

Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as at the church in which you are to be married. It is your responsibility to ensure that the correct information for calling the banns is given to the minister of the appropriate parish churches at the right time. Banns are not required for Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage or Thanksgiving for Marriage. If either of you is not a British citizen, you will need to obtain a **common licence**, instead of banns, as the legal preliminary to your marriage. If you are under the age of eighteen, you must have your parents' consent to marry.

How much will our wedding cost?

Each January, a new fees table is published by the Church of England. In 2017 the basic fee for a wedding is £424. But other costs include the publication of banns in other parishes and the costs of an organist, if you choose to have one.

Who will be the minister at our wedding?

The Vicar, Revd Martine Osborne, will officiate at the wedding.

How do I book the Church?

Once you have decided you would like to get married at St Michael's please get in touch with the Vicar. She will wish to meet with you in person to discuss your plans. A £100 non-returnable deposit will secure your booking. Please make cheques payable to St Michaels PCC

Are resources available online?

If you have access to the internet, you'll find a wealth of online resources about weddings. You might like to try these:

mychurchwedding.org	Church of England website
cofe.anglican.org	Church of England website
stmichaels-elmwoodroad.org	Find out more about St Michael's

Revd Martine Osborne, Vicar
vicar@stmichaels-elmwoodroad.org
St Michael's Church, Elmwood Road, Chiswick,
London, W4 3DY
Tel: 020 8994 3173
www.stmichaels-elmwoodroad.org

"St Michael's is a broad friendly church with a lively vicar and a modern outlook, driven by traditional Christian values of spirituality St Michael's is a haven from the hustle and bustle of London in a beautiful church building."



Booking a Wedding

St Michael's Church, Elmwood Road, Chiswick W4 3DY



Planning a joyful celebration

A marriage service, wherever it is held, is a public declaration of love and lifelong commitment to your partner. God is love. And all love comes from God - so you can be sure that God will bless your marriage, whether it takes place in a church or not. Nonetheless, a church wedding offers the opportunity consciously to make your vows before God, as well as before your family and friends, and to pray that God will guide you and support you in the years ahead.

This leaflet gives a basic guide to some of the important issues. However, it is not possible here to give full legal information relating to marriages and, if unsure, please take appropriate advice.

There are three kinds of service in relation to marriage:

- A Church of England **Marriage Service** is a legally recognised ceremony as well as an occasion for worship and celebration. The form of service is governed by law. The bride and groom declare their ability and desire to marry, they exchange solemn vows and give and receive a ring or rings. The minister declares them to be husband and wife and the service concludes with prayers and blessings. There are important legal preliminaries to a ceremony of marriage, which must be observed carefully.
- A service of **Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage** is sometimes known as a Blessing. This service can follow immediately after a civil marriage (e.g. in a Register Office) for couples in circumstances where it would not be possible to have a church wedding. Alternatively, couples who have been married for some time may wish to dedicate their life together to God. The couple begin the service as married people and there is no giving of rings, though a prayer over the rings may be offered. In the dedication the couple resolve to be faithful to each other and pray that in offering themselves to God that they may grow in unity, love and peace. The minister prays for God to bless the marriage which has already taken place.
- The service of **Thanksgiving for Marriage** may be used to celebrate an anniversary, or in the renewed commitment following a time of difficulty in a marriage. The form of service is flexible and often includes the renewal of wedding vows, in which the couple recall and reaffirm the commitment made on their wedding day.

What is the situation for marriage after a divorce?

The Church of England teaches that marriage is for life. It also recognises that, sadly, some marriages do fail and, if this should happen, it seeks to be available for all involved. The Church accepts that, in some circumstances, a divorced person may marry again in church during the lifetime of a former spouse.

Clergy may be willing to conduct such a marriage in church, subject to the regulations which govern them.

The Vicar will want to talk to you frankly about the past, your hopes for

the future and your understanding of marriage. If it is not possible for your proposed marriage to take place in church, the Vicar will consider other alternatives with you.

Am I entitled to be married in Church?

You are entitled to be married at St Michael's if one or both of you live in the Parish, or where you can demonstrate a "significant qualifying connection" with St Michael's Church.

Significant qualifying connections include:

- you were baptised at St Michael's Church; have your confirmation entered in a church register book of St Michael's Church; have had your usual place of residence in the Parish for a period of at least six months; or have habitually attended public worship at St Michael's for at least six months at some point in your life
- your parent has had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least six months during your lifetime; or habitually attended public worship at St Michael's for at least six months during your lifetime
- your parent or grandparent was married in the parish

The precise rules are quite complicated, so please check with the Vicar to be sure. You don't have to be either a regular churchgoer or baptised to be married in Church following banns, but an understanding of the Christian faith will make the service more meaningful for you.

Can I have a Church Wedding at another venue?

You may only have a Church of England wedding in a parish church or some other place of worship - normally one licensed by the Bishop. It is not possible to have a religious wedding in other venues, for instance in a hotel.

What are the legal requirements?

Banns are the normal legal preliminary for a marriage service where both parties are British Citizens. You must have your banns read out in church on three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. Banns are an announcement of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.