

Information and Frequently Asked Questions on Wedding Ceremonies in the Parish of Farlington

+St Andrew's Church +Church of the Resurrection

Congratulations

Congratulations on your engagement. Thank you for considering our churches as a venue for your wedding ceremony. Just remember, you are choosing to be married in a place where couples have been married for centuries!

Welcome to this information pack which we hope will help you decide what a special place our churches can be for the most important part of your wedding day. Please read the following information carefully as it contains details that may answer many of your initial questions. Please feel free to speak to Paul Gully, the Rector, (his contact details are at the end) if you require any other information.

I would like to be married at St Andrew's Church or the Church of the Resurrection?

We like to say a resounding 'Yes' to as many couples as possible and we hope you find we will do our best to make it happen. As a wedding ceremony has a legal element we have to make sure we can legally marry you before offering to do so.

The Parish of Farlington has two churches, St. Andrew's and the Church of the Resurrection. Either of these is available for weddings providing that the intended couple fulfil those legal criteria for marriage in a Church of England and have the agreement of the Rector. To qualify to be married in a Church of England, the law requires that at least one partner be resident in the parish, or that either partner has a 'qualifying connection' to the parish. The conditions that define this qualifying connection are as follows:

That one of the couple:

- was baptised in the parish concerned **or**
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish **or**
- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **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 the couple's parents, at any time after they 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 the couple's parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish

More complete details about eligibility for marriage are available from a very useful wedding website - www.yourchurchwedding.org

If you want to know if you are in our parish, or if you want to know which parish church to approach to have your banns read, the website - www.achurchnearyou.com allows you to check by postcode.

We reserve the right to ask you to provide evidence of your identity and evidence of your address.

When Can I be married?

Weddings can take place any day of the week. We would not normally conduct weddings in Holy Week (from Palm Sunday until the day before Good Friday. We don't hold wedding ceremonies at all on either Good Friday or Holy Saturday (that's the day before Easter Day - which many people call Easter Saturday).

Why? Good Friday is the day that Christians Remember Jesus being crucified, and Holy Saturday is when Christians remember Jesus lying dead in the tomb. Both are days of mourning rather than celebration.

But . . . the dates for these days change every year.
We can tell you the dates for the year you are thinking of.

Weddings can take place (subject to other church services/events) after 8am and must be completed before 6pm (because that is the law).

What if I am divorced?

If either of you are divorced and have a partner still living we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you to see if a wedding service in church is still possible. Contact the Rector to discuss this further.

I've heard about Banns of marriage. What are they?

Most marriages in our churches take place after the Reading of Banns. This is a special legal preliminary just for the Church of England. Banns (a simple declaration of the names, parish of residence of the couple and their intention to marry) are read in a service on three Sundays at the church where the wedding service will take place during the three-month period before the wedding. If one, or both, of the couple live(s) outside the parish, banns need to be read at their parish church also (If you want to know which parish church to approach to have your banns read, the website - www.achurchnearyou.com allows you to check by postcode.) In our parish banns are usually read on the first three Sundays of the month two months before the wedding. If either of you reside in another parish, it is your responsibility to arrange with that parish church to have the banns read there as well (each parish differs as to when they read banns of marriage). Once these are read, you will receive a certificate from that parish, which must be given to our parish clerk before the wedding can take place.

If you request only a banns certificate from this parish, (because you are being married elsewhere) you must have paid for before your banns are read.

How much will it cost and how do I pay?

A price list provides the wedding fees for each year and is available on our website.

On booking your wedding we ask you to pay a returnable deposit of £150

You must have paid the balance of your wedding fees by cheque to the Parish Clerk, BACS or card payment one month before the wedding.

Cheques should be made payable to **Farlington PCC**.

We request that payment is made early so that there is adequate time for cheques to clear: it is difficult for us to conduct the wedding service if payment has not cleared.

Can we arrange to record or photograph the Service?

One video operator (which might be a professional or one of your guests nominated by you to record the service) and photographer (or, if no video operator, two photographers) are permitted in the church. **Please do not arrange for more than this.** They must work strictly under the direction of the minister conducting the wedding service. Video operators must sign an additional form which explains the recording regulations: If you wish to video the ceremony and have chosen to have one of our organists to play for the service they are entitled to an additional fee equal to their usual fee as their playing is being recorded. We will expect and ask your guests not to video or photograph during the service so that they can concentrate on what is happening and the promise they are making

What about flowers?

There will be some flowers in church at most times of the year when weddings take place. It is our custom not to have flowers in church during Lent (the part of the year from Ash Wednesday until Easter - we can give you the relevant dates) and if flowers are particularly important, you may wish to choose another date.

If you are being married at either of our churches, we are not currently able to offer any help with additional flowers but you are, of course, welcome to make your own arrangements for extra flowers.

Please remember that on occasional Saturdays there may be more than one wedding so you may need to liaise with other couples about displays.

Can we throw Confetti?

Confetti is part of the wedding celebration; all we ask is that it be bio-degradable and be thrown away from the church entrance - unless you are prepared to stay behind and sweep it up afterwards! Please ask your guests not to use the recently available chromed plastic confetti as it does not degrade and makes our churchyard very untidy. Do we need service sheets?

It is not necessary to have a printed service sheet. We can use hymnbooks for the congregation to join in the hymns. If you decide to have one, we recommend you look at the very useful ceremony planner on www.yourchurchwedding.com as this gives you a practical straightforward way of producing a draft order of service and can help in choosing hymns and readings. If you are having service sheets printed, do check the layout with the minister taking the service and get their agreement, before going to print.

How many guests can I invite?

The maximum number of guests we can seat with our new seating at St. Andrew's is 80 (25 with a partially restricted view). If you expect more than this number you are advised to use the Church of the Resurrection which, again with our new seating, can seat up to 120 in the central part of the church (which can be extended with extra seating up to 250).

Is there a Choir?

We are sorry that we are not able to offer you a choir to sing at your wedding.

What about Music?

We can discuss the choice of hymns (anything between 0 and 3) and any requests you may have for music at the beginning, end or during the signing of the Marriage document. Many organists are pleased to advise and may have some ideas that you hadn't thought of! It will be your responsibility to consult the relevant organist and have completed arrangements with them a month before the wedding.

If you choose to have your own organist play at the wedding, the organist's fee may still payable to the normal organist of the parish church. This does seem strange but it is part of the contract or agreement we have with our organists.

Is there a Rehearsal?

We will arrange a rehearsal with the member of the clergy who will be conducting your wedding ceremony sometime in the week before the service. The rehearsal is for the bride and the groom.

What about Car parking?

There is usually sufficient space at St. Andrew's, unless the guests from a previous wedding have not departed or there is a function in the hall. There is no car park at the Resurrection but some street parking.

Do I need Ushers?

It is helpful to have at least one representative from each family in church half an hour beforehand, to look after early guests and to distribute service orders or hymn books. Often order of service booklets get left in the church and later on guests want to take them away as mementos. It is helpful if the ushers gather these up after the service and take them to the reception.

Could I hold a Reception at the church?

There is a hall beside each church which may be hired for receptions. To arrange to see them to help you decide or to book them consult the Hall booking page on our website

farlingtonparish.co.uk/hallchurch-calendars--bookings.html

where you can find details of availability and how to book.

What about wedding preparation?

It is usual to meet with the clergy who will be officiating at your wedding a couple of times so that you are clear on the details, your understanding of marriage and to plan out your order of service. Getting married is something not to be entered into lightly, so if you feel that as the planning of details gets more detailed you are increasingly unhappy with proceeding, please talk to the minister as soon as you can.

We hope that getting married in the Parish of Farlington will be an enjoyable experience and a good beginning to your life together as a married couple.

What about my passport?

If you are planning a trip abroad immediately after marrying, it is possible for either of the couple to apply for a new passport in their married name before the wedding, post-dated for the date of the wedding. The form PD2 needs to be signed by the officiating minister. See www.gov.uk/changing-passport-information for advice and to download the PD2 form. Be sure to allow plenty of time for the application!

What next?

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ring or email. You can also consult the Wedding Welcome Form and (if appropriate) the Qualifying Connection Form on the parish website farlingtonparish.co.uk to make sure you have the answers to the questions when we meet up.

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