



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
St PETER & St PAUL
BASSINGBOURN

Getting Married at St Peter & St Paul's Bassingbourn



Welcome

Firstly, congratulations on your engagement and thank you for wanting to be married in St Peter & St Paul's, Bassingbourn.

If you have not done so already the first step is to complete an application form which is available to download from the weddings page of our website. This includes a section to check that you are eligible to be married here so please read and complete this carefully. Once completed please post or email it to our Church Office. When we have received it we will be in touch to arrange a meeting with you to discuss your plans in detail but this leaflet contains some useful things to help you plan your day.

Can I pick whatever date I want to get married?

The Vicar, Helen, works part-time in the parish and is usually only able to conduct weddings on Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays. Within those parameters we will try to be as flexible as possible over dates and times, although this depends very much on what else is going on in church. It is worth checking if the Vicar and the church are free on your desired date prior to booking your reception venue.

Are there any fees?

Some fees are statutory associated with every wedding in the Church of England such as those for the publication of banns and the marriage service itself. Others are optional, set by the Parochial Church Council, and depend on whether you want 'extras', such as heating, an organist, or bell-ringing.

For 2026 the costs are:

- Publication of banns: £39.
- Marriage service: £566.
- Heating (if required): £30.
- Verger to provide support: £30 (and PA system: +£10)
- Bellringing: ~£100
- Organist: ~£100 (see below if the service is to be recorded)

The statutory fees will normally be invoiced six weeks before the wedding and must be received two weeks before. Arrangements for bellringers and organists should be made and paid separately (see below).

What music can I have?

Most couples like to have traditional hymns during the services and there are a great many with words that have special meaning for weddings. We can supply you with a list should you wish. Sometime couples like to have other songs or music that is special to them either before, during or after the service. This is possible but as the service is a time of Christian worship we need to ensure that the music and especially the lyrics are appropriate for the setting. You can check out ideas for songs, readings and orders of service on the Church of England website (see back page).

What Bible readings are relevant and what about other readings?

The Bible contains many passages which are very relevant to love and marriage and we can provide you with a list of these. You may also wish to have a poem or other passage read that is meaningful to you. If so please discuss this with Caroline early on to ensure that it is appropriate to Christian worship.

Can I have a photographer take pictures during the service or have it videoed?

Naturally you want to capture this moment for ever and we can recommend good places to take photos inside and outside the church. During the service your photographer may take photos without flash but please ask your guests in the congregation to save picture taking for before and after the service.

If you would like to have the service videoed we are happy for the use of fixed cameras positioned at the sides of the church.

Can we have the church bells rung at our wedding?

There is a band of bellringers who regularly ring at weddings and we can put you in touch with them. Any hiring of the bellringers is a private arrangement and they should be paid directly.

Can you recommend an organist?

There are a number of local organists that are familiar with the church organ and who regularly play at weddings. A list of these can be supplied separately. If you know another organist who you would like to play at your wedding please discuss this with us and ensure they fix a time to rehearse.

Any hiring of an organist is a private arrangement between you and the organist who should be paid directly. If you are proposing to record the service you must by law obtain the permission of the organist. The organist is also entitled to increase their fee if the service is to be recorded.

Banns of Marriage

In the weeks running up to the wedding day we are required by law to read the Banns of Marriage over three Sundays. We will notify you

of the dates when we are doing this well ahead of time to allow you book in the dates. If either of you live outside the Parish then you must also arrange for the Banns to be read in your local parish church and provide us with a certificate to prove this has been done.

Someone else taking the wedding? Eg family friend who is a Vicar.

If you have a close friend or family member who is an ordained priest and you wish to take the wedding please let us know as early as possible, so we can sort out the written permissions for them to do so. They will need permission from the Dean and the Vicar prior to the date, but this is normally a formality.

Flowers

There are a number of local florists that regularly provide flowers for weddings at St Peter & St Paul's who provide all the equipment and stands they need. If you would like someone you know to provide the flower arrangements then we may be able to assist through the provision of stands etc.

At certain times of the year the church will be decorated for church festivals. We will notify you if this is likely to be the case.

Confetti

Confetti is a traditional part of a wedding and we are happy for it to be used but please ask your guests to use biodegradable confetti outside the church and not inside.

Useful website

The Church of England website provides lots of useful information for those getting married in a parish church.

www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding

Bassingbourn Parish Church
www.bassingbournchurch.org.uk
01763 877558