

GETTING MARRIED AT
**ST MARY'S &
ALL SAINTS'**

A guide to help you plan your
big day!



CONGRATULATIONS ON SETTING A DATE FOR YOUR WEDDING!

To help you plan your big day, we have compiled a few tips and observations that we hope will make your preparations easier. If you have any questions, the officiating member of the clergy will no doubt be happy to answer them.

01

Please read through the paperwork we have sent you carefully and thoroughly. Many questions can be answered there. Another helpful site is www.yourchurchwedding.org. This is a great tool which can give you information on service layout, hymns, music and readings.

When you have booked your service with our Parish Administrator, Dorothy Potter, she will confirm which minister is taking the service and their contact information. They will be in touch with you to begin preparations. If you have a preference of minister, please confirm this with Dorothy as soon as possible.

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Music

- It is always helpful to choose hymns that are well-known to those who are attending the service. Loads of popular options can be found on the website above. If you would like advice from the duty organist, please do speak to Dorothy for their contact info and they will be happy to make some suggestions.
- You are welcome to choose music for the entry and exit. This can be played on a sound system or played on the organ. You are welcome to use other musicians/performers as well. Please do let Dorothy know if that's the case.
- Choir: you are welcome to book the church choir (or an outside choir) for your service. This is often a great thing to do as it boots the singing in church, they can also sing for the signing of the register. The availability of a choir is dependent on enough choristers being available. If you have asked for a choir, we will confirm the numbers able to be involved to make sure you are happy with this.

Readings: Please choose a Bible reading, the minister will be happy to help if you want some suggestions. www.yourchurchwedding.org has plenty of suggestions. If you would like to have an additional reading or poem to the above, that is also possible.

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Flowers: Dorothy will direct you to our lovely flower team if you have any queries. They work very hard to take on the needs of a couple so they are the best people to ask. You can see some examples of their amazing work overleaf:

St Mary's has an experienced and enthusiastic team of Flower Arrangers who love to create pedestal arrangements for weddings. The team does not charge for their time, only the cost of the flowers. We are unable to make bridal bouquets or button holes.

To ensure flowers are ordered in time and to avoid disappointment, please discuss your flower requirements at least a month in advance with the flower co-ordinator Jane Partridge stmarysflowers@amershamwithcoleshill.org

The cost of each arrangement will be £100

Up to four arrangements can be provided in the following locations, but it is not necessary/obligatory to have all 4:

By the High Altar

By the altar in St. Catherine's Chapel

By the main (i.e. South) door.

In the prayer corner - opposite the main door.

Due to damage of the pews in the past we are not allowed to decorate the pew ends with flowers or ribbon.

Whenever possible we try to use flowers and colour(s) of your own choice, and can give advice about what blooms are likely to be in season for your special day. In the event that there is more than one wedding on the same day we suggest using white and cream with greenery, and with the agreement of all parties, the cost can be shared.

If a wedding falls at the time of a church festival or special celebration the church colour schemes will be used:

Christmas - White/Red/Gold

Easter - White/Yellow

Pentecost -White/Red (6 weeks after Easter)

Harvest - Yellow/Gold/Bronze/Red (late September)

At these times there will be no charge for the flowers but a donation would be particularly welcome.

The church does not permit any flowers, including wedding flowers, during Lent (the six weeks before Easter) and Advent (the four weeks before Christmas).

Finally, two arrangements must remain for Sunday services. If you have more than 2 arrangements and wish to take an arrangement, please discuss it with Jane.



06

Ushers/Bridesmaids/Pageboys/Pagegirls: We know it is really difficult to choose who you would like to be involved in the service, but do be careful not to have too many as it can sometimes make it tricky!

Streaming: we do have streaming equipment in the church but this has to be booked in advance so there is someone to operate the system. Please do speak to Dorothy if you would like this booked.

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Photographers/Videographers: This is an important part of your day, so we will work hard to make sure the photographer/videographer is welcomed and has what they need. Clergy will have a chat with them on the day just to make sure they know not to be too intrusive or distracting during the service.

Bellringers: If you would like a team of bellringers to ring for your service - please speak to Dorothy.

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The signing of the marriage document: If you are marrying at St Mary's Amersham, we have the beautiful Drake chapel at St Mary's church which is often where the marriage document is signed. However, this room may not be practical as it requires steps, and isn't visible to the rest of the congregation. If you would prefer to sign the marriage document in the St Catherine's chapel which is in the main body of the church, please speak to the minister taking the service.

Qualifying connection: in order to be married in a Church of England church you need a qualifying connection. This is a legal requirement so please check the form carefully when given to you by Dorothy. In some instances, couples need to attend church regularly for six months prior to the wedding. Please make sure you do this in order to establish a qualifying connection. It is also a great opportunity to get to know the church you are marrying in, so well worth doing! If you are unsure, please talk to a member of clergy.

Marriage document: the document you sign on the day needs to be submitted to the local Registry Office (which Dorothy will do for you) and they then send out the official certificate which is the legal proof of your marriage. Please make sure you are in touch with the registry to arrange the posting of this to you, it doesn't happen automatically.

It will be a wonderful day! It is easy to worry and stress that something will go wrong on the big day, but don't worry, the clergy have a wealth of experience in making these services happen, so relax and enjoy your big day!