**Welcome to Weddings at St Giles'﻿**

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 **Who can marry in St Giles'**

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In October 2008 there was a relaxation in the rules governing who can be married in a church. This makes it possible for those who have previously had a link, or been part of the community to marry here. One of you will need to fulfil one of these criteria,

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- you were baptised or confirmed here

- you have at some time lived in the parish for six months or more

- you have at some time regularly attended public worship here for
   six months or more

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or you may have a family link,

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- one of your parents have regularly attended worship at St Giles'in your lifetimes

- your parents or grandparents were married here

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If you wish to get married here under this legislation or need any other information about eligibility (or re-marriage) please look at Church of England policy on its website, [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/)

We are here to help you with the planning of your wedding and we hope this information will make it a little easier. The Rector will meet you on several occasions to prepare with you for your marriage and the Administrator will help with practical details of the service.

**Booking the date**

Book the date and time as soon as you can. We are happy to take provisional bookings up to two years ahead. Please notify us if you need to change your plans.

**Six months ahead**

Confirm your booking date and time with the Administrator and make an appointment with her to meet the Rector to discuss wedding preparation.

**Three months ahead**

Finalise details of the wedding service

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Ensure all information for the calling of the banns has been supplied (including to other churches)

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Make an appointment with the Director of Music

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Arrange an appointment for your rehearsal

**Two months ahead**

Payment for the wedding is due

**One week ahead**

A rehearsal is held in church for all those directly involved in the service. This normally takes place in the early evening and lasts for half an hour. You should try to have the best man, bridesmaids and an usher present. This is a time for those with important roles in the service to come to the building, learn where the loos are, and which door guests come in so you can help others on the day. We go though the spoken parts of the service and hope to put you at your ease. Some families use this as a chance to show the church to those who have not visited it before, and many go on to an informal family dinner afterwards.

**Preparation**

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You will meet with the Rector at monthly intervals in the six months leading up to your wedding. You may meet her by yourselves or with other couples who are getting married at the same time of the year. You are busy people and much depends upon work schedules and availability. We think it is important that we have spent time together looking at the implications of the wedding vows and what your commitment to each other means to you. It is one thing to understand your compatibility, another to know the areas of incompatibility and how to resolve conflict.

**How much will it cost?**

The Administrator will give you a breakdown of church fees and additional costs and advise you when payment needs to be made.

**Calling the banns**

Your banns of marriage – the public statement of your intention to marry – will be called at St Giles' on the first three Sundays in the month preceding your wedding. If one of both of you lives outside the parish or is on the Electoral Roll of another church, that church too. (These are called Away Banns). Please come and hear your banns being read. For Away Banns, it is your responsibility to make contact with the Church of England church and to arrange to have your banns read there. (To find your parish church, check the diocesan website and enter your postcode. There is a fee payable for this.) When they have been read, collect the banns' certificate and give it to our Administrator at least a week before the wedding. The
marriage cannot take place unless the banns are in order.

**Remarriage in church**

If one or both parties have previously been married, pastoral provision is made for re-marriage in church. The couple will need will need to arrange to meet the Rector before other preparations are made.