



Getting married at All Saints Church, Writtle

Thank you for enquiring about holding your wedding at All Saints Church, Writtle

In this leaflet, you will find some information about arrangements and fees. If you would like to follow up your enquiry, please telephone our Marriages Clerk Kath Thompson on 421142 or our Parish office on 01245-422846 to arrange a meeting with a member of the clergy.

Some couples like to come to church during the months before their wedding, in order to feel more at home. We should be very pleased to see you and make you feel welcome. Please make yourself known to a member of the clergy.

The main service times are below. However, if you are thinking of coming along, it might be worth checking with the Parish Office to make sure that this is the correct time for the day you intend to visit, as service times do differ occasionally.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

10.45am Eucharist *or* 9.30am Family Worship (Third Sunday of the month)

Your marriage service should be the highlight of your wedding day, and we will work with you to make sure that it is. All Saints is the perfect setting for a beautiful wedding, with its medieval architecture and beautiful setting. We are committed to helping you make the very best of your day.

REQUIREMENTS

In order to book your wedding, there are a number of legal requirements to be satisfied. If one of an engaged couple live in the parish, you are generally entitled to marry in All Saints' Church. However, an engaged couple are able to marry in this church if they can show just one of the following connections with the parish:

- One of you was baptised in the parish
- One of you was prepared for confirmation in the parish
- One of you has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- One of you has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- One of your parents, at any time after you were born, has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- One of your parents, at any time after you were born, has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- One of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish

For those who live further afield, there are two possible options:

Attend the church for six months and become a regular member of the congregation. This is by far the easiest way, and it is an enjoyable way of getting to know the church community in preparation for your wedding.

Alternatively obtain a Special Licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury. For details, see <http://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/Marriage.html>.

Being divorced could create a difficulty, so please mention your circumstances to the clergy during your first meeting.

Once you have decided to get married at All Saints', one of the clergy will meet with you for a preliminary meeting to talk over the kind of service that you would like, and to help you with some choices. A straightforward wedding service can include your own choice of music, readings, hymns and prayers. Most weddings last around 40 minutes, including the signing of the registers.

DO I HAVE TO BE BAPTISED?

The simple answer is 'no'. However, your marriage in church will be a Christian service and this may be the opportunity to think seriously about being baptised.

WEDDING PREPARATION

A happy marriage does not just happen; it takes a lot of hard work. We see it as a privilege to help engaged couples work towards making their marriage a happy one. We invite you to explore your hopes and fears for the future, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Nearer the time, the clergy will also want to set a date for a rehearsal, and this will be the opportunity to run through the whole service in church.

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

It is not easy to park close to All Saints', but you can park 2 official wedding cars outside the church (not private cars). Please make sure that your guests leave plenty of time to park as local car parking is limited.

CALLING YOUR BANNS

The Church of England has a legal requirement of "calling the banns of marriage". In other words, your wedding has to be announced in the parish where you reside, as well as in the church where you are to be married. This and the related costs are something you will need to discuss with the clergy.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We try to ensure that the service is an act of worship for all who come, and as such discourage the use of video cameras and flash photography during it. However, your professional photographer can speak to the clergy before the wedding and get their permission for photos during the signing of the registers, and general photos of the service without flash. We usually allow half an hour for photographs outside the church after the service, or inside if it is wet.

VIDEOS

If you wish to make a video recording of your wedding, it is possible; though you need to be aware it will add to the cost. A local company, Back Street Films of Writtle (www.backstreetfilms.co.uk), can provide a very professional, competitively priced DVD recording. Please call John Howden on 01245 422023 for details.

FLOWERS

You will need to make your own arrangements for flowers in church. Please contact our Marriages Clerk or our Parish Office to check if there are other weddings you could share flowers with. For opening times to set up flowers prior to the service, please contact the Parish Office.

CONFETTI

Some of your guests may have confetti, which may be thrown in the church grounds.

CHOIR

Our Organist Kath Thompson, will gladly talk to you about the availability of the choir for your wedding, and about possible music for the service.

BELLS

You may wish the church bells to be rung both to welcome the bride to the service, and to salute you both after your marriage. You can choose either eight or ten bells. Please give as much notice as possible.

FEES FOR WEDDINGS IN 2009

The church fees include the use of the building, the wedding certificate, reading of banns, the service itself and fees for the clergy and vergers. If you require any further information regarding getting married within the Church of England, please visit the website at: <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/default.aspx>

CHURCH FEES

Total cost start at under £600 though can rise to nearly £1000 with all the extras. When the time comes, please make cheques payable to 'Writtle PCC'.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS – *whilst we make every effort to ensure that these extras are available, should you request them, we ask you to note that we cannot guarantee them.*

8-10 Bells (if available)	£160-200
Organist	£45
Choir (subject to availability)	£80 - £100. (plus £60 if videoed)

Extras can be tailored to your specific requirements. All extras are to be paid in cash at rehearsal.

<i>Your checklist:</i>	Months before wedding	Your dates
Complete provisional booking form	12-24 months	
Initial phone call with clergy to agree in principle - including date	Within a month of your first enquiry	
Qualifying Connection form if required	Within 2 months	
Booking confirmed after QC form returned	6-12 months	
Banns forms completed for both churches	6 months	
Marriage preparation day, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why get married? • Choosing hymns • Booking bells and other extras 	6-12 months	On a Saturday 10am-3pm 6 th February & September (TBC)
Rehearsal - to go through service in full (All payments required)	Usually within 1 week	
Your wedding day arrives		

For any further information regarding any aspect of your wedding, or for an informal discussion, please contact our Marriages Clerk, Kath Thompson - 01245-421142 or our Parish Office - 01245-422846 to arrange to speak to clergy.

*Registered Charity Number: 1130967
Web address: www.allsaints-writtle.org.uk*