

Information About Church Weddings in the Walton Area



All Saints Church
Milton Keynes Village



Christ The King Church
Kents Hill



St Mary's Church
Wavendon

Why get married in church?

We want to make your wedding personal and memorable for you. Churches are special places and there are some things about a church wedding that you just can't get anywhere else.

A church wedding will add a spiritual dimension to your marriage. The ceremony includes God and looks to him for help and guidance. God's blessing is the main attraction for many couples, whatever their beliefs.

You can make amazing vows, or promises, in a church. You can only make vows this big in a church. God and your church are there to offer you support and care for you as you make this big commitment starting married life together.

The Minister has a very particular role to play in your wedding. They can blend ancient tradition and modern experience to reflect your story. Because of the relationship with the Minister, your wedding can be made personal, memorable, meaningful and beautiful. You can be involved in making choices about your ceremony.

When and Where?

The service can take place in any of the three churches in the Walton Churches Partnership (WCP) – i.e. those in the pictures above. It is a good idea to visit them on a Sunday (service times are listed at the end of the leaflet), or by arrangement at some other time that would suit you best.

The Ministry Team will liaise with you about your choice of date for the service, and make a preliminary booking. We would normally expect your choice of date to be confirmed within a few days of meeting one of our Ministers. If your first choice is unavailable we will be able to suggest alternative dates, or one of the other churches in the partnership.

Preparing for the day

We will advise you on the appropriate legal preliminaries to the marriage. This is usually by the calling of banns for a Church of England marriage, or by obtaining a Registrar's Certificate if a Free Church Minister or the Roman Catholic Priest is conducting the ceremony. Your Minister will guide you through the details..

We will also arrange various dates in the time leading up to your wedding. These include times for:

- Preparation for the day, with a chance to explore the meaning of Christian Marriage and the vows you will make to each other.
- An information session where you can meet the Wedding Steward, who can advise you on music, bells, flowers, car parking, confetti, guidelines on photography and video in the church, etc.
- Preparation for the service, with a chance to discuss your requirements for the service and the vows you will make, along with an actual rehearsal in the church.

Music, Bells and Flowers

Music: Please be assured that if you are having music we will let you know as soon as possible which organist will play at your wedding. There will be an opportunity for you to discuss your choice of music and hymns. Your Minister will also wish to discuss this with you (see below).

Bells: St Mary's and All Saints both have bells, but it requires 6 ringers to be available. Therefore it is not always possible to provide this service, especially over holiday periods and on weekdays. Please let your minister know at the earliest opportunity if you wish to have bells so that this can be arranged. The Tower Captain (organises the bells) will advise us a month prior to the wedding if bells are not available.

Flowers: Displays of flowers to be placed in church can be arranged privately or through the Church Florist. You do not have to decorate the church with flowers for your wedding, but for all couples who do, the Wedding Steward will familiarise you with the Church's policies on wedding flowers, for example, such as where they may be placed.

Other details you may need to know

A marriage service is a public service of worship and use of cameras or recording equipment may be inappropriate. This includes the use of recordings taken on mobile phones. Photography inside the church, including video, is solely by permission of, and by arrangement with, the minister who is responsible for conducting the service. In principle, videos are allowed as long as a single camera is mounted on a fixed tripod and left in a discreet place for filming. Likewise, the minister may allow photos in one or two other places in the service, for example after the registers have been signed (though not during the signing itself). After the service there should be plenty of time for photographs outside – or inside if the weather is bad! *Either way, it is important that your photographer and/or video operator consult the minister in good time before the service (preferably before the day itself) and get his/her agreement, and that family and friends are notified of arrangements so that there are no misunderstandings.*

You are not required to produce your own printed Order of Service as hymn books are available. However, some couples like to have a specially printed Order of Service, in which case your hymns, music, and overall Order of Service will need to be decided well in advance with the minister to allow sufficient time for the printers. Please ask to consult the church hymn book if you wish to use them, as there are many different versions of hymns taken from the internet, and the words may differ from those in our hymn books!

There is a separate leaflet available which details the costs involved with your wedding. This is available from the Minister.

Finally, an important note!

Recent changes to marriage law in England have meant that even if you were to move away from this parish before your wedding day, it is usually still possible for you to get married as you have planned. *However, if you find that you are going to move house before your wedding, it is important that you notify the minister so that we can clarify the situation and advise accordingly.* Please note that although changes in the civil law came into effect in Autumn 2012, it continues to be the case that Church Law requires clergy to conduct marriages between the hours of 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

Contact Us

For Catholic weddings, please contact The Administrator in the Catholic Hub Office on 01908 221228.

For all other enquiries, please email wcp.weddings.mk@gmail.com and one of the Ministry Team will respond to you as soon as possible.

At present our service times on Sundays are:

Christ the King, Kent's Hill	9.30 am
St Mary's, Wavendon	9.30 am
All Saints, Milton Keynes Village	11.15 am
Christ the King (Catholic Mass), Kent's Hill	11.30 am

The Ministry Team is:

Revd Ruth Maxey (URC) – with oversight of Church Without Walls 07791901468

Revd Ruth Gookey (Baptist) – with oversight of Christ the King Community Church, Kents Hill

Revd Matt Trendall (Church of England) – with oversight of St Mary's Wavendon and All Saints MK Village 01908 582839

Revd Keith Straughan (Church of England) – Weddings Lead, works across our team 01908 768111.

Generally we plan so that the ministry team member who first meets you guides you through the process to your ceremony, Occasionally, however, you may find that it is another member who actually takes responsibility for your service. This will depend on the date, church and service you choose and on our holidays. Should this happen, we will let you know in good time which one of us will actually be taking the service, and from then on that person will be in touch about all the necessary arrangements.