

## Wedding Fees

The Church in Wales adopts the fees set by Parliament for the Church of England. These fees increase every January. The parish priest will inform you of the current fees for a wedding in church.

### A Prayer for Engaged Couples

Heavenly Father,  
we give you thanks for the love we share,  
and for bringing us together.

Help us to prepare for our wedding day and marriage by increasing our love towards each other, our generosity towards others and by the prayers we make for a long and happy life together.

Bless those who are helping us to prepare for our wedding day. Keep us expectant and joyful as the day draws near.

May the example of the holy family be an inspiration to us as we continue in our preparations and throughout our marriage.  
Amen.

For further advice and support,  
please contact:

**Fr David T. Morris**

T: 02922 212177 E: dtmorris@sky.com

## Your Marriage Arrangements

**Marriage Fee (to be paid on or before the rehearsal):**

**Your banns will be called on:**

**To arrange for the banns to be called in your parish of residence, please contact:**

**Your wedding rehearsal is on:**

**Your wedding is on:**

**Notes/Additional Information:**

## A CHURCH WEDDING

A guide for those preparing for  
Marriage in Church



*Marriage is a gift of God through which husband and wife may grow together in the knowledge, love and service of God. It is given that, united with one another in heart, in mind and in body, they may increase in love and trust. God joins husband and wife in life-long union as the foundation of family life in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love. Marriage enriches society and strengthens community.*

*From the Introduction to the Marriage Service*

## Why a Church Wedding?

Congratulations on your engagement!

The introduction to the Church in Wales Marriage Service describes marriage as a gift from God. The church teaches that marriage is a life-long, faithful union between a man and a woman, and compares married love with the love Jesus has for his people, his church – a love expressed in his willing sacrifice of himself on the cross.

Jesus therefore sets the greatest example of unconditional, self-sacrificial love – a model that husband and wife can seek to follow in the way they love one another, each putting the other's needs first. At the heart of the marriage ceremony is the exchange of vows, in which a couple make a public declaration of lifelong commitment to love each other, whatever the future may bring.

Christians believe that in marriage we find the proper expression of our sexuality, a secure environment for bringing up our children, and an important element of stability for the wider community.

A church wedding is different to a civil wedding because you are asking God to be present with you throughout your life - not just on your wedding day.

In your marriage you will promise to love and support each other until the end of your life. If things go wrong the easiest thing to do is walk away from each other - which is not necessarily the right thing to do.

All relationships have happy and challenging times. Perseverance is the key to long and healthy marriage. If you love each other today, there is no reason why you cannot always love each other: but it is not easy to live with someone and always like them or always agree with them.

## The Wedding Service

The service format and structure is set by the Church in Wales, but within that structure there is opportunity for input from the couple.

### **Music:**

Couples may choose 2 hymns (preferably well-known so that guests will sing them), as well as music for before and after the service.

Most couples choose the traditional Bridal and Wedding March to enter and exit the church, but organists are generally prepared to play your choice of other classical or popular pieces. Music on CD may be allowed following discussion with the priest.

If you wish to hire in musicians to play before and after the service, and/or during the signing of the register, you are quite free to do so, following discussion with the priest. Otherwise the organist will play during these times.

### **Flowers:**

If you wish to place flowers in church for your wedding you will need to arrange for this to be done yourselves, and you must pay the cost directly to the person making the arrangements for you.

## Legal Requirements for Marriage

You have a right to be married in your local parish church. The law requires that at least one of those to be married should:

- resides in the parish where the wedding is to take place, or
- be a regular worshipper in the parish and to have your name entered on the church electoral roll, or
- have a 'qualifying connection'. A 'qualifying connection' as described in the Marriage (Wales) Act 2010 is that you were baptised or confirmed in the parish, that you or a parent formally lived for at least six months in the parish, that you or a parent formerly habitually attended worship in the parish for at least six months or that a parent or grandparent had been married in the parish.

If you are under the age of eighteen, you must have your parents' consent to marry.

There are special guidelines on church marriage if you have been divorced.

Banns are the usual legal preliminary to a church wedding. They are an announcement of your intention to marry and an opportunity for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. Banns are read out in the main Sunday service in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married, if that is in another parish. The Banns are called on three Sundays a month or two before the wedding.