



## ***Getting married at All Saints Church, Writtle***

*Thank you* for enquiring about getting married in All Saints

This leaflet should give you most of the current information about a church wedding in this Church of England parish. Please get in touch with us by phoning our Weddings Administrator Carol Gumbleton - 01245 353960. Carol will take some details and let you know what happens next.

We encourage you to come to the church for worship one Sunday *before* deciding you'd definitely like to marry here. Please make yourself known to Revd Jo, our parish priest, or to the another member of the ministry team or the church wardens.

A church wedding is a very special way to exchange your marriage vows and to receive God's blessing, and All Saints is a beautiful church, with centuries of worship and prayer at its heart. We'll try our very best to make your wedding a personal, meaningful, spiritual and truly memorable service as you begin your married life together.



### ***REQUIREMENTS***

In order to book your wedding, there are a number of legal requirements to be satisfied before we can publish your banns. If *one* of you lives in the parish, you are generally entitled to marry in All Saints' Church. If *neither* of you currently live in the parish or habitually worship at All Saints, you may still be able to marry here if you have a **genuine connection** with the church, which is one of the following: -

- One of you was baptised in the parish
- One of you was prepared for confirmation in the parish
- One of you has *at any time* lived in the parish for a period of *at least 6 months*
- One of you has *at any time* gone to church services *regularly* in the parish for a period of *at least 6 months*
- One of your parents, *at any time after* you were born, has lived in the parish for a period of *at least 6 months*
- One of your parents, *at any time after* you were born, has *regularly* gone to church services in the parish for a period of *at least 6 months*
- One of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish

If you have **no** genuine connections to All Saints, it is possible to create a connection by going along to our usual services for a **minimum** of six months. Being present in services **at least once a month** for that period of time is **essential** to establish a legal connection with the church. **After** that attendance, the parish priest can finalise your wedding date, and you can have your banns read at the church, which takes another couple of months to arrange before the wedding. Therefore, if you are attending church in order to gain a qualifying connection, **you need to start attending church at least 9 months before your wedding** to allow 6-7 months qualifying for the relevant declaration and then 1-2 months for banns to be arranged and published in good time.

#### *DO WE HAVE TO BE BAPTISED?*

The simple answer is 'no'. However, your marriage in church will be a Christian service and this may be the opportunity to consider being baptised.

#### *WHAT IF ONE OR BOTH OF US IS DIVORCED?*

Being divorced does not *usually* prevent you from being married in All Saints. The priest will talk to you about this in a private conversation with you both before your wedding booking is finalised.

## *CALLING YOUR BANNS*

The Church of England has a legal requirement of “calling the banns of marriage”. The calling of banns involves asking the gathered congregations on three separate Sundays whether they know of any lawful reason why you may not marry. This must be done during the three months prior to your wedding in the parish where you both normally reside, as well as in the church where you are to be married. This is something you will need to arrange with the weddings administrator.

## *WEDDING PREPARATION*

We see it as a privilege to help engaged couples work towards making their marriage a happy one, so we invite you to explore your hopes and fears for the future, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for a few hours one Saturday early in the year. This will be the opportunity to think about the service in church and to look at some of the practical issues around flowers, music and bells, and also to set a rehearsal date. Our parish priest or one of the ministry team priests will then meet with you nearer the wedding date to talk over the kind of service that you would like, and to help you with some choices. A wedding service can include your own choice of music, readings, hymns and prayers. Most weddings last around 45 minutes, including the signing of the registers.

## *PHOTOGRAPHS*

We try to ensure that the service is an act of worship for all who come, and as such discourage the use of flash photography and video cameras by the congregation during the service. Please ask your professional photographer to speak to the priest before the wedding about appropriate photography. We usually allow half an hour for photographs outside the church after the service, or inside if it is wet.

## *RECORDING*

It is possible to record your wedding service, though it will add to the cost. A local company, Back Street Films of Writtle ([www.backstreetfilms.co.uk](http://www.backstreetfilms.co.uk)) can provide a very professional, competitively priced DVD recording. Please call John Howden on 01245 422023 for details.

## *CHOIR*

Many couples find that the choir adds valuable support for the wedding congregations in singing hymns, as well as perhaps specially chosen songs during the signing of the registers. Our Organist Michael Little will gladly talk to you about the availability of the choir for your wedding, and about possible music for the service.

## *BELLS*

You may wish the church bells to be rung both to welcome the bride to the service, and to celebrate your marriage as you leave the church. You can choose either eight or ten bells. Please give as much notice as possible, especially for peak holiday periods.

## *FLOWERS*

You will need to make your own arrangements for flowers in church. Please contact Carol or our Parish Office to check if there are other weddings you could share flowers with. For opening times to set up flowers prior to the service, please contact the Parish Office.

## *CONFETTI*

Some of your guests may have confetti, which may be thrown in the church grounds. Please ensure it's biodegradable and bird-friendly.

## *TRANSPORT AND PARKING*

It is not easy to park close to All Saints', but you can park 2 official wedding cars outside the church (not private cars). Please make sure that your guests leave plenty of time to park as local car parking is limited.

## ***STATUTORY FEES FOR WEDDINGS***

The church fees include the use of the building, the wedding certificate, reading of banns, the service itself and fees for the clergy - currently £452 and vergers - £30 = **£482** (Cheques payable to "Writtle PCC" or payment by BACS.) Fees are reviewed by the Church of England annually each January.

## FEES FOR OPTIONAL EXTRAS

8-10 Bells (if available)	£240
Organist	£60
Choir (subject to availability)	£60-£90 (plus £60 if recorded)

These additional options can be tailored to your specific requirements. Whilst we make every effort to ensure that they are available we cannot guarantee them. All extras are to be paid in cash at the rehearsal.

***SUNDAY SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH*** Going to your special church makes time for you to get to know us. It can make your big day all the more meaningful through the personal relationships you make. Do come to All Saints whenever you can, and especially to hear your banns read.

These service times reflect our current pattern of worship, but if you are thinking of coming along, it might be worth checking with the Parish Office (01245 422846) as service times do differ occasionally:

**9.30am** Family Worship (Third Sunday of the month)

**10.45am** Celebrating Together (a more informal Holy Communion service on first Sundays)

**10.45am** Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion service on second, fourth and fifth Sundays)

All Saints Church is a beautiful, ancient building which requires specialist maintenance from time to time. It is possible that building work, which may require scaffolding, could be carried out at any time.



*For any further information regarding any aspect of your wedding, please contact our Weddings Administrator, Carol Gumbleton – 01245 353960 or our Parish Office – 01245 422846*

Web address: [www.allsaints-writtle.org.uk](http://www.allsaints-writtle.org.uk)

The Church of England website is a useful source of information about all aspects of marrying in church

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

<b><i>Your checklist:</i></b>	<b><i>Months before wedding</i></b>	<b><i>Your dates</i></b>
Complete provisional booking forms	12-24 months	
<b>if creating a QC</b> – start attending church	at least 9 months	
Banns forms completed	6-12 months	
Marriage preparation day	6-12 months usually one Saturday in February 10am-3pm	
Contact organist Prepare Order of Service	1 month	
All Fees - cheque/Bacs payment	1 month	
Rehearsal <b>Banns certificate</b> from another church presented	1 week	

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