



Marriage Information Sheet

We are glad you are in touch with us about your wedding plans. Marriage involves legal as well as practical arrangements. We hope these notes will provide much of the information you need, please do ask if you have further questions.

Which church?

The Law says that you can be married in this Church if either (or both) of you are resident in our Parish (including the 3 weeks during which the Banns are called) or if either of you has your name entered on the Electoral Roll of the Parish.

In order to marry in the parish church of a parish other than the one where you or your fiancée are living or have an Electoral Roll qualification, you will need to demonstrate with original ID one of the following 'qualifying connections'.

That:

- one of you was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish;
- one of you has ever lived in the parish for six months or more;
- one of you has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months - or more;
- one of your parents has lived in the parish for six months or more in your lifetime;
- one of your parents has regularly attended public worship here for six months or more in your lifetime;
- your parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

The banns

Banns are a verbal notice of your intention to marry, and are a legal requirement prior to marriage. They will need to be read three times during the period 3 months prior to your wedding day.

If either of you are not resident in this Parish then you must make arrangements for the Banns to be read in the parish where you live, obtain a certificate from that Church to say this has been done, and give it to us before your wedding. The responsibility for arranging this remains with you – it is a legal requirement so do make all the necessary arrangements. You cannot be married unless we have the appropriate certificate.



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If either of you is not of British nationality you may need a Licence instead of Banns.

Letter of consent

If either the Bride or the Groom is under 18 years of age at the time of the Wedding then the Vicar must be given a letter of consent signed by both parents of the party under age.

The letter should be of the following form:

“We, the undersigned, being the parents of give our full consent to his/her marriage to on (date).”

Registrar

A Church of England Clergyman is a Registrar in his own right and there is no need to go to the Registrar's Office. The Vicar will send off your marriage document after the wedding. You can obtain your marriage documents by going to from the Norfolk County Council website. A copy certificate costs £11:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/births-ceremonies-and-deaths/copy-certificates>

Fees

Parochial fees payable by law. Please contact the Church Administrator for details of which fees are applicable to you.

Preparation for the Couple

We want to help prepare you not only for your wedding day but also for married life together. We ask that you undertake the marriage preparation course we run. This is usually 3 sessions with a married couple.

Other arrangements

• Music

You need to let us know, in good time, whether:

1. you are making your own arrangements regarding musicians;
2. you require us to arrange an organist. There is only an organ available to use at St Edmund's.



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We recommend that you choose hymns that the congregation at your wedding are likely to know.

- **Flowers**

Please let the church office have contact details of your florist so that a time can be arranged for flowers to be delivered and put in place before the wedding. As long as your flowers do not damage the church interior, we are happy for your florist to decorate to your preference. We will be happy to dispose of the decorations after your service unless you want to have them collected.

- **Photographer**

Our only request is that he/she is not intrusive, and that they make time to see the Minister before the ceremony commences.

If you are able to have your wedding service here, then we will do all we can to help in making it a happy and memorable occasion - a Service when promises are made seriously and thoughtfully, and when you are asking God to be a real and vital part of your marriage relationship and your home.

Next steps

We will contact you once you have completed this form and sent it to:

contact@sthelensandstedmunds.org