

# Your Wedding in Church



## Wychemt Vale Benefice

*A network of churches in between Thame and Aylesbury*  
Aston Sandford, Cuddington, Haddenham, Kingsey, Stone with Dinton  
and Hartwell

**Worshipping God, Serving Community, Sharing Life**

## **Welcome to Wychert Vale**

Thank you for enquiring about getting married in the one of the parish churches of Wychert Vale Benefice. It is a privilege to share in this very special occasion in your lives. The Church of England welcomes people to be married and if you are not resident in the parish, you may still be married here if you meet one of the Qualifying Connections listed in this leaflet. If you do not meet any of the Qualifying Connections, please get in touch with us to discuss other options.

## **Marriage Preparation**

The Church of England requires that every couple who books a wedding has marriage preparation. At St Mary's you are asked to attend a Marriage Preparation Day. This day helps you with a practical preparation for your married life together and also explains the wedding service and the vows you are making before God. Please book with the parish office to attend one of these days. This is an essential part of preparing for your wedding and should take precedence over all other meetings.

## **Banns**

Banns of marriage are an announcement of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. The banns are read out in church on three Sunday mornings one or two months before your wedding. If either of you is resident in a different parish, banns must also be read there. You can find details of your local parish church through [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org)

## **Music**

Most couples like music during their Marriage service and at the Bride's entry and when leaving the church together. Hymn choices and all music can be discussed with our music coordinator.

## **Choir**

A choir may be available for weddings, please see the current fees list for the cost.

## **Bells**

In most of the churches it is possible for the church bells to be rung before and after a marriage service. There is a charge for this, which is indicated in the current fees list.

## **Wedding Videos**

In special circumstances only, with the agreement of the minister, it may be possible to record your wedding on video. Please note the organist receives a double-fee if a wedding is videoed as their playing/songs will be recorded.

## **Flowers**

Wedding flower arrangements are welcome in the church, please inform the church office of your florist's plans. Sometimes wedding flowers are removed after the service and taken to the reception. You are welcome to take them but please **let us know**, and then our flower arrangers will know whether they will need to make another arrangement for Sunday services.

## **Costs**

A non-refundable deposit of £50 is payable once you have a confirmed date for your wedding. The balance will depend on your requirements, please refer to our current fees list for details of the various services. The basic fee for a wedding 2016 will be £424 with some extra costs for banns, music, bells etc.

## **Documents**

If you decide to book to marry in one of our parish churches, we will ask you to bring two documents, one giving proof of identity (passport or driving licence) and one giving proof of address (recent utility bill or driving licence alongside a passport).

## **Second Marriages**

We welcome applicants for marriage where one or both partners have previously been married. The Church of England has guidelines for supporting a couple in these circumstances and these are also a guide as to whether a church wedding is appropriate. Please contact the church office to arrange a meeting with a minister to discuss further.

## **Qualifying Connections**

There are now far more churches to choose from if you wish to marry in church. To book a wedding in any particular church you need to find or make a qualifying connection. These are:

- a) One of you has been on the church's electoral role for at least 6 months
- b) One of you was baptised in the parish
- c) One of you was prepared for confirmation in the parish
- d) One of you has lived in the parish for at least 6 months at any time

- e) One of you has attended normal church services in the parish church for at least 6 months
- f) One of your parents, at any time after you were born has lived in the parish for at least 6 months
- g) One of your parents, at any time after you were born has attended normal church services in the parish church for at least 6 months
- h) One of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish.

### **No natural connection?**

If none of these are relevant you may still be able to be married in this church by attending once a month for 6 months and then applying to have your wedding here. If couples are serious about making a connection in this way, we are willing to provisionally book a marriage blessing service. This booking could be converted into a marriage booking once the connection has been made. If for any reason you could not make your connection, you could still have a Marriage Blessing Service with us. You would arrange a low key civil wedding and then have the blessing service in church. Ask the parish office for further details about this option.

### **The next steps**

If you would like to explore further, please complete and return a Marriage Enquiry Form, obtainable from the office. Please ask about dates to make sure the one you are wanting is available and to find an alternative if it is not free.

### **Booking your Marriage Service**

When you are ready to book, you will need to complete a booking form and a banns form and give these into the office with your deposit and identity documents. You also need to book at Marriage Preparation Day as this is an essential part of having a marriage service in our churches.

**For further information**, please contact the Benefice Office  
St Mary's Centre, Station Road, Haddenham, HP17 8AJ  
01844 291108  
email [office@wychertvale.org](mailto:office@wychertvale.org)

Administrator  
Mrs Sue Childs

### **Clergy**

The Revd Margot Hodson  
The Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves  
The Revd Jonathan Hawkins,

The Revd Nadine Rose  
The Revd Trish Mander  
The Ven. Dr Gordon Kuhrt