

Wedding Preparation

The Vicar or priest conducting your service will arrange to visit you at home (providing you are relatively local) about two months before your wedding to begin to help you put your Order of Service together and to prepare for your marriage. This takes around two hours and is a good way of getting to know each other, so that by the time of your wedding, you can feel as well prepared and relaxed as possible.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually held two nights prior to the wedding at which the Bride and Groom, Best Man, Father of the Bride and Chief Bridesmaid only should be in attendance. It usually takes about 30-45 minutes, and **all church fees must be paid prior to this evening**. If your Banns have been read at your local church, you must produce a Banns certificate in order for your wedding to go ahead.

Contacts

Organ: Sarah Warnes 01423 780337

Choir: Sarah Warnes 01423 780337

Bells: Maurice Worsnop 01423 770654

Flowers: Jenni Worsnop 01423 770654

Use of the Church Hall (*there is an extra charge for this facility*):

John Dawson 01423 770409

Please contact all parties in plenty of time to avoid disappointment – please note that this is **your** responsibility. Similarly, regardless of who is arranging your flowers Mrs. Jenni Worsnop must have prior knowledge of your plans and date. Please note that the Vicar is allergic to lilies, so they cannot be used in arrangements.

I very much look forward to meeting you!

Rev. Chrissy Wilson (Vicar)

Telephone: 01423 770667

Email: christella.wilson@yahoo.co.uk

Getting married at St. James', Birstwith.



First of all, many congratulations on your engagement and best wishes for your forthcoming wedding. At St James' Birstwith, we offer a friendly, traditional Church wedding, with live organ music, choir and bells, as well as ministerial guidance and support.

You will probably already have a pretty good idea of the date you have in mind for your wedding and we will do our best to accommodate you on Saturdays or weekdays. Please note that in the parish it is best to avoid August as that tends to be holiday time for key people, such as our choir.

We have a lot of helpful information about weddings on our website at: birstwithchurch.co.uk

Some helpful information...

Getting married at St. James's

There are several different ways in which couples may qualify to marry at St. James'. These are as follows:

Either the bride or groom:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- was baptised in the parish concerned **or**
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish **or**

has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months **or**

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months **or**

That one of your parents or grandparents:
was married in the parish

In all cases involving church services - ie going to normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage - this applies only to Church of England services.

Banns

Most couples marry 'by Banns' – legally, 'Banns' need to be published before a wedding and this usually takes place within the main service on three separate weeks approximately 8 weeks prior to the ceremony.

If one or both of you lives outside of this parish then Banns must also be read in the corresponding parish of residence (please speak to the Vicar about this).

Some situations require a special licence which the Vicar can discuss with you. If either of you has been married before, the Vicar will need to visit you at home to ensure that the Bishop's guidelines are met before a wedding can be arranged.

Fees

There are fees payable for your wedding, which are set annually by the Church Commissioners, together with locally set fees for the Organist, Choir, Bells and Verger (and heating when needed!).

In 2018, the fees for your wedding will be:

- *Diocesan Fee* **£201**
- *Birstwith PCC Fee* **£240**
- *Publication of Banns* **£29**
- *Organist* **£95**
- *Choir* **£60**
- *Bells* **£90 - £120 (6-8 bells)**
- *Verger* **£30**
- *Heating* **£90**

Contrary to popular belief, the Church of England receives no central or state funding, we rely entirely on the people who use our Church to keep it open and to be able to offer Sunday services, weddings, baptisms and funerals. Out of the above fees, our Church retains only the PCC fee of £240. Running our Church costs somewhere in the region of £1250 per week and so we ask if you would kindly make a voluntary donation towards our costs. The suggested donation is £300, which will enable us to continue to offer ministry in its various forms and for which we would be extremely grateful.

Please also note that at the end of the wedding ceremony on the wedding day, your guests will be invited to contribute, again towards the work of the church, in the form of a 'retiring collection'.

Order of Service

We usually have plenty of recent wedding service sheets for you to look at, which also provide insight into popular readings and hymns. A template is available on our website.

Do also have a look at the Church of England's wedding website: www.yourchurchwedding.org which is another great resource for your wedding preparations.