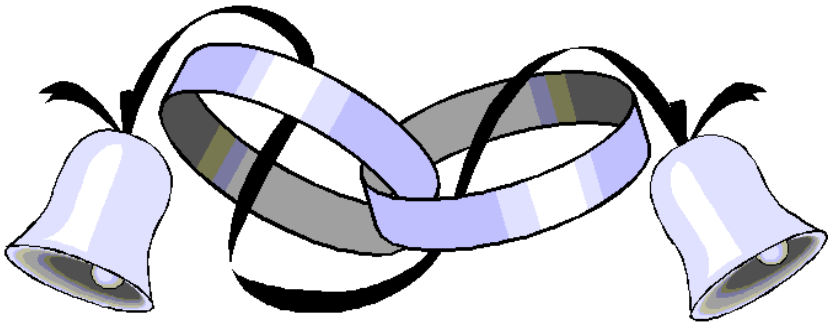


Getting Married at St. Mary's Church Charlbury



The Parish of Charlbury with
Shorthampton

2023

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WHY BE MARRIED IN CHURCH?

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On their wedding day the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. The congregation are witnesses of the marriage and express their support by their presence and their prayers.

WHO CAN BE MARRIED AT ST. MARY'S AND ALL SAINTS'?

Normally one or both of you must live in the parish of Charlbury with Shorthampton or you need to have a qualifying connection with the parish. Connections include:

- You were baptised in the parish
- You were confirmed in the parish
- Your parent or grandparent was married in the parish
- You lived in the parish for at least six months
- Your parent lived in the parish for at least six months
- You have regularly attended worship in the parish for at least six months
- Your parent regularly attended worship in the parish for at least six months during your lifetime.

If you live abroad you will need a special licence.

If you have any queries, please talk to the clergy.

PREPARING FOR THE WEDDING

If you decide to get married in St Mary's Church, please get in touch with the Parish Office or the clergy to get the Church booked and to get hold of a Wedding pack.

At least three months before the wedding meet with the clergy to start planning your wedding service.

1. Complete the qualifying connection form if required.
2. Complete the Banns form and organise the calling of banns in the other parish if required.
3. Decide if you would like an organist, choir and bell ringers.

Richard Fairhurst is the organist and can help you in the selection of hymns, choir items and organ music. Please contact him if you would like to meet (01608 810117 or richard@systemeD.net)

Mike Summers is the tower captain and co-ordinates the bell ringing. If you would like bells contact him on mike@summwhere.co.uk

4. Fill in the order of service form. These will help you plan the wedding service so that it is a unique celebration of you as a couple as well as a reverent act of worship.
5. Decide if you would like flowers and who will do these for you. A dedicated team of volunteers, run by Sarah Witheridge and Hilli Waller, organise the flowers at St Mary's. They will be happy to provide arrangements to your specification on request – the price for a pedestal arrangement starts at £125 and complementing arrangements for in the church are also available. Contact the Parish Office to arrange a time to meet Hilli to discuss your requirements. If you choose to use your own florist or wish to do the flowers yourself, then you are most welcome to do that. You and your florist will need to be in touch with Sarah or Hilli to arrange access to the church as well as water, equipment and removal as required.

One month before the wedding:

1. Pay the church fees to Charlbury PCC
2. Make sure you have a rehearsal time booked.

The Rehearsal

1. The rehearsal will provide an opportunity for you to go through the marriage service so that you know what to expect.
2. At the rehearsal the following people should be present: Bride and Groom, Best Man, Chief Bridesmaid, Witnesses and anyone else playing an active part in the service (Readers etc).

FEES FOR WEDDINGS 2023

The following are payable as one cheque to 'Charlbury PCC' ideally one month before the wedding. We will send an invoice.

	£
Marriage Service Statutory Fees	528.00
Banns	36.00
Verger	50.00
Optional Fees:	
Organist	100.00
Organist – if service is filmed	150.00
Choir	100.00
Bells	100.00
Flowers	Individual quote

Some Popular Bible Readings:

You can select one reading from the Bible and an optional second reading from the Bible or non-religious reading.

Matthew 5:1-10 The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 Firm foundations are needed for long lasting relationships

‘Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ‘Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!’ Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.'

And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 15: 1-8 Growth and a fruitful life depend on being one with Christ

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Romans 12:1,2, 9-18 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, acceptable to God

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Love, the greatest gift and way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1John 4:1-12 Let us love one another, because love is from God

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

First lines of hymns often sung at weddings:

Usually two hymns are chosen but you can have a third.

Alleluia, sing to Jesus
All creatures of our God and King
All people that on earth do dwell
All things bright and beautiful
Come down, O love divine
Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Father, hear the prayer we offer
Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
Lord of all hopefulness
Love divine, all loves excelling
Morning has broken
Now thank we all our God
O Jesus, I have promised
O worship the King
Praise my soul, the King of heaven
The Lord's my shepherd

More readings, hymns and prayers are available at www.yourchurchwedding.org and www.churchofengland.org

Forms to complete:

- Qualifying connection form
- Banns form
- Order of Service Form

A Wedding Pack is available containing:

- Forms to complete
- A copy of the marriage service
- An example wedding order of service

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

Vicar: Vacancy

Associate Priest: The Revd Jan Fielden
07986606548
jan@charlburychurch.uk

Parish Office: St Mary's Church,
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Notes:

Charlbury with Shorthampton, January 2023