



## St. Luke's Church Weddings Information Sheet 2023



Congratulations and all good wishes for your wedding plans. We hope this information sheet will help with the practical details, but please feel free to ask about anything. I will arrange to meet up with you about 2 months before the service to finalise the details. Please chat through the issues below before then.

- (a) The cost of church weddings is set nationally and is £564 (this includes the cost of calling the Banns at St. Luke's) We add an additional charge of £15 to pay for someone to do all the practical things necessary in the church. So, the cost is **£579**. You don't have to pay St. Luke's any more than this, unless you opt to have an organist. The fee is to be paid by card or in cash (mainly notes, please) at the rehearsal (which is usually during the week before the wedding).
- (b) A requirement is that you have to provide evidence to me before the banns are read (see c. below) that you are both British Citizens. The normal evidence is to simply show me a valid passport. If you do not have a valid passport, then there are alternative ways you can prove you are British Citizens.
- (c) Your forthcoming marriage will be announced in St. Luke's (this is required by law, and is called the Reading of the Banns), and this will be done for three weeks in the three months before your wedding date. We will arrange dates for making these announcements at the meeting a couple of months before the service. Many couples like to come to these services to hear their banns being read and we would be delighted if you would join us. The service starts at 11:00am.

**Very Important:** If one or both of you are resident in another parish, you are required by law to have your banns read in your own parish church as well. Please try to contact the vicar of your parish a few months before the wedding to arrange this. I can usually give you the contact details if you need them. You will then be given a certificate, for which they should charge a fee of **£54**. You must give the certificate to us before we may marry you. At the very latest we would like this certificate at the rehearsal.

- (d) From May 2021, the government have changed the **way that marriages are registered**. Churches will no longer keep official marriage registers or issues wedding certificates. Instead, at the point in the ceremony where couples used to sign the registers, the couple, two witnesses and the person conducting the service will sign a pre-prepared Marriage Document, which will contain all the details to go on the register. This will then be sent to the Registrars who will enter the details onto a national computerised registration system. We will also send contact telephone numbers for the couple. The registrars will make contact within 28 days and explain how to purchase your marriage certificate.

The other change is that whereas in the past only the fathers were entered in the registers, now both mother and father can be entered and also legally related step-parents if you would like.

- (e) **Music:** *We do not have a working pipe organ at St. Luke's.* Consequently, there is no authentic organ music. There is also not a choir to sing at weddings.

However, we can play music either on an electronic keyboard or on a CD player through our sound system. This can include traditional music or any music of your choice. There is usually a piece of music for the bride's entrance, some music to play during the signing of the marriage document and a piece of music to play as you leave. The electronic keyboard has the traditional pieces for this pre-programmed and does not need an organist.

If you wish to have a professional organist play, then that will need to be arranged separately and will be an additional cost. We may be able to help with arranging this. You may also have friends or family who are musicians who you would like to play or sing during the service.

Hymns can be sung during the service, but they are not essential. If you know that most of the people at the wedding are not used to singing hymns, then it is probably better not to have any. Otherwise, you will have to listen to a solo from the vicar! Hymns that have been sung at previous weddings at St. Luke's and that we have pre-recorded music for include:

❖ *All things bright and beautiful*  
❖ *Amazing Grace*  
❖ *For the beauty of the earth*

❖ *Praise my soul the king of heaven*  
❖ *Love divine, all loves excelling*  
❖ *Thine be the glory*

Please Turn Over....

- (f) **Flowers:** Unfortunately, at present we are not able to provide someone to put flowers in church for your wedding, but you are welcome to arrange for your own decoration of the church.
- (g) **Rehearsal:** It is really helpful for the smooth running of the wedding service and your own enjoyment of it to have a rehearsal beforehand. It is best to have this on an evening during the week before the wedding. I will arrange the date and time with you when we meet up a couple of months before the wedding itself. It is only essential to have the bride, bridegroom, best man and father of the bride, there. However, bridesmaids and a few other family members are welcome to attend.
- (h) **Photographs:** Your photographer is free to take photographs before and after the service as he or she wishes and of course during the processing down the aisle. During the service we ask that the photographer keeps a low profile and does not use a flash so as not to distract from the service. It is possible for them to move up the side of the church and achieve some good shots without being visible to most of the congregation. They can take photos of the signing of the register once the registers have been signed and the registers are turned to blank pages.
- (i) **Videos:** You are also welcome to arrange for a video to be taken of the wedding. The video should be tripod mounted and positioned so as not to distract from the service. There can be no special lighting or moving around during the service. We think that the recording of music and the service by video does not compromise copyright as it is covered by our church license.
- (j) The order of your service (which is rarely longer than 45 minutes) is as follows (hymns can be added as desired):

Entrance of bride (and father)  
Welcome  
Declarations  
Reading from the Bible  
Address (Short talk by vicar)  
The marriage  
Blessing and Prayers  
Signing of the register  
Exit

- (k) A printed service card is NOT essential and can be expensive. However, if you decide to print your own service card then please make sure you have run a draft copy of it past me before going to print.
- (l) **Confetti:** We ask that confetti is not thrown inside the church, but you are free to throw it in the church grounds. Please, though do try and use biodegradable confetti.
- (m) **Bells:** We are afraid that we do not have a peel of bells at St. Luke's.
- (n) **Very Important:** We hope and pray that you enjoy the day. But most importantly that you remember that marriage is not about the day but about the commitment you are making to each other for the rest of your lives. Marriage is a wonderful gift of God and if you both take your promises seriously then you will find real blessing in your life together. Below are the vows that you say to one another during the service:

I, N, take you, N, to be my *husband / wife*,  
to have and to hold from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish, till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law. In the presence of God I make these vows.

Above all, we are here to help you as you prepare and look forward to your wedding and marriage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to telephone (01843 592562) and ask.