of the Bride and Chief Bridesmaid should be in attendance (others can come at your discretion). It usually takes about 30-45 minutes. If your Banns have been read at your local church, you must produce a Banns certificate in order for your wedding to go ahead.

## Contacts

Organ: Ruth Yarborough 01423 568688

Choir: Ruth Yarborough 01423 568688

Flowers: Alison Elsworth 07982 243229

Please contact all parties in plenty of time to avoid disappointment – please note that this is **your** responsibility. Similarly, regardless of who is arranging your flowers, our flower arranger, Alison Elsworth must have prior knowledge of your plans and date.

We very much look forward to meeting you!

To make an enquiry please contact the parish administrator to arrange a time with one of the clergy to meet up to discuss the legal requirements and book a date. Please bring along your passports and proof of address as we are required by law to check your identities.

Enquiries can be made through our Parish Administrator  
Gill Clarke [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk) 01423 565129



## Getting married at St John's Bilton

First of all, many congratulations on your engagement and best wishes for your forthcoming wedding. We think St John's is a great venue and we offer a friendly, traditional wedding but with plenty of opportunity for you to put your own unique touches to it; we also offer live organ music and the possibility of a choir, along with guidance and support from our team of clergy.

You will probably already have a pretty good idea of the date you have in mind for your wedding and we will do our best to accommodate you.

## SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION...

### Getting married at St John's

There are several different ways in which couples may qualify to marry at St. John's. These are as follows:

Either the bride or groom:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- was baptised in the parish concerned or
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish or
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in this parish church for a period of at least 6 months or

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months or

That one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish

**Banns** (public/legally required declaration of the intention to marry)

Most couples marry 'by Banns' – legally, 'Banns' need to be 'published' before a wedding and this usually takes place by having your names and your intention to marry read out within the main service on three separate weeks approximately 2 months prior to the ceremony.

If one or both of you lives outside of this parish then Banns must also be read in the corresponding parish of residence (please speak to the Parish Administrator about this).

**NB** Some situations require a special licence which the Vicar can discuss with you. Also, if either of you has been married before, one of the clergy will meet with you to ensure that the Bishop's guidelines are met before a wedding can be arranged.

### Fees

There are fees payable for your wedding, which are set annually by the Church Commissioners, together with locally set fees for the Organist, Choir, flowers and Verger (and heating when needed!).

In 2025, the fees for your wedding will be:

Diocese of Leeds: £247

Local:

Parochial Church Council £297

Calling of Banns £37

Light/heat: Summer £50

Winter £150

Verger £55

Music (*if no organist*) £50

#### Optional Extras

*Organist* £130 (fee remains payable even if you use your own organist)

*Video recording fee* £65

*Choir (if available)* £65

*Flowers* £100

The minimum cost will be £836 in winter *or* £736 in summer

This maximum cost will be £1146 in winter *or* £1046 in summer

**NB** Please note that all church fees must be paid by the time you have your Banns read, usually 2 months before your wedding date.

### Order of Service

The minister taking your service will talk you through this, but we usually have plenty of recent wedding service sheets for you to look at, which also provide insight into popular readings and hymns.

Do also have a look at the Church of England's wedding website: [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org) which is another great resource for your wedding preparations.