

Getting Married at St Thomas à Becket Hampsthwaite



First of all, many congratulations on your engagement and best wishes for your forthcoming wedding. At St Thomas à Becket, we offer a friendly, traditional church wedding, with live organ music, choir and bells, as well as ministerial guidance and support.

You will probably already have a pretty good idea of the date you have in mind for your wedding and we will do our best to accommodate you. Please note that in the parish it is best to avoid August as that tends to be holiday time for key people, such as our choir.

Occasionally two couples choose the same date but as long as there are at least two hours between ceremonies then this is not usually a problem.

SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION

Getting married at St Thomas à Becket

There are several different ways in which couples may qualify to marry at St Thomas à Becket. These are as follows:

either the bride or groom:

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

- was married in the parish.

In all cases involving church services - ie going to normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage - this applies only to Church of England services.

Banns

Most couples marry 'by Banns' – legally, 'Banns' need to be published before a wedding and this usually takes place on three consecutive weeks approximately 8 weeks prior to the ceremony. If one or both of you lives outside of this parish then 'Banns' must also be read in the corresponding parish of residence (please speak to the Vicar about this).

Some situations require a Common Licence which the Vicar can discuss with you. If either of you has been married before, the Vicar will need to visit you at home to ensure that the Bishop's guidelines are met before a wedding can be arranged.

Fees

There are fees payable for your wedding, which are set by the Church Commissioners, together with locally set fees for the organist, choir, bells and verger (and heating when needed!). In 2022 the fees for your wedding will be:

- *Leeds DBF £218 (Diocesan fee)*
- *Hampsthwaite PCC: £295*
- *Organist: £100*
- *Choir: £60*
- *Bells: £160*
- *Verger: £30*
- *Heating: £95 if needed*

Contrary to popular belief, the Church of England receives no central or state funding, we rely entirely on the people who use our church to keep it open and to be able to offer Sunday services, weddings, baptisms and funerals. Out of the above fees, our church retains only the PCC fee of £295. Running our church costs somewhere in the region of £1,400 per week and so we ask if you would consider making a **voluntary donation towards our costs**. The suggested donation is £300, which will enable us to continue to offer ministry in its various forms and for which we would be extremely grateful. Please also note that at the end of the wedding ceremony on the wedding day, your guests will be invited to contribute, again towards the work of the church, in the form of a 'retiring collection'.

Order of Service

We usually have plenty of recent wedding service sheets for you to look at, which also contain various suggestions for readings and hymns. Do have a look at the Church of England's wedding website: <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org> which is a great resource for your wedding preparations.

Wedding Preparation

The Vicar will arrange to visit you at home (providing you are relatively local) about two months before your wedding to begin to help you put

your Order of Service together and to prepare for your marriage. This takes around two hours and is a good way of getting to know each other, so that by the time of your wedding, you can feel as well prepared and relaxed as possible.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually held the night before the wedding at which the: *Bride and Groom; Best Man; Father of the Bride; and Chief Bridesmaid only* - should be in attendance. It usually takes about 30-45 minutes, and **all church fees must be paid by this evening**. If your Banns have been read at your local church, you must produce a Banns certificate in order for your wedding to go ahead.

Contacts

Organ: Mrs Gill Hart 01423 770903
Choir: Mrs Gill Hart 01423 770903
Bells: Ms Ailsa Jackson 07907 633327
Flowers: Mrs Jane Nami 01423 770332
Use of the 'Community Room: Mrs Vicki Morgan – 07915 045909
(there is an extra charge for this facility)

Please contact all parties in plenty of time to avoid disappointment – **please note that this is your responsibility**. Similarly, regardless of who is arranging your flowers Mrs Nami must have prior knowledge of your plans and date.

We very much look forward to meeting you!

If you have any questions, please contact either:
Reverend Suzy McCarter 01423 772638 (9am to 9pm)
or
Mrs Jud Charlesworth (churchwarden) 01423 771935