

Bourton-on-the-Water with Clapton
and the Rissingtons

Getting Married

at
ST. LAWRENCE, Bourton-on-the-Water
ST.JAMES, Clapton-on-the-Hill
ST.JOHN THE BAPTIST, Great Rissington
ST. PETER, Little Rissington
ST.LAURENCE, Wyck Rissington

Introduction

Marriage is a big step, and we want to help you make this day as memorable and enjoyable as possible. It is a big day because it celebrates the joining together at the deepest level of two lives, and from this union other lives may grow.

Most people want a wedding in church because they feel that, in some way or other, the service gives a special quality to their marriage. They are right. If you are prepared to open yourselves to God, that can and will enrich your life together by God's grace. A wedding ceremony marks only the beginning of a marriage and is a public witness before God to the love that two people have for each other. A Church wedding makes certain themes clearer: the vows and covenant made between two people reflect the promises that God has made to bless the world; the idea of the 'sacramental nature of marriage' reflects how God works in and through our human relationships blessing us on our journey through life.

This leaflet is designed to help you with your preparations, and maybe to answer some of your questions. It does not deal with all the practical arrangements; there are a number of booklets and websites which go into detail about these matters. Many of these booklets will try to persuade you that no wedding is worthwhile unless several thousand pounds are spent. However the wedding day is the first day of the rest of your life together, and the depth of your love is not to be gauged by how much you spent on the wedding itself. Money cannot buy happiness!

Marriages after a divorce

In this Benefice we understand that some marriages fail and we try to help people rebuild their lives in new relationships. If you have been divorced and would like to discuss the possibility of being married a second time in church please do not hesitate to speak to one of the clergy.

Civil Partnerships and Marriage

The law around civil partnerships and marriages is still fairly new and it is not yet possible to marry same-sex couples in church. However within the Benefice of Bourton-on-the-Water with Clapton and the Rissingtons we try to do all we can to help people celebrate their relationship together. You are welcome to speak to one of the clergy.

Legal information

It is possible to get married at any of our churches if you can show a qualifying connection with that church. For example, this might be that you or one of your parents have ever worshipped there regularly for a least six months, or that you have ever lived within the parish boundaries for at least six months, or that one of your parents have ever lived within the parish boundaries for at least six months during your life-time. It might be that you were christened there or that you were prepared for Confirmation there, or that your parents or grandparents were once married there. There is a full list of qualifying connections on the application form.

Even with no qualifying connection it is still possible to get married at one of the churches within the Benefice, however you need to demonstrate that you are a regular worshipper in that congregation. This is usually considered to be a minimum of monthly attendance for a period of at least 6 months prior to your wedding day. If you would like to pursue this connection then please speak to the Rector. We usually keep a book in the vestry for you to sign each time you attend.

If either of you are under 18, the written consent of both parents will be required. If either of you are under 16 there can be no marriage.

You do not need to have been baptised to be married in church.

The Church of England

Marriage in the Church of England can be authorised in a number of ways.

- i. Banns are the easiest and most commonly used method. They involve notice of your forthcoming wedding being read out in both the bride and the groom's parish churches along with the church in which you will be married. This happens on three Sundays in the period three months before the wedding. If you both live in the parish where the marriage is to take place, then banns will be called automatically. **However, if one or either of you lives in another parish, banns will have to be called there too, and it is your responsibility to arrange this, and ensure the banns certificate is obtained.**

The best way to determine in which parish you reside is to check on <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>. Please note that your closest church may or may not be your parish church for banns purposes.

It is customary, but not legally required, for couples to attend the calling of their banns. This will take place during the main act of worship on Sundays. Attendance will help you feel more comfortable with the church surroundings and this will have obvious benefits in terms of your nervousness on the big day.

- ii. Licences are a quicker method than banns but more expensive. A Special licence allows people to be married without the usual requirement of living in the parish, have a qualifying connection or belonging to the Electoral Roll.
- iii. Marriage by Superintendent Registrar's Certificate is required (wef 2/3/15) where either party is a non EEA national, and is strongly recommended for couples where the immigration status of one of the people to be married is in question.

Information

When to get married

Most couples get married on a Saturday some time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (legally it must be between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.). It is however possible to be married on any day of the week as long as the church is available.

The wedding service normally lasts about 45 minutes with about 20 minutes of photographs outside afterwards.

Bookings:

Initial arrangements are made by filling in an application form and returning it to the Rector. You will also need to provide proof of identity and nationality (passport) and proof of residency (eg recent electric bill) for both parties. If it is a second marriage for either party, we are also required to see the decree absolute/s.

Important note

Only once the booking has been taken can we guarantee the availability of the church. We cannot guarantee which priest will officiate at the service.

Interviews:

About five months before your wedding you will be contacted by the minister taking the service, to arrange an interview. This will be a time to go through the service with you, helping to explain its meaning and make the final arrangements.

Rehearsal:

The minister will arrange a rehearsal for a few days before the wedding day, when you, the bride's father (or the one who will escort her into church), best-man, and any bridesmaids, will walk through the whole service. If you are having a video made of the service it is a good idea to offer the cameraman the chance to attend the rehearsal.

Banns:

As mentioned earlier, If one or both of you live in another parish your banns must also be called in each of your parish churches in the same way, although not necessarily on the same dates. You must make contact with the parish priest as soon as possible. After the banns have been called the priest will issue you with a banns certificate which we will need to have before the wedding. Without this certificate we are not able to conduct the wedding. The fees are set out on a separate page of this booklet. The best way to determine in which parish you reside is to check on <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>. Please note that your closest church may or may not be your parish church for banns purposes.

Marriage by Licence or Superintendent Registrar's Certificate

If one of you is a non EEA national, or in certain other circumstances, you cannot be married by banns but will need to complete civil preliminaries through the Registration Service. You will need to consult the local Registrar's Office.

Music

You will need to choose two or three hymns, and music to come in to and to go out by. You will also need to choose music to be played or sung during the signing of the register. If you don't know many hymns, ask family members, or go to the Ceremony Planner at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner/>. If you still draw a blank please talk to the minister or organist concerned who will be more than happy to assist.

Readings

You will also need to choose at least one reading from the Bible, and you can have other readings from other sources. The Ceremony Planner at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner/> also suggestions for both Bible readings and other wedding favourites.

Bells

Bells are available at most churches in the Benefice, except Clapton, and you may choose to have bells rung before and/or after the service. There is an additional cost for this and it must be booked in advance. Please contact the relevant tower captain to book this.

Important note:

Although we will make every effort to provide bells if requested, we cannot guarantee bells on any date.

Flowers

Everyone's wedding is different and floral decorations vary enormously in colour, size and expense. The churches of the Benefice have different arrangements, and it is best to speak to the minister about what is possible, and where flowers and church decorations may or may not be placed. Except in Advent and Lent, the church usually has its own floral arrangements. The clearance of any additional flower arrangements is the responsibility of families concerned, and should occur within a week of the service. For Saturday weddings we do usually ask that a (pedestal) arrangement is left by the pulpit for our Sunday service. We can provide you with the contact details for a local florist if this is useful.

Parking

Parking at most of our churches can be problematic. Please check the locality before sending out directions, and for advice speak to the local priest.

Photography

Guests will be allowed to take photographs as the bride or couple enter the church at the beginning of the service, and when the couple leave the church at the end of the service. They will not be allowed to take any photographs during the rest of the service.

The professional photographer (or designated family photographer) will be allowed to take photographs at certain points during the service and *must* speak to the priest taking the service before the service begins. No flash is permitted, and the photographer must move as directed by the priest.

Video

Whether professional or simply belonging to the guests, videos may not be made in church except with prior agreement.

All filming and photography is at the discretion and direction of the minister concerned. Your attention is drawn to the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and any subsequent amendment. It is entirely your responsibility to comply with them. For guidance in this area please look at http://www.ccli.co.uk/licences/weddings_licences-overview.cfm. Often professional companies include this in their package but it is worth checking. Individuals are not covered and need to be made aware of copyright legislation.

Confetti

Confetti may never be thrown inside the church or within the church doorway. Natural confetti (rose petals etc.) may be thrown in the church grounds. Please do not throw multi-coloured paper confetti within the church grounds as it takes a long time to clear up. Your help in this matter would be much appreciated.

Service Booklets

These are not essential and you can use the normal church hymn book, but many couples decide to print personalised orders of service. This is your responsibility. Please make the arrangements in good time, and allow extra copies for the minister, organist etc. Always check the pattern of service and hymn words with the minister before printing.

Old words or new words?

There are three versions of the Marriage Service which are legal for use in the Church of England.

There is the very old 1662 Prayer Book service, which is rarely used nowadays.

There is the old language 1928 Prayer Book service which is the one usually referred to as the “old” service, and there is the modern language “Common Worship” service. You can find links giving the full text of all these services below. Unless specifically requested otherwise we use the modern language Common Worship service.

Copyright

Copyright exists in musical and dramatic works for the duration of the author's or composer's life and for seventy years after the end of the year in which they died. Thus works by a composer who died on 31 December 1939 came out of copyright on 1 January 2010. Copyright exists separately in arrangements, so an arrangement of a piece of music by an arranger who died less than 70 years ago is still in copyright even though he or she arranged music by a composer long since dead. If you choose to print words of hymns or poems on the order of service by an author who died less than 70 years ago, you will need permission to print the words.

Copyright fees can be payable for the reproduction of hymn and other texts in orders of service, as well as music notation. Our churches pay a blanket fee to Christian Copyright International Ltd (CCLI) www.ccllic.co.uk to cover reproduction of hymn words in orders of service. You will need to include the church's CCLI licence number on the rear page of your order of service. Some words

(‘Morning has broken’ is an example) are not covered by this licence. It is your responsibility to ensure copyright law is observed.

Performance Rights

Performers have rights in their performances, which may not be recorded without their consent. Until a few years ago recordings could be made for 'private and domestic purposes only'. This was altered by law and there are no circumstances under which a performer may be recorded without their consent. It follows, therefore, that permission must be obtained from the organist before any video recording, however informal, is taken at a wedding. This is Section 182 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and is not optional. It is the law.

The organist may refuse outright to allow their performance to be recorded, or choose to give permission on payment of a fee.

And Finally....

We always try to do our best to make sure that your wedding will be personal and exactly how you would like it to be, so it is usually possible to include other readings and music within the order of service. Care should be taken to make sure that guests know the music they will be asked to sing, that the service is not too long and that the flow of the service from the entrance of the Bride, the marriage at the chancel step, the signing of the registers and the final blessing is not disrupted.

It is always possible to arrange for Holy Communion to be celebrated as part of the wedding service. This will lengthen the service by about 20 minutes.

A minister who is a friend or a family member may also take part in the service. If he or she is a licensed priest in the Church of England or Church in Wales then they may, with the Rector's permission, preside over the marriage vows.

Best wishes for planning your wedding!

Some internet links

Information on weddings in the Church of England and an excellent planning tool:

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

Suggestions for hymns:

There is an excellent hymn selection provided on the website above.

A few, which have wedding words to traditional and well-known tunes, are well worth looking up:

- [As man and woman we were made](#)
- [Come to a wedding](#)
- [God, in the planning and purpose of life](#)
- [Lord and lover of creation](#)
- [That human life might richer be](#)

and many more!

Some suggested Bible Readings for your wedding

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/marriage/readingspsalms.html>

There are many web sites which offer suggestions of non-biblical readings.

http://www.usabride.com/vows_passages/readings_poems.html

<http://www.weddingguide.co.uk/articles/wordsmusic/poems/lovepoems.asp>
<http://www.hitched.co.uk/plan/readings/index.asp>

The Words of the Marriage Service

The text of the 2000 Common Worship Wedding Ceremony
<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/marriage/marriage.html>

The text of the 1928 (old language) Wedding Ceremony
<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/1928/texts/marriage.html>

The text of the 1662 (very old language) Wedding Ceremony
<http://www.eskimo.com/~lhowell/bcp1662/occasion/marriage.html>

Useful Contacts

Rector: The Rev'd Rowena King Ph: 01451 821282 e: revrowena@gmail.com

The Cost of the Wedding in 2020

Calling of Banns – price per church (note that where a special licence is required instead of banns this will cost more)	£31
Certificate of banns (where required)	£14
Marriage service including legal fees	£463
Wedding certificate (at the time of marriage)	£11
Verger	£35
Organist and/or use of organ	£ varies by organist <i>we can provide contact details for an organist, it is your responsibility to liaise with and book them.</i>
Bells	<i>depends on church and bell number. Payment usually direct to tower captain</i>

Please make cheques payable to the PCC of the church concerned. BACS is also available. Payment must be made in full at least a month before the wedding. If you are paying by BACS please email the treasurer at the time of payment.

Bourton: Sort Code: 30-95-75 A/C No. 00724818 “PCC Bourton on the Water – Parish General” Treasurer : chriswillett@hotmail.co.uk

Great Rissington: Sort Code: 30-95-75 A/C No. 00725253 “Great Rissington PCC”
Treasurer:

Wyck Rissington: Sort Code: 30-95-75 A/C No. 00807624 “Wyck Rissington Church Fund”
Treasurer : elizabeth.ransom@icloud.com

Little Rissington: Sort Code: 30-95-75 A/C No. 00725369 “Little Rissington PCC”
Treasurer: church.treasurer@yahoo.com

Clapton: Sort code 30-95-75 A/C No. 00725709 “St. James’ Church, Clapton on the Hill” Treasurer: kevanpat@btconnect.com

Wedding Checklist

<p>ID Check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proof of identity (driver's licence, passport) • proof of nationality (passport, birth certificate) • Proof of current address for each person (eg utility bill, bank statement – less than 3 months old) 	<p>As soon as possible – More than 3 months before wedding</p>	
<p>Previously Married or civilly partnered?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All decrees absolute – must be originals • Death certificate of previous spouse 	<p>As soon as possible – More than 3 months before wedding</p>	
<p>Draft order of service</p>	<p>To priest before printing</p>	
<p>Calling of Banns – in other churches</p>	<p>At least 2 months prior</p>	
<p>Banns Certificate to wedding church</p>	<p>Before wedding</p>	
<p>Payment of wedding fees</p>	<p>1 month before wedding</p>	
<p>Rehearsal Date</p>		