

Getting started.

Initial enquiries can be done by email, or telephone (see front): bookings are provisional until a £50 deposit is paid. The wedding itself costs about £600 (2023) - extras like bells or an organist will up the cost, but you *don't* need to pay for a registrar to attend like you do at a venue.

On the day you'll sign a document which will be sent to the Register Office in Scunthorpe – after a few days you'll need to contact them to get them to issue your Marriage Certificate.

Anyone (Christened or not, Christian or not) has the right in law to marry in their Parish Church according to the services of the Church of England. Similarly anyone who worships here regularly has the same right.

If none of that applies, but one of you has a strong connection with Barton (for example if parents married at St Mary's, or you once lived here) it's usually straightforward — talk to us about it if you think this might apply.

The most traditional (and cheapest) way of seeing to the legal side of things is through the calling of *banns*. On three Sundays, and at least one within the three months before the wedding, it's announced at the main service that X and Y are to marry, and any *legal* objection registered. Though many couples like to hear 'their' banns being called, you don't have to be there.

If one (or both) of you lives in another parish, you'll need to see your parish priest to get the banns called there too, and they'll provide you with a certificate to bring along to us. That'll cost about another £50.

It's also possible to arrange a wedding through one of a number of licences. This is only really for when your circumstances are unusual – it's more expensive — but can be useful if a marriage has to be arranged quickly, eg for a member of the armed forces suddenly called to start a tour.

If one of you is a foreign national procedures are much more complicated — give us plenty of notice, since the banns process can't usually be used

Previous Marriage Dissolved.

You can still marry in Church — we'll need to talk it through a little in case your new marriage would cause serious hurt to someone else, but we're not called on to pry: God expects us to be compassionate kind, and respectful of your conscience. English Law says we have to see a copy of your decree(s) absolute (but we don't need to *read* them).

Same-Sex Couples.

Though we're not yet allowed to do the legal side of a Church wedding for you both, at last we **are** now able to do a **Blessing after Civil Marriage** (and have one booked in already) Get in touch if you'd like to know more.

Things to think about.

The glossy magazines are very good at telling you to spend a fortune on creating a fairy-tale day. Don't believe them.

The most important thing about the wedding is you two and the quality of your relationship. No amount spending will alter that. Do you really intend to spend a couple of thousand pounds on free drinks for people you may never see again? We'll fit round what you'd like as best we can. So come and talk about what you'd *like*, not what you think you *'ought to have.'*

When it comes to planning the service, you need to be asking:

What hymns (if any)?

What music in and out (and during the witnessing/signing)?

How many bridesmaids/pageboys etc?

How many rings?

Who - if anyone - is doing the 'giving away'?

Who will help shepherd people around?

What do you want to do about flowers in Church?

We can help you think through a lot of these.

It may help you to know the service normally takes about 40 minutes. We never book weddings less than 90 minutes apart (two hours is our normal minimum): even so, if you are having all your photographs taken in church we need to know at the time of booking so you don't collide with the next wedding in. 'Bad Weather' provision is built in, though.

If you've got a photographer sorted, be they professional or amateur, it can be helpful to bring them along to the rehearsal if possible, or if they have a word with the priest on the day before the service – we're generally very aware that this is your day, so we do our best not to be 'awkward' with photographers (as long as we don't fall over them).

We'll meet with you a few weeks before to plan the service, and there'll be a rehearsal arranged a day or two beforehand, just to walk the main players (you, best man, chief bridesmaid, etc) through things.

On The Day emergencies can happen - cars get stuck in traffic, etc. - so arrange for someone to act as messenger 'just in case' and we'll do our very best to hold things back until the emergency is sorted out.

Deliberately arriving late is a bad idea! It's risky (as well as bad manners) — organist, bell-ringers etc. may have to leave at the original finish time for other appointments, and if there's another wedding due in we might have to shorten the service to the legal minimum.

You may find it helpful to know....

There are toilets in St. Mary's Hall, including one suited to disabled use which also has baby changing facilities. In the past, some families which have guests coming from a distance have hired the hall to serve tea/coffee beforehand as a place where people can gather.

There's no charge for or objection to private snapshots/videos being taken, but informal photographers/video-ers will need to stay in their seats so as not to spoil the service for everyone else, and for obvious reasons we do insist on the use of flash being reserved for your official photographer.

Confetti doesn't usually pose a problem, but we do ask your guests to throw it well away from the Church door, or it gets blown back into the building. Avoid metallic 'table scatter' — it doesn't biodegrade, wildlife tries to eat it, it gets into the drains, adds to plastic pollution — and you'll discover it's got *very sharp edges* when (not if) it gets inside your smalls.

Wheelchair access isn't bad to most of the building, and the seating can easily be arranged to ensure that any wheelchair/frame users among the principal guests are able to sit at the front with the rest of the family. Similarly there are rows where pushchairs and prams can be slotted in easily. There is a loop system. If any of your guests do have special needs, let us know if there's any way we can make the service easier for them.

If you are using very small children as attendants, plan for a parent or other 'minder' to be sitting nearby so they can sit down if necessary.

If the weather's bad, it's usually possible to take the Church photographs inside the building. If there is another wedding coming in after yours, we'll do our best to make sure that there's no tangle-up of wedding parties.

Parking outside Church isn't usually a problem for the bridal car, but we can't guarantee that someone will not choose to ignore the 'no parking' cones on the day. If your guests are coming by car to the Church, it's worth making sure they know NOT to park on your 'bit', and it might be handy if they have some idea of parking places within easy reach.

Starchy Wedding Etiquette went out years ago, we're glad to say: don't be nervous about 'getting something wrong' — no-one will notice, or they'll think it's something new. This isn't a performance, it's *real life*, and you are *real people* - not actors.

With our prayers,
Revds. David, Alan, Julie, Kathy, Ivan
and the people of St. Mary's, Barton.

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Barton-upon-Humber.



Getting married in the Parish Church.

Arranging the Church service is simple and straightforward.

You'll find in here some basic information on arranging a wedding at St. Mary's (though most of it holds good for any Parish Church) and general help on 'what to do next'.

The earlier you talk to us the better to get your preferred date and time. Certainly talk to us before settling reception arrangements, although it's a good idea to have a few possible dates from your intended reception venue.

The easiest way to contact us is by email:

Fr David – david.rowett@lincoln.anglican.org

The Parish Clerk – bartonclerk@aol.com

The Church of England's wedding site is full of ideas and information which may be useful in planning the day and answering any questions.

It's also got ideas for music, prayers, hymns and readings which might jump-start the imagination a bit:

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>