

## **All Saints' Church, Milton - Wedding Services**

Your wedding day is a very special one, marking the beginning of a life-long commitment to one another in marriage. We are delighted that you are considering a wedding service in Church. Involving God in your marriage is the best wedding gift you could have. At All Saints Milton, we aim to offer a warm welcome to all couples preparing for marriage.

### **Booking**

The very first move is to get in touch with the Rector, Rev. David Chamberlin (tel. 01223 861511) before any other arrangements are made. David will meet both of you to begin the process of planning for your wedding. At this early stage, this will mainly involve agreeing the date, and deciding on the best way through the various legal formalities to suit your particular circumstances.

### **Banns and Licences**

Most weddings take place after banns. This means that public notice of your forthcoming wedding is given on three Sundays in the Church of the parish(es) where you live, and in the Church where the wedding service is to take place. It is not a legal requirement that you attend Church to hear the banns being read, but we would love you to be there when they are read at All Saints: we always include prayers for the couple when they are read for the third time, and it is a good opportunity to experience the Church building in use! Sometimes, instead of banns, a 'Common Licence' is required, and, occasionally, an 'Archbishop's Special Licence' may be needed. David will explain all this when you meet him.

### **Marriage after Divorce**

If one or other of you is divorced, and your former marriage partner is still alive, it may, under certain limited circumstances, still be possible for your marriage to take place in Church. There is an official procedure to be followed, and the decision as to whether the marriage may take place in Church rests with the Rector. If this applies to you, David will advise you about it when you meet.

### **Interviews and Rehearsal**

After the initial meeting, David will arrange to meet you again, usually twice more. These times together will be used to finalise the practical details of the wedding service, and to discuss the meaning of Christian marriage, by looking at the vows and promises that you will make on your wedding day. These are also an excellent opportunity to ask any questions you may have (there are usually several!), and for David to get to know you, so that the service is personal to you. A rehearsal will also be arranged, normally on the evening before the wedding day. (If, for any reason, another minister is conducting your service, these preparation meetings and the rehearsal will be with them.)

### **Music**

We will be happy to advise about music and can normally book an organist for you to play for the wedding. The fee for this is currently £35. Again, this will be discussed in the meeting with the Rector. (Please note that the organ in Church is no longer in use, as it requires extensive repair. However, we now use a high quality electronic keyboard, which some say makes a better sound than the organ, so the music for your wedding will be unaffected!)

**Flowers**

Each fortnight small arrangements of flowers are placed on the Communion table in Church, except during Lent. You may wish to arrange additional flowers yourself or employ the services of a florist. If so please notify the Church office so that access to the Church can be arranged.

**Confetti**

Confetti used within the Churchyard must be edible by birds: please do not use rice, as it is very harmful to them.

**Time**

A wedding service with hymns takes about 45 minutes (from the time the bride arrives!).

**Photography and Video**

Naturally, you will want to record every detail of your special day. Your main photographer will be familiar with the protocol of photographing a wedding in Church. The minister taking the service will meet the photographer before the ceremony to ensure that they are familiar with the layout of the Church, to show them where the registers will be signed, and so on. Your wedding service is a service of worship, and flash photography is not allowed during the service. For the same reason, we do not allow video cameras to be used during the service, except for an official video. If you do intend to have a video made of the ceremony, this needs to be discussed with the Rector at an early stage, as issues of copyright may arise.

**Fees**

The fees for weddings are currently:

Publication of Banns of Marriage	£18.00*
Marriage Service (including £3.50 fee for Marriage Certificate)	£221.50*
Organist	£35.00
Steward/Verger (if required)	£20.00

Please note these fees are subject to change each January, and are charged based on the fee rate applying on the date of the wedding. (\* Statutory fee set by Parliament.)  
The method and time of payment will be advised to you.