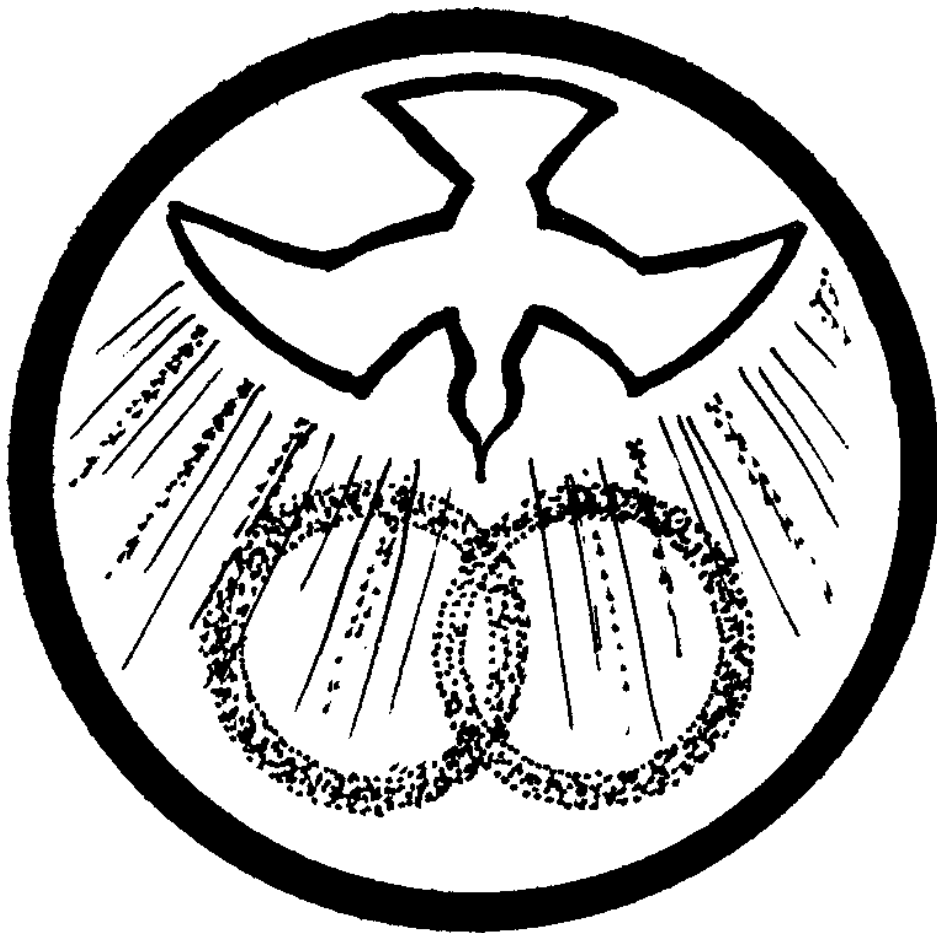


*Your Wedding
at
St Paul's Church,
Rusthall*



June 2010

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage.

I hope that you will find this booklet of use in making the preparations for your wedding. It can be very confusing when you first start making enquiries, especially in relation to the legal requirements.

This booklet will help you begin to understand the processes concerning the legal aspects of the registration of your marriage, and the Church Service and blessing of your marriage.

I am glad that you have decided that you would like to be married in Church. A marriage in Church is a marriage that includes God in your relationship.

By seeking his blessing for your life together you are recognising that He will be with you in the years to come supporting and sustaining you in your married life.

We would be pleased to see you at any of our Church Services, both now and in the future.

The first point of contact for help and advice is the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE LAW

Legal matters relating to your marriage and its registration are covered by Statute Law (the law of the country) and Canon Law (the law of the Church). In October 2008, the Church of England Marriage Measure came into force. The object of the Measure is to grant couples the same right to marry in the parish church of a parish with which one or both of them can demonstrate a "qualifying connection" of a kind specified in the new legislation as a person resident in the parish would have.

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

that person:

- was baptised in the parish. (This does not apply where the baptism formed part of a combined service of baptism or confirmation); or
- had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or
- has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or a parent of that person has at any time during that person's lifetime:

- had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or a parent or grandparent of that person was married in the parish.

In all cases involving church services - i.e. coming to/going to/attending normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage - this applies only to Church of England services.

Banns

Most marriages take place after the "publication of banns". This is the legal announcement that you intend to be married. **Banns must be called here at St Paul's Church, and also in the Parish, or Parishes, where each of you lives.** The dates for the calling of banns at St Paul's will be agreed between you and the Parish Administrator.

You must make arrangements with the Vicar(s) of the other Parish(es) for your banns to be called in their Churches. There is a fee that you must pay for this. After the banns have been called, **you will be given a "Certificate of Banns" which must be handed to the Parish Administrator as early as possible**, prior to your marriage. Your Marriage Service cannot take place unless these banns certificate(s) are in our possession.

When you speak with the Parish Administrator, she will advise you on these legal matters. Please feel free to contact her on 01892 521447 if you have any queries.

WEDDING FLOWERS

We have flowers in Church each week, but many couples wish to have their own special flowers for their wedding. Some couples ask a relative to undertake this, others employ a professional florist, whilst others ask our Church Flower Team. Whichever you decide **you must co-ordinate this by contacting Mrs Elizabeth Brand, our Flower Team Co-ordinator, on 01892 655478**. Elizabeth will be happy to give you advice, and to arrange for access to the Church.

There are two pedestal stands with saucers available and these may be placed by the lectern, the pulpit, or on the right hand side of the chancel step. The Paschal Candle remains beside the pulpit, whilst the Wedding Candle stand (if used) is also placed by the pulpit.

The pew ends may be decorated, but you must ensure that any pew end decorations are removed following your Service.

It is important that you let Elizabeth know if you intend to have flowers in Church, and whether these arrangements are to be left in Church after your wedding.

The pedestals and saucers are kept in the North Porch, along with a broom and dust pan and brush. Water is available in the Vestry, or from a tap in the hedge opposite the West Door of the Church.

Flowers during Lent

During the six weeks leading up to Easter, known as Lent, we do not have flowers in Church. You may have them for your wedding, if it takes place during Lent, but you must arrange for them to be removed following your Service.

Flowers at Church Festivals

On occasions the Church is specially decorated for the celebration of our major festivals. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest Thanksgiving are examples of these. It may not be possible to have your own specific flowers at these times. Elizabeth will be able to advise you and help you at these times.

Altar Flowers

The flowers at the high altar in the sanctuary are the responsibility of St Paul's Flower Team, and are sponsored by Church members.

Colours sympathetic to your wedding arrangements may be possible if you speak with Elizabeth.

Other Information

When there are two or more weddings on the same day, it is the responsibility of the families to liaise with each other. The Parish Administrator will be able to give you the relevant contact details.

CONFETTI

Your guests are asked not to throw confetti within the Churchyard. There will be a notice about this by the Church door.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The order of service is a step-by-step account of what your guests can expect throughout the ceremony. Giving an order of service to your guests as they arrive will ensure everyone knows what to expect. Some people like to include the complete breakdown of the service - including the words of the vicar and response of the couple, whereas others use it only as a guide with the basic details of the service and perhaps printed words to the hymns.

An order of service usually includes the following:

- Entrance music for bride
- Hymn (words)
- The marriage
- Prayers
- Reading
- Blessing
- Hymn (words)
- Reading/blessing (optional)
- Signing of the register
- Exit music for bride and groom

The Vicar can advise you on the content, and agree the order of Service with you. It is advisable for you to give the Parish Office a proof copy to read before you have the Order of Service printed.

MUSIC AND HYMNS

You will be invited to discuss the music and the content of the Service with the Parish Administrator or the Vicar. This is best done by arranging to meet in the Parish Office one morning. The hymn book used at St Paul's is the "New English Hymnal" and hymns must be chosen from this, unless you are printing an Order of Service.

Choosing the music for your wedding service is a very personal affair, so pick something that you both like and don't be brow - beaten into having what relatives and friends think you ought to choose.

Organ Voluntaries

The trend nowadays seems to be against the traditional Bridal Chorus ("Here Comes The Bride") and Mendelssohn's Wedding March. There is a wealth of music from which to choose - including any of the organ voluntaries played at the Sunday Services which you may take a fancy to!

1. At the Entrance of the Bride

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Bridal Chorus | Wagner |
| A wedding Fanfare | Arthur Bliss |
| Arrival of the Queen of Sheba | G.F. Handel |
| Trumpet Tune and Air | Henry Purcell |
| Trumpet Voluntary | Jeremiah Clarke |
| (The Prince of Denmark's March) | |
| Water Music a) Air | G.F. Handel |
| b) Alla Danza (Hornpipe) | |
| Wedding March (The Marriage of Figaro) | W.A. Mozart |
| Trumpet Tune (King Arthur) | Henry Purcell |
| March (Pieces for Musical Clock) | J. Haydn |
| Prelude to a Te Deum | Charpentier |
| Trumpet Voluntary | John Stanley |
| Rondeau from Abdelazer | Henry Purcell |

Or Entry to a Hymn

2. The Final Procession

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Wedding March | Mendelssohn |
| A Wedding Fanfare | Arthur Bliss |
| Arrival of the Queen of Sheba | G.F. Handel |
| Minuet Finale | G.F. Handel |
| (Suite from the music for the Royal Fireworks) | |
| Crown Imperial | William Walton |
| Imperial March | Edward Elgar |

Toccata from Symphonie V
Water Musick Alla Danza (Hornpipe)
Grand March from Aida
Fanfare
Organ Concerto in A minor
Toccata
Rondeau from Abdelazer
Festival Toccata
Processional March

C.M. Widor
G.F. Handel
G. Verdi
J.N. Lemmens
Vivaldi arr Bach
Georgi Mushel
Henry Purcell
Percy Fletcher
William Harris

The Organist will play appropriate music before the service begins and will include any items specifically asked for whenever possible. The organist will also play during the signing of the register when the choir is not present or when specifically asked to do so by the wedding couple. If you want the organist to play then he will suggest appropriate music which might include some of the following :

Humoresque (Toccatina for flute)
Canon in D
Pieces for musical clocks
Cornet Voluntary

Pietro Yon
Pachelbel
J. Haydn
John Stanley

The Choir

The Choir is available to sing at weddings and will sing an anthem during the signing of the register unless the wedding couple make alternative arrangements with the organist. There is also the possibility of a member of the choir singing a solo. This will, however, incur an extra fee as it involves extra work on the part of that individual. The choice of the anthem is usually left to the discretion of the organist. Please include service sheets for the choir (20 copies) and organist so that they can all use the same words and the same number of verses!

Hymns

Deciding on hymns can be more difficult than you might think. Here are some tips to help you in your decision:

- Most ceremonies will include at least two hymns - one after the bride's arrival and the vicar's welcome and one at the end of the service before the recessional. If you would like a third, this is usually sung after the marriage ceremony itself and before the prayers.
- Try to pick something familiar and unchallenging for your first hymn as most people's voices take time to warm up. If your guests don't know the words or the music, they may also end up miming instead of joining in and that will leave you with a flat atmosphere.

Popular first hymn choices include:

All People That On Earth Do Dwell;

Dear Lord and Father Of Mankind;

Lord of All Hopefulness;

Immortal Invisible.

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Worship the King

Come down O Love Divine

Glorious things of thee are spoken

Praise ye the Lord

- If you decide on three hymns, why not keep the softer, more melodic of the three for the middle part of the service, particularly as the vows and prayers are the spiritual high point of the ceremony? Popular choices include:

Morning Has Broken;

Living Lord;

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace;

Be Still, For the presence of The Lord;

The Lord's My Shepherd.

King of Glory, King of Peace

The Lord's My Shepherd

O Perfect Love

Make me a channel of your peace

- For the final hymn of your wedding it's an idea to have a rousing, well-known hymn that everyone can join in with before the recessional music at the end. Popular choices included:

Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven;

All Things Bright and Beautiful;

One More Step Along The World

Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer.

Lord of all hopefulness

Now thank we all our God

Love divine all loves excelling

Lead us heavenly Father

Give me joy in my heart

Tell out my soul

- Check whether your chosen hymn has more than one tune and opt for the better-known version. It's also worth reading the meaning of the words carefully. Some hymns contain lines that may not be appropriate for a wedding
- Do ask if you would like to borrow a hymn book from the office to take home and go through in your own time. Hymn choices don't have to be made the instant you book your wedding.
- If you would like the choir to sing at your wedding, book them as soon as possible, there's nothing like a few well-rehearsed tenors to boost the singing levels.

- If you wish, the Choir can also sing an anthem whilst you are signing the marriage registers in the Vicar's Vestry.

The Choir Leader and Organist are available, by appointment, after the Sunday Services to talk and play through the music you want for your wedding.

READINGS

Church weddings include one or more readings from the Bible and often an additional non-religious reading that both you and the Vicar need to agree on. The Vicar or Parish Administrator will be pleased to help you make this choice.

Wedding readings can be delivered by the Vicar or by a friend or family member. Before going ahead and deciding who will deliver the readings and what they are to say, it is a wise idea to speak to the Vicar and ask his advice. The Vicar will normally be happy for you to include both Biblical and secular readings and is open to including a wide range of poems and prose in the ceremony. With this in mind, it is important that you involve the Vicar in the process a.s.a.p. to avoid unnecessary disappointment further down the line. Once the Vicar has confirmed the scope for your readings, it is then time to choose which ones you would like to include.

As you might expect, the most common readings chosen are the basic texts from both Old and New Testaments

- The number 1 most popular reading for weddings is ([1 Corinthians 13](#))
- God creates women and men to look after the earth ([Genesis 1, 26-28](#))
- A love poem between two lovers ([Song of Solomon 2, 10-13](#); [8, 6&7](#))
- Jesus teaches how to live a life that brings true happiness ([Matthew 5, 1-10](#))
- Jesus teaches about marriage, and welcomes children ([Mark 10, 6-9](#) & [13-16](#))
- What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception ([John 2, 1 - 11](#))
- Committing to each other ([Ephesians 5, 21-33](#))
- Seeing the good side... ([Philippians 4, 4 - 9](#))
- Getting the perfect relationship ([Colossians 3, 12 - 17](#))

N.B. Most readings are available to view online at www.biblegateway.com.

WEDDING CANDLE

You may wish to commemorate the day of your marriage with a special “Wedding Candle”. If you choose to have a Wedding Candle, you will be invited to light this candle during your Wedding Service. You then take the Wedding Candle home with you to remind you of the union of your lives in marriage. There is an additional charge for the candle.

VIDEO

You may wish to make an audio or a video recording of your Wedding Service. You may only do this with the prior consent of the Parish Administrator and the Vicar. There is a copyright fee for recording the material, and this is payable in addition to any costs which you may incur in making the actual recording. Please note that you will also need a PRS licence (please visit www.prsformusic.com for more information).

You might like to think very carefully about the effect of a recording taking place during the Service, and how you will feel being videoed.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The taking of photographs during the Service can be very intrusive, and your guests are asked not to use cameras whilst the Service is in progress.

Your professional photographer will be guided by the Vicar and the Verger as to what is permitted in Church.



With this booklet you may receive:

- A Marriage Application Form, which you are asked to complete and return to the Parish Office, with photocopies of your births certificates. Please complete the form carefully, and sign the form, as the details will be entered in the Marriage Registers, and form part of the legal registration of your marriage.
- A list of the fees for the current year.

Finally,

I hope that you have real enjoyment and pleasure as you make the arrangements for your wedding day. It can be a time of great enrichment and growing knowledge of each other as you set your plans.

We are pleased and privileged to be able to help you in this process, and hope that you will feel able to contact us whenever you think we can be of assistance.



CHECK LIST

12-18 months before the wedding

- Contact the Parish Office to book a date and time for your wedding
- The Parish Administrator will send you a confirmation letter, along with the Marriage Application Form, the list of fees, and suggestions for possible hymns and music
- The Marriage Application Form must be completed
- Return the Marriage Application Form with copies of both birth certificates

4 months before the wedding

- Start thinking about hymns and readings, as well as entrance and exit music

2-3 months before the wedding

- The Parish Administrator will invite you to attend church to hear your banns called
- If you do not live in St Paul's parish, you must arrange for banns to be called at the church where you live
- The Parish Administrator will send you an invoice which will need to be settled 6 weeks before the date of your wedding
- Confirm whether you require aisle and/or wedding candle
- Discuss flower arrangements with Elizabeth Brand

3-4 weeks before the wedding

- You may want to discuss the music with the choir leader, and/or the organist
- The Vicar will meet with you to discuss your order of service
- A rehearsal date will be arranged at a mutually convenient time, usually a few days before the actual wedding

On the day

- The Orders of Service will need to be delivered to the church ahead of the wedding
- Relax and enjoy the day!

Useful information can be found on the following website:

www.yourchurchwedding.org

CONTACTS

Your primary contact will be with the Parish Administrator, who will deal with most of the legal and practical arrangements for your marriage.

You will see the Vicar nearer to the date of your wedding, but please feel free to contact him if you would like to speak with him.

If you are attending Church please introduce yourself to the Vicar, the Churchwardens or the Parish Administrator.

The Vicar

The Revd Ronnie Williams,
The Vicarage,
Bretland Road,
Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells.
TN4 8PB
01892 521357

The Parish Administrator

Gaëlle Coyle
The Parish Office,
St Paul's Church Centre,
23, Rusthall Road,
Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells.
TN4 8RE
01892 521447
stpaulsrusthall@btinternet.com

Flower Co-ordinator

Mrs Elizabeth Brand
01892 655478

Choir Leader

Ms Fiona Johnson
01892 532281

CHURCH SERVICES



Sundays at the Parish Church

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| 10.00 am | Matins (BCP) or Parish Eucharist (BCP) on the 4 th Sunday of each month |
| 6.30 pm | Evensong (BCP) |

Sundays at the Church Centre

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| 10.00 am | Family Service |
|----------|----------------|