

WEDDINGS AT ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON

This sheet is to help you as you prepare for your marriage at St James'. Some of the legal requirements are important, but all the time spent in preparing for the service will make sure that your wedding day is both special and panic free!

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Weddings in the Church of England are generally performed after a public declaration that you are to be married (called Banns of Marriage). This official statement has to be read in the parish church of BOTH partners for three Sundays within three months of the day of the wedding.

The place to arrange to have banns read at St James' is via the Parish Office (Tel 020 7226 4108). Amongst the information requested will be the full name of the parish where the non-local partner lives (ie the Church's name and place eg: St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London) and the full names of the natural fathers of both partners, together with their occupations.

The banns of marriage will be called at St James' at the end of the 10am service on the first three Sundays two months before the month of the wedding (ie for a June wedding the banns are called on the first three Sundays of April). Many couples like to hear their banns called at least once.

After the banns have been called in the parish of the non-local partner, a certificate can be collected from that church.

This must be given to the priest at St James' before the marriage can be held. In 2016 this certificate costs £40.

FOR NON UK PASSPORT HOLDERS

Weddings involving foreign passport holders now require a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate, only available through Islington Registry Office, Town Hall, Upper Street, Islington, London N1 2UD Tel: 020 7527 6350.

MARRIAGE REGULATIONS FOR THOSE PREVIOUSLY MARRIED

Under certain circumstances the clergy of this parish will officiate at a wedding where one or both partners have had their previous marriage dissolved by divorce. You will need to explore this possibility with the Vicar at St James' before making any arrangements for the wedding. Such weddings are performed at St James' by Superintendent Registrar's Certificate (see above) rather than after the reading of banns.

PLANNING THE WEDDING SERVICE

As you make plans for the whole wedding day, we hope that you will try to discuss as many details of the wedding service as you can together. As you discuss the details of your wedding, here is a list of questions you may like to consider:

1. What time should the service begin?
2. Do you want an organist to play for your wedding? Do you have special pieces for him/her to play? Do you want a choir? (see Wedding extras)
3. Do you want to sing hymns? If so, how many? Two is usual, more are possible.
4. Have you a special Bible reading you would like read? Do you know someone who would read it for you at the service - perhaps a friend or one of the family? Is there a secular reading/poem you would like to hear on your wedding day?
5. Will the bride be 'given away', and if so, by whom?
6. Is the bridegroom going to receive a ring at the service as well as give one?

Although there are many traditions about the way a wedding is conducted, please feel free to discuss with Fr John both the style of the occasion and the range of people you would like to invite to help you celebrate your wedding. For example Mothers can take the leading family role for their daughters as well as Fathers; couples sometimes like to write a prayer of their own for their wedding service. Many couples find the official Church of England website www.yourchurchwedding.org extremely helpful.

PREPARATION

Fr John will generally want to see the bride and groom twice for about an hour and a half, some weeks before the wedding. Please ring as soon as possible to make an appointment. These are usually held at the Vicarage, 1a Arlington Square.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

In addition there will be a rehearsal. This is usually on the Wednesday evening before the wedding, at 7.30pm. Please check this. Parents, the best man, attendants, photographers and video operators are very welcome to discuss details at the beginning but the rehearsal itself is just for the wedding couple.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

There are almost always flowers in Church but you may wish to have extra stands of flowers to enhance the service at St James'. At present we are not able to offer to arrange flowers for you. Professional or amateur arrangements are welcome, in consultation with Fr John.

BELLS

One of the features of a wedding at St James' is the possibility of having the bells rung as the bride and groom leave the service. The Bell ringers can be booked by ringing Helen Schofield on 020 7359 5301. (see note in Fees)

MUSIC

Anthony Hill, Organist at St James' (anthonyh.hill@googlemail.com) / 020 7359 1919) will be very pleased to discuss any organ music you would like to be played at your wedding (see note in Fees). Fr John will happily help with the choice of suitable hymns and songs.

FEES

At the end of the second preparation evening, the following legal fees are payable: £442 (£415 if banns have not been called). These fees are shared by the Diocese and the parish.

It would be of great assistance if you could pay the legal fees in the following way:

1. A cheque for the sum of £253 (£226 if no banns have been called ie by those being remarried) made payable to 'St James' Church, Islington'.
2. A cheque for the sum of £189, made payable to 'London Diocesan Fund'.

Wedding extras:

Bells: £140

This fee covers payment of £20 to each of the team of six ringers required to ring, and a donation of £20 to the PCC at St James'.

Organist: £135 (but see the extra fee, below, if the wedding is recorded/videoed).

It is our very real hope that everything we offer at St James' will enable you, your families and friends to feel at home in St James'. Marriage ceremonies are special for us too and we will do everything we can to make your wedding day both happy and memorable.

The Church is at your service and we hope that you will tell us in good time of your hopes and plans. The wedding service requires just as much attention as any reception or honeymoon you may have booked, for in it God not only teaches us how to make the most of our married life, but he also gives us the grace and power through his blessing to achieve it.

In his name we wish you every success in all the preparations for your wedding and we very much look forward to sharing this occasion with you.

Fr John Burniston, Vicar

The following section of this leaflet describes the quite separate purchase of services provided by experts and professionals associated with St James' Church. While, for your convenience, the fees for the organist, choir, bells and flowers may be paid at the same time as the statutory, legal fees, they are technically a private matter between you and the various providers and we regret that St James' Church cannot be held responsible for any agreements which you may enter into.

The fees for the Organist and the Bell ringing team should be paid when the date of the wedding is agreed.

Photographs may be taken during the service, but only by the official photographer(s). A small note will appear in the service sheet asking members of the congregation not to take pictures during the wedding. This does not include the period before and after the service eg when the bride enters the Church or during the signing of the Registers.

Please read the Legal Information with respect to sound and video Recording of the Marriage Service:

When any part of your Marriage Service where music is played is recorded, permission must first be sought from and granted by the Vicar, Organist, singers and any other musicians involved.

In addition, a Wedding Video-Recording Licence must be obtained. The Licence is required by law even if you are using CDs rather than a live organist and/or singers. The Licence utilises the rights from the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS) and Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL).

A Licence to record costs from £5 to £25 and can cover the Marriage Ceremony alone or the whole day (including the reception). This applies in all instances, irrespective of whether the recording is made by a professional company or informally by guests and friends.

You can obtain further information about this Licence from the European Copyright Licensing Limited (ECL) www.videolicense.co.uk Telephone: 01323 436 111.

See also: www.yourchurchwedding.org which is approved by the Church of England.

If you are recording a person's performance, e.g. an organist, soloist or choir - they are legally entitled to a supplementary fee. These supplementary payments are fixed in accordance with the recommendations of the Musician's Union and the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

Sound recording only:
£50.00 extra fee to each organist and singer.

Video recording:
Organist: £135 extra fee
Singers: £75 extra fee