

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually held at 6pm on the night prior to the wedding at which those in the immediate wedding party are welcome to attend the rehearsal. It usually takes about 30-45 minutes. 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: Scott Phillips scott_r_phillips@outlook.com
Choir: Scott Phillips scott_r_phillips@outlook.com
Bells: Maurice Worsnop 01423 770654
Flowers: Jenni Worsnop 01423 770654

We have a Church Hall that is available to hire alongside your wedding booking. This popular facility provides somewhere for relatives (particularly the young or the elderly) to sit during the photographs; it is equipped with kettles and crockery if you wish to offer refreshments.

If you would like to hire the Church Hall contact John Dawson 01423 770409 to make a reservation.

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. Jenni Worsnop must have prior knowledge of your plans and date.

We very much look forward to meeting you!

Your first point of contact to check legal requirements and dates is with our Churchwarden

Sue Baugh
suecvbaugh@hotmail.com
01423 771734

Getting married at St. James' Birstwith



First of all, many congratulations on your engagement and best wishes for your forthcoming wedding. At St James' Birstwith, 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 on Saturdays or weekdays.

We have a lot of helpful information about weddings on our website at: www.hfkb.co.uk

It is a good idea to peruse our website first, as you may well find the information you are looking for there!

Some helpful information...

Getting married at St. James'

There are several different ways in which couples may qualify to marry at St. James'. 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 within the main service on three separate weeks approximately 2 months 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 churchwarden about this).

Some situations require a special licence which the churchwarden can discuss with you. If either of you has been married before, the presiding priest 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 annually by the Church Commissioners, together with locally set fees for the Organist, Choir, Bells and Verger (and heating when needed!).

In 2025, the fees for your wedding will be:

- *Birstwith PCC: £247 (Diocesan fee)*
- *Birstwith PCC: £297*
- *Birstwith PCC: publication of Banns: £37*
- *Organist: £120*
- *Choir: £80*
- *Bells: £200 (8 bells)*
- *Verger: £50*
- *Heating (if required): £95*
- *Clergy mileage expenses: £ dependent on minister taking the service*

Please note that all church fees must be paid by 2 months before your wedding date.

Please note that at the end of the wedding ceremony on the wedding day, your guests will be invited to contribute 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 provide insight into popular readings and hymns. A template is available on our website.

Do also have a look at the Church of England's wedding website: www.yourchurchwedding.org which is another great resource for your wedding preparations.

Wedding Preparation

The presiding priest will make contact to 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 one and a half 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.