

## **Planning Your Wedding At Saint Wilfrid's Harrogate**

### ***Can we be married at Saint Wilfrid's?***

To be married at St Wilfrid's under the 2008 legislation, a couple must be able to answer 'yes' to at least **ONE** of the following:

#### **HAS...**

- one of you been baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish?
- one of you has ever lived in the parish for six months or more?
- one of you at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more?
- one of your parents lived in the parish for six months or more in your lifetime?
- one of your parents regularly attended public worship there for six months or more in your lifetime?
- one of your parents or grandparents been married in the parish?

*(All of these refer to Church of England services)*

### ***How do I book the wedding?***

Booking the date and time for the wedding is an important first step. Please contact one of the clergy to arrange a date. One of the parish clergy will talk with you about the procedures and these notes are simply an "aide-memoire".

### ***Banns of Marriage***

The legal procedures in the Church of England for getting married usually involve the *calling of banns*. This means that a statement is read out for three consecutive weeks in church stating your names and asking anyone who knows of a legal reason why you should not be married to declare it. The "banns" are called out in the parish church at Saint Wilfrid's and the priest there will arrange for this to be done and will also tell you when they are to be called. This is usually over the first three Sundays of the month before the wedding is to take place.

If both parties live in different parishes the banns must be read in both. The responsibility for getting them called in another parish is yours, and this will be explained to you.

Banns are valid for only three months. There is a fee for banns being called at another church. You will need to collect a certificate from that parish to say that the banns have been called and you need to present that to the priest who is taking your wedding.

If neither of you live in St Wilfrid's Parish but you **worship regularly** at Saint Wilfrid's, then you should be on the church electoral roll. Banns are then read at Saint Wilfrid's as well as the churches of the parish(s) in which you live.

Banns are the only legal procedure with which you have to deal and you do not normally have anything to do with the Registrar's office since a priest of the Church of England is an *ex-officio* registrar. Whilst there are certain particular exceptions to the above rules, they will be explained where applicable.

## **Parish Procedures**

Once you have made the decision to be married at Saint Wilfrid's, you need to complete the attached form giving the details asked. (Replacement/additional forms are available from the Parish Office). It is returning this completed form to the clergy that "books" the day and date. Within the three-month period before the wedding you should have an interview with the priest who is taking your wedding so you can go through the marriage service with him and discuss details of readings, hymns, music &c. A date then has to be fixed for a rehearsal when others taking part will also be involved. This is usually fixed on a date as close to the wedding day as can be managed and is held in church.

During the period between booking the wedding and the interview, you may wish to discuss matters and you are welcome to telephone the clergy. If you wish to print an order of service, it is essential that you discuss this with one of the clergy before going to print. You may find that the best time to have a word with the clergy or to speak with the organist or choirmaster is after worship on a Sunday morning.

Church fees for 2008 are as follows:

	£
Publication of Banns	22.00
Certificate (if required)	12.00
Marriage Service	254.00
Marriage Certificate	3.50
Organist	77.00
Vergers	38.00
Heating	80.00
Bells	140.00
Choir	150.00

The first set of fees is set nationally; the second is set by the Parochial Church Council

## **Contact Details:**

Organist: Mr Tim Gray (Tel: 0113 269 8480. Email: [timgray@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timgray@yahoo.co.uk))  
Choirmaster Mr James MacDonald via the Parish Office (Tel: 01423 504629)

Clergy Fr John Thompson-Vear [Team Vicar]  
(Tel: 01423 709432 Email: [frjohn@btinternet.com](mailto:frjohn@btinternet.com))  
Fr Terry Buckingham [Assistant Priest]  
(Tel: 01943 876066) Email: [terry.j.Buckingham@btopenworld.com](mailto:terry.j.Buckingham@btopenworld.com)  
Fr Tim Burrell [Assistant Priest]  
(Tel: 01423 883832) Email: [tim.burrell@virgin.net](mailto:tim.burrell@virgin.net)

Parish Administrator Mrs Linda Harrison  
(Tel: 01423 504629 Email [office@stwilfrids-harrogate.co.uk](mailto:office@stwilfrids-harrogate.co.uk))

## Checklist For Arrangements At Church.

Task	Date done	Deadline
Booked date & Time		
Arranged calling of banns in other church(es)		3 months before wedding
Passport Form handed to Parish Office		See passport regulations
Interview Arranged [date        ]		3 months before wedding
Order of service agreed with priest		Before going to print. Give at least a week's notice
Choir Booked		3 months beforehand
Bells Booked		3 months beforehand
Music chosen & form returned to Parish Office		6 weeks before wedding & before printing orders of service
Rehearsal arranged [date        ]		1 month before wedding
Flowers arranged		Consult priest/Parish Office 1 month before wedding
* Readings chosen <i>*Must be from Bible</i>		For interview/order of service
Fees paid		At rehearsal

- You **MUST** provide the priest marrying you with a certificate of banns for each of the churches in which they have been called before he can marry you.
- Clergy are happy to complete Passport forms indicating that your wedding has been arranged so that new passports can be issued for your honeymoon.
- You do not **NEED** to produce an order of service. Service books and hymnbooks are available. Many people, however, do choose to print something special for their own wedding day. It is, however, easy to make mistakes in an order of service; please make sure you agree the format with the priest.
- The Church of England Wedding Service requires that the readings are from the Bible.

## **Some important points to keep in mind**

### ***Date of your wedding***

Saturdays are always popular because they are a “day off” for most people, but remember that you can be married on any day of the week and that the competition for reception venues is less on weekdays.

### ***“Hiring” the Church***

You are not *hiring* the church. You have a legal right of marriage in your parish church and do not need to “hire” it, but there are rules and practicalities in arranging a wedding and not *everything* is a matter of choice.

### ***The Best Man***

The Best Man needs to be of an appropriate age and be ready to manage the photographer and relatives and guests on the Groom’s behalf.

### ***Bridesmaids***

One bridesmaid is enough, though many choose to have more. The senior bridesmaid in particular has practical jobs to do. Remember that young children may look “cute” but they need looking after and reassuring on the day. Make sure you don’t end up with too many children to worry about.

### ***Witnesses***

Two witnesses need to sign the marriage register. They may be male or female but must be 18 or over. Often it is practical to use the Best Man and Senior Bridesmaid, but parents sometimes act as witnesses.

### ***Music***

St Wilfrid’s has two fine organists and it is usually inappropriate to use recorded music at a wedding. Choose your hymns carefully. They need to be relevant to the occasion and they need to be familiar to most of the congregation. If your guests are unused to hymn singing it may be wise to choose something relatively short and very well-known. You can choose music for the bride’s arrival and for leaving the church and for the signing of the registers – but if you don’t know much about it, feel free to ask the organist or choirmaster to choose something suitable.

## ***Orders of service***

You don't have to produce them at all! If you want to, please check them over with the clergy. Most are thrown away within five minutes of the service and you may wonder whether the money could be better spent. Sometimes an inexpensive photocopy of a home-produced sheet is smart and cost-effective. A template is attached to give you an idea of the essentials & possible ways of laying out text. If you do have them, make sure they arrive at church before your guests!

## ***Rings***

These are handed to the priest by the Best Man during the service. They should not be tied to anything or put anywhere where it is difficult to get hold of them when needed.

## ***Photographs***

Photographs are not permitted during the service and you should advise your photographer of this beforehand. They are permitted after the signing of the registers and one is allowed as the bride and groom leave the church; others should wait until after the service.

## ***Arriving On Time!!!***

It is *unhelpful*, not "traditional" for the bride to arrive late! The priest, the organist, the vergers and perhaps bell ringers and choristers are coming for a particular time and they may have other commitments later on.

The bride needs to arrive **early** so that:

- She has time to get out of her car in front of a photographer who will usually take 5 minutes of her time.
- The bridesmaids have time to adjust the dress etc
- There is time for a brief moment or two to calm down and have those last few words with Dad
- Everyone is as calm as possible so that everyone enjoys the whole event without starting in a bad-tempered rush.

THE MARRIAGE OF  
MR ANDREW BRIAN GROOM  
WITH  
MISS YVONNE ZARA BRIDE  
1ST JANUARY 3002





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THE PRAYERS & BLESSING

Lord of life & love:

R: **Hear our prayer**

HYMN:

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MUSIC AT THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTERS:

WEDDING MARCH:

## Suggested Hymns for your wedding

The following hymns are suggested by the *Royal School of Church Music* as suitable for a wedding. The number in each case is from our hymnbook at St Wilfrid's, *The New English Hymnal*.

137	Come down, O love divine
353	Dear Lord and Father of mankind
358	Father of Heaven whose love profound
513	God is love
364	God is love, let heaven adore him
366	God of mercy God of grace
367	Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost
369	Happy are they, they that love God
377	Immortal, invisible, God only wise
294	Just as I am
391	King of glory, King of peace
393	Lead us heavenly Father lead us
297	Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
239	Lord of all hopefulness
408	Love divine, all loves excelling
298	May the grace of Christ our Saviour
86	My song is love unknown
413	Now thank we all our God (suitable for the final hymn)
319	O God, whose loving hand
424	O love divine, how sweet thou art
425	O love, how deep, how broad, how high
320	O perfect love
427	O praise ye the Lord
431	O thou that camest from above
433	O worship the King all glorious above
436	Praise my soul the King of Heaven
437	Praise the Lord ye heavens adore him
439	Praise to the holiest in the height
186	Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
457	The King of love my shepherd is
459	The Lord's my shepherd
467	Through all the changing scenes of life

Other hymns in the hymnbook which are popular are:

264	All things bright and beautiful
341	Blest are the pure in heart
368	Guide me O thou great redeemer
420	O Jesus I have promised

A longer list of recommended hymns (from other books) is available on request, but you will need to provide both the words and music for the organist (and choir) if your choice is not contained in the *New English Hymnal*.

Copies of the New English Hymnal may be borrowed from the clergy by arrangement.