



*A guide to your wedding at*

*St Peter's, Kinver*

*and*

*St Mary's, Enville*

2024

# *Introduction*

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We're delighted that you have chosen to get married in one of our churches and look forward to supporting you in the lead up to your wedding and beyond as you journey together in married life.

This booklet contains lots of information to help you plan your wedding service and think together about what it means to be married. We hope that you find it useful.

You'll have plenty of opportunity to talk it all through with a member of our team, either individually or at one of our organised Wedding Preparation Sessions.

The team at St Peter's Kinver and St Mary's Enville are here to help you and are happy to answer any questions you may have so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

In the meantime we will be praying for you as you prepare for your big day, and hope that you feel surrounded by God's love as you grow in love for each other.

With every blessing,  
Rev'd Rich and the team at St Peter's Kinver & St Mary's Enville.

## *Contact Details*

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*God is love, and those who live in love  
live in God, and God lives in them*

# Before the wedding

## First steps

The first step is usually to attend **Vestry Hour** on a Monday evening at St Peter's Church to **meet with the Rector** to complete the booking forms and **agree the date**. At this meeting we'll also discuss whether you have a **qualifying connection** to the church, or how to go about establishing one.

## One year to six months before the wedding

During the next few months we would encourage you to **come along to the church** and find out more about what happens. If you are creating a connection to the church by attending for six months, this is the time to go along regularly each month. You may not hear from the church until four to six months before the wedding—especially if you have booked a long time ahead—but don't worry, we will be in touch.

It is now time to begin planning your **ceremony**. There are lots of choices which you can make around this and we encourage you to be creative—this is your day! You can read more about planning the ceremony in the next section of this booklet.

You should receive an invitation to **wedding preparation** session which we offer to all couples getting married in our Churches. This is an afternoon to help you think about the promises that you will make to each other in your wedding service. These sessions are optional, but it's a good opportunity to step back from the busyness of planning the wedding and prepare for married life.

We will also be in touch around this time to set the dates for reading the **banns of marriage** (see p6 for more details)

## Three months ahead

This is when we will read the **banns**. Many couples like to be in the church to hear their banns read, though it is not required. The congregation will be praying for you and your marriage, and this can be a reassuring and special experience. It also helps you get to know the church if you are unfamiliar with it.

If your banns are also being read in your home parish then you will need to get a **banns certificate** from the minister there to prove that they have been read correctly.

This is the time to meet with the minister who will be taking your service to make any **final decisions** about the ceremony and agree a time for the **wedding rehearsal**. We also ask that, unless we have made a special arrangement, the **wedding fees** are paid a month before the service (see p11 for more details).

### **The week before**

We will hold a **wedding rehearsal** during the week before the wedding. This will help you relax and ask any final questions about where to stand and so on. It's ideal if everyone who has a part to play in the service comes along, as it all helps to make the day run smoothly, but we know that's not always possible, especially if people are travelling a distance for the wedding.

If you have produced the **Orders of Service** yourself, you can bring along them to the rehearsal. This is also the time to make a final check on your flower order. Whatever transport you have booked for getting to your wedding, make sure they are aware of the timings and whether there are any local events happening on the day that might disrupt your journey to church.

### **The Big Day**

When the day finally arrives all that remains is for you to enjoy each moment! The groom, best man and ushers will want to arrive about 45 minutes early to check everything is in place, and to greet people as they arrive. Everyone (except the bride and her entourage), should be seated and ready about 10 minutes before the service is due to start.

When you walk into your beautiful church to make this great commitment, know that God's love and our prayers are with you. Relax and enjoy your day!



# Wedding Service Outline

There are certain things that have to happen during the ceremony but there is plenty of scope for personalising it with readings, music and more. You will be able to talk this through with the minister taking your service in the lead up to the wedding.

Some of the options do come with associated costs, you can see these on page 9 of this booklet. Once you've made all your choices we will send you an invoice for the total amount.

When you've decided on all the different options then your Minister will help you to put together an order of service so that your guests know what is coming up and have all the hymn words etc. that they need to join in the service.

At the back of this booklet you will find some pages where you can note down ideas and decisions about the service, this will help you when you meet with the minister to arrange the service.

The length of the service will depend on what you choose to include, but it is usually around 45 minutes long.

## Choices you can make

### **Music**

Usually we would have some music playing as you enter and exit the Church, a hymn or two during the service, and some music playing during the signing of the registers. Any of these can be played on the organ or another instrument such as a harp or string quartet. Alternatively they could be recordings, or you may have a friend who you would like to perform.

If you would like the Church to provide the music, either on the organ, via recordings, or a mixture of the two, then just let us know and we will arrange that for you.

We are also very blessed to have a professional harpist, Helen Barley, who plays regularly at St Peter's. You can find out about Helen and contact her via her website [www.helenbarley.co.uk](http://www.helenbarley.co.uk)

## **Readings**

The marriage service will always include a reading from the Bible, your minister can help you choose this if you're unsure. You may also wish to include another reading or poem as part of the service. These could be read by a family member or friend, or you could ask the minister to read them.

## **Bells**

Knowing that the church bells are ringing especially for you, drawing you, your friends and family to church and announcing your wedding to all in the locality is very special. Please let us know as soon as you can if you would like the bells to be rung so we can arrange it for you.

## **Decorating the Church**

It is usual to decorate the Church with flowers. This may be done by a florist, a friend or family member, or at St Peter's Kinver we are able to set out some silk floral arrangements including pedestal, pew ends and altar flowers for a small fee. For weddings at St Peter's Kinver we can also light candles down the main aisle.

## **Photography and Videography**

You are welcome to arrange for the service to be photographed and/or filmed. Photographers may move around the Church to take photos at different points in the service, but should take care not to be distracting. They must not take photos while the registers are being signed. If you are having the service filmed then there is an additional fee which covers the cost of the license to record music.

## **Confetti**

Guests are welcome to throw confetti in the churchyard after the service. However we do ask that any confetti used is biodegradable, and we encourage the use of natural confetti such as flower petals.

You can find lots of ideas for hymns, bible readings and more at:

[www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org)

# *After the wedding*

Your church is always here for you, not just for your wedding day but for all of your married life, through good times and tough times.

Your church is there for the celebrations in life, like anniversaries, or having children christened. It is also there to support you through the harder times in life, offering a confidential listening ear, prayer and friendship at any time you need it.

On your wedding day you are inviting God to be part of it all, and he will be, directly, and through your church family here at St Mary's and St Peter's.

You may live in or near Kinver or Enville and be able to join us regularly for Sunday services or other special events. If so then it would be lovely to see you there. You can find out more about what we're doing by finding us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/KinverStPeter](https://facebook.com/KinverStPeter)  
[facebook.com/EnvilleStMary](https://facebook.com/EnvilleStMary)

or by visiting our websites:

[stpeterskinver.org.uk](http://stpeterskinver.org.uk)  
[stmarysenville.wordpress.com](http://stmarysenville.wordpress.com)

It may be that you live further away, in which case your local church would be delighted to support and welcome you. You can find more details about your local church at:

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

In the wedding ceremony we pray that your marriage will be life-giving and life-long. Whatever ups and downs the coming years may bring, your church is here for you and you will always find a friendly welcome.



# Paying for the wedding

We ask for a £100 deposit upon booking to reserve the wedding date, and then for the remainder of the balance to be paid a month before the wedding. Do let us know if you would like a conversation about paying by instalments.

These are the set fees for weddings in 2024:

## **Statutory Fee:**

Marriage service in Church	£567
Banns ( <i>for wedding held elsewhere</i> )	£54

## **Local fees**

Organ / Spotify	£160
Licensing fee if service is filmed	£180
<i>fees for decorating the church available on request</i>	

## **St Peter's, Kinver:**

Vergers	£50
Bells	£230
Choir	£100
Heating (Oct—Apr)	£150 (optional donation)
Heating (May—Sept)	£80 (optional donation)

## **St Mary's, Enville:**

Verger	£40
Bells	£180
Heating	£80 (optional donation)

## **Payment Details**

### *St Peter's, Kinver:*

Cheques payable to 'St Peter's PCC Kinver'

BACS Transfer: 'St Peter's PCC Kinver'

s/c: 40-52-40      a/c: 0003 5192

*Please use your surname as the reference*

### *St Mary's, Enville:*

Cheques payable to "Enville St Mary Parochial Church Council"

BACS Transfer: "Enville St Mary Parochial Church Council"

s/c: 20-82-70      a/c: 2031 8574

*Please use your surname as the reference*

# Legalities

## **Qualifying Connection**

In order to get married in a Church you must have a qualifying connection, This could be that you, or your parents, have lived in the parish, that you were baptised or confirmed in the church, that your parents or grandparents were married there, or that one of you has regularly attended services at the church for at least 6 months. We will talk through these at the initial booking meeting.

## **Banns of Marriage**

The usual way to get married in a Church is 'by banns'. This involves announcing your wedding on three Sundays within 3 months of the wedding. This has to happen in the parish where you are getting married and (if different) the parish where you live. It is not a requirement to attend the reading of the Banns but it is nice if you can and we will pray for you in Church.

If you live elsewhere you will need to get in touch with your local parish directly to arrange this—you can find your parish church and their contact details at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com), once they've been read there you will get a Banns certificate which we'll need to see before the wedding.

## **Common License**

Under some circumstances it is not possible to read the banns, and so a common license will need to be sought. This involves meeting with a representative from the Diocese and presenting various documents to prove that you are eligible to be married. If this is required then Rev'd Rich will talk you through the process.

## **Signing the Registers**

During the service (usually at the end) we will sign the Marriage Document to create a permanent record of the marriage. This is signed by the couple, the minister, and two adult witnesses. We will then return this document to the Registry Office to complete the registration of your marriage.

## **Marriage Certificates**

Marriage certificates are no longer issued by the Church, instead you will need to apply directly to Staffordshire County Council for a copy following the wedding. This can be done via their website: <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/onlineorder>

# Love Languages

There are lots of ways to get to know each other deeper as you begin your married life together. One tool which we encourage you to use is the 'Five Love Languages'. This is a free quiz which you can take to discover the ways in which you each give and receive love. Try and find some time before the wedding to each take the quiz and then talk about the results together.

The five Love Languages are:

	HOW TO COMMUNICATE	ACTIONS TO TAKE
Words of Affirmation	Encourage, affirm, appreciate, empathize. Listen actively.	Send an unexpected note, text, or card. Genuinely encourage, and often.
Physical Touch	Non verbal – use body language and touch to express love	Hug, kiss, hold hands, show physical affection often. Make intimacy a thoughtful priority.
Receiving Gifts	Thoughtfulness, make your spouse a priority, speak purposefully.	Give thoughtful gifts and gestures. Small things matter in a big way. Express gratitude when receiving a gift.
Quality Time	Uninterrupted and focused conversations. One-on-one time is critical.	Create special moments together, take walks and do small things with your partner. Weekend getaways are huge.
Acts of Service	Use action phrases like "I'll help...". They want to know you're with them, partnered with them.	Do chores together or make them breakfast in bed. Go out of your way to help alleviate their daily workload.

[www.5lovelanguages.com](http://www.5lovelanguages.com)



# Meet the team

We have a wonderful team of people who help with weddings at our Churches. They will support you in the lead up to the service, and will be on hand to help on the day so that you can be confident that everything will go smoothly.

## Clergy Team

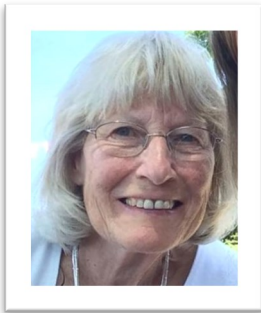


Rev'd Rich  
Clarkson



Rev'd Dr Anne  
Furness

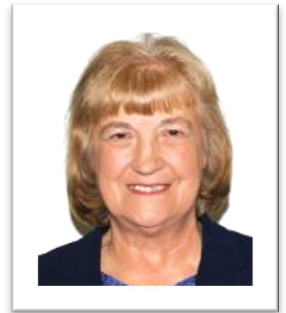
## Weddings Team



Mary Middleton  
(St Peter's)



Glenys Cutler  
(St Peter's)



Lin Hingley  
(St Mary's)

# The Marriage Service

Here is the full text of the marriage part of the wedding service, do try and take time to read it through together before the wedding, and see what you notice in it about the purpose and meaning of a marriage.

## Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we have come together  
to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*,  
to pray for God's blessing on them,  
to share their joy  
and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation  
through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.  
It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,  
they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind,  
as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together  
in the delight and tenderness of sexual union  
and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.  
It is given as the foundation of family life  
in which children are [born and] nurtured  
and in which each member of the family,  
in good times and in bad,  
may find strength, companionship and comfort,  
and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God,  
and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ  
with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.  
Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty  
which all should uphold and honour.  
It enriches society and strengthens community.  
No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly  
but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

*N* and *N* are now to enter this way of life.  
They will each give their consent to the other  
and make solemn vows,  
and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.  
We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen  
them,  
that they may fulfil God's purposes  
for the whole of their earthly life together.

## The Declarations

### *The minister says to the congregation*

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason  
why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

### *The minister says to the couple*

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of  
God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts;  
therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully  
marry, you must declare it now.

### *The minister says to the bridegroom*

*N*, will you take *N* to be your wife?  
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

### *He answers*

I will.

### *The minister says to the bride*

*N*, will you take *N* to be your husband?  
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

### *She answers*

I will.

### *The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the families and friends of *N* and *N*,  
support and uphold them in their marriage  
now and in the years to come?

**All: We will.**

*If the bride is to be given away she joins hands with that person*

*The minister asks*

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

*They answer*

I do.

## The Vows

*The couple stand before the minister.*

N and N, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows,  
in the presence of God and his people.

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.*

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his.*

*These words are used*

I, N, take you, N,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says*

I, N, take you, N,  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

## The Giving of Rings

*The minister receives the ring(s), and says this prayer*

Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let *these rings* be to *N* and *N*  
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness,  
to remind them of the vow and covenant  
which they have made this day  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, says*

*N*, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says*

*N*, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## The Proclamation

*The minister addresses the people*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
*N* and *N* have given their consent  
and made their marriage vows to each other.  
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands  
and by the giving and receiving of *rings*.  
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

*The minister joins their hands together and says*

Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.



## The Blessing of the Marriage

*The husband and wife kneel. The minister may use the following blessing*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
for you have created joy and gladness,  
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.  
Pour out the abundance of your blessing  
upon *N* and *N* in their new life together.  
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts  
and a crown upon their heads.  
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;  
awake and asleep,  
in joy and in sorrow,  
in life and in death.  
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet  
where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

*The minister says to the couple*

God the Father,  
God the Son,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve and keep you;  
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,  
that you may please him both in body and soul,  
and, living together in faith and love,  
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

**All: Amen.**





# Service Details

## Dates and times

Service date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Music choices

Organ / recorded music / other: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance of the bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Hymn 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Signing of the Registers: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure of the bride & groom: \_\_\_\_\_

## During the service

Bible Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Poem/reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride being given away? *yes / no* Who by: \_\_\_\_\_

First witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Second witness: \_\_\_\_\_

## Other options

Bells: *yes / no* Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Disabled parking spaces required? *yes / no* How many: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Videographer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Finances

Deposit (£100) paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Total balance: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid: \_\_\_\_\_





 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
wedding  
faith • hope • love 