



Getting married at All Saints Church, Writtle

Thank you for enquiring about getting married in All Saints

This leaflet should give you most of the current information about a church wedding in this Church of England parish. Please get in touch with us by phoning the church office or emailing us at: weddingswrittle@gmail.com and our weddings administrator will take some details and give you guidance. We encourage you to come to the church for worship one Sunday *before* deciding you'd definitely like to marry here. Please make yourselves known to a member of the ministry team or the welcome team.

A church wedding is a very special way to exchange your marriage vows and to receive God's blessing, and All Saints is a beautiful church, with centuries of worship and prayer at its heart. We'll try our very best to make your wedding a personal, meaningful, spiritual and truly memorable service as you begin your married life together.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a wedding on a Sunday or over the Easter weekend.



REQUIREMENTS

In order to book your wedding, there are a number of legal requirements to be satisfied before we can publish your banns. If *one* of you lives in the parish, you are generally entitled to marry in All Saints Church. If *neither* of you currently live in the parish or habitually worship at All Saints, you may still be able to marry here if you have a **genuine connection** with the church, which is one of the following: -

- One of you was baptised in the parish
- One of you was prepared for confirmation in the parish
- One of you has *at any time* lived in the parish for a period of *at least* 6 months
- One of you has *at any time* gone to church services *regularly* in the parish for a period of *at least* 6 months
- One of your parents, *at any time after* you were born, has lived in the parish for a period of *at least* 6 months
- One of your parents, *at any time after* you were born, has *regularly* gone to church services in the parish for a period of *at least* 6 months
- One of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish

DO WE HAVE TO BE BAPTISED?

The simple answer is 'no'. However, your marriage in church will be a Christian service and this may be the opportunity to consider being baptised.

WHAT IF ONE OR BOTH OF US IS DIVORCED?

Being divorced does not *usually* prevent you from being married in All Saints. The priest will talk to you about this in a private conversation with you both before your wedding booking is finalised. The Bishop now requires that couples are interviewed by the vicar and a form completed with you for the Bishop's approval.

We don't currently have a vicar at All Saints so we may not be able to accept divorcees until we do. Please contact our Weddings Administrator for clarification.

CALLING YOUR BANNES

The Church of England has a legal requirement of "calling the bannes of marriage". The calling of bannes involves asking the gathered congregations on three separate Sundays whether they know of any lawful reason why you may not marry. This must be done during the two months prior to your wedding in the parish where you both normally reside, as well as in the church where you are to be married. This is something you will need to arrange with the weddings administrator.

WEDDING PREPARATION

We see it as a privilege to help engaged couples work towards making their marriage a happy one, so we invite you to explore your hopes and fears for the future, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for a few hours one Saturday early in the year. This will be the opportunity to think about the service in church and to look at some of the practical issues around flowers, music and bells, and to set a rehearsal date. One of the ministry team priests will then discuss with you nearer the wedding date about the kind of service that you would like, and to help you with some choices. A wedding service can include your own choice of music, readings, hymns and prayers. Most weddings last around 45 minutes, including the signing of the registers.

If you have a friend who is a priest, he/she can pray for you or preach at your wedding but our local priests must officiate.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND RECORDING

We try to ensure that the service is an act of worship for all who come, and as such discourage the use of flash photography and video cameras by the congregation during the service. Please ask your professional photographer/s to speak to the priest before the wedding about appropriate

photography. We usually allow half an hour for photographs outside the church after the service, or inside if it is wet. It is possible to record your wedding service.

WEDDING PLANNERS

A wedding in a church is the responsibility of the priest and everything that happens, happens under their authority. A Wedding Planner should allow approximately 45 minutes for the wedding ceremony but they are not required inside the church.

CHOIR

Many couples find that the choir adds valuable support for the wedding congregations in singing hymns, as well as perhaps specially chosen songs during the signing of the registers. Our Organist will gladly talk to you about possible music for the service.

BELLS

You may wish the church bells to be rung both to welcome the bride to the church and to celebrate your marriage as you leave the church. Please give as much notice as possible, especially for peak holiday periods.

FLOWERS

You will need to make your own arrangements for flowers in church. Please contact our weddings administrator or the Parish Office to check if there are other weddings you could share flowers with. For opening times to set up flowers prior to the service, please contact the Parish Office. You will also need to arrange for flowers to be removed after the ceremony.

CONFETTI AND RUNNERS

Some of your guests may have confetti, which may be thrown in the church grounds. Please ensure it is biodegradable and bird-friendly.

We do not allow Aisle Runners at All Saints as they have been known to damage tombs.

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

It is not easy to park close to All Saints', but you can park 2 official wedding cars outside the church (not private cars). Please make sure that your guests leave plenty of time to park as local car parking is limited. We ask you to encourage your guests to car share, leaving their cars at your reception venue.

STATUTORY FEES FOR WEDDINGS

The church fees include the use of the building, the wedding certificate, reading of banns, the service itself and fees for the clergy - currently £489 and verges - £50 (Cheques payable to "Writtle PCC" or payment by BACS.). Fees are reviewed by the Church of England annually each January. For full details contact the weddings administrator.

FEES FOR OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Bells	£240
Organist	£60
Choir (subject to availability)	£60
Heating	£60

These additional options can be tailored to your specific requirements. Whilst we make every effort to ensure that they are available we cannot guarantee them. All fees are payable one to two months before your wedding.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH.

Going to your special church makes time for you to get to know us. It can make your big day all the more meaningful through the personal relationships you make. Do come to All Saints whenever you can, and especially to hear your banns read.

These service times reflect our current pattern of worship, but if you are thinking of coming along, it might be worth checking with the Parish Office (01245 422846) or our Facebook page as service times do differ occasionally:

9.30am Family Worship (Third Sunday of the month)

10.45am Celebrating Together (a more informal Holy Communion service on first Sundays)

10.45am Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion service on second, fourth and fifth Sundays)

CHURCH FABRIC

All Saints Church is a beautiful, ancient building which requires specialist maintenance from time to time. It is possible that building work, which may require scaffolding, could be carried out at any time.

For any further information regarding any aspect of your wedding, please contact our Weddings Administrator, weddingswrittle@gmail.com or our Parish Office – 01245 422846

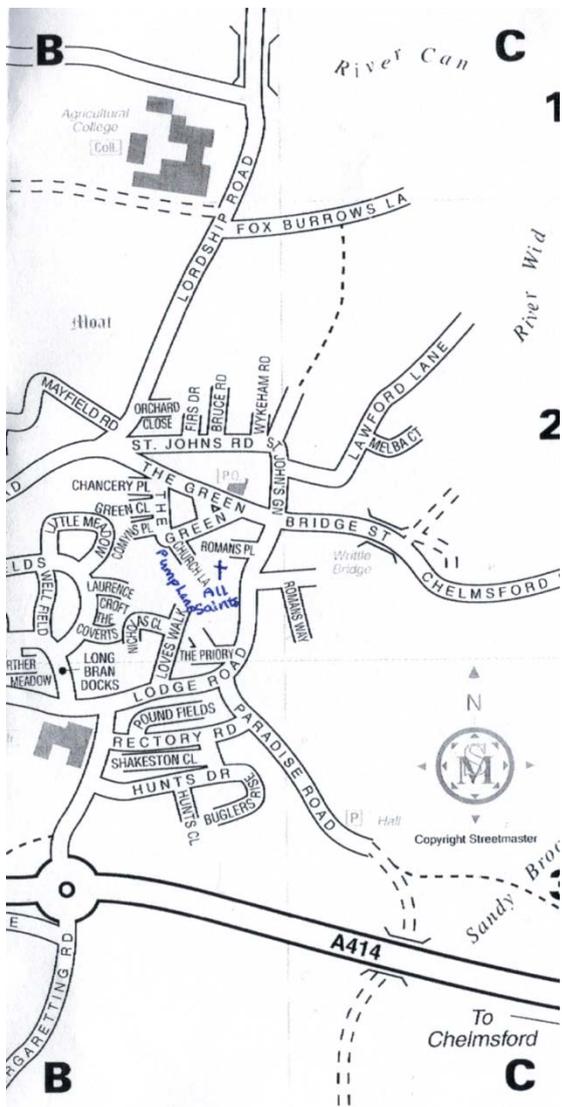
Web address: www.allsaints-writtle.org.uk

The Church of England website is a useful source of information about all aspects of marrying in church <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/default.aspx>

Map <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@51.7293336,0.4269518,18z>

Your checklist:	Months before wedding	Your dates
Complete provisional booking forms	12-24 months	
Banns forms completed	6-12 months	
Marriage preparation day	Usually one Saturday in February	
Contact organist Prepare Order of Service	2 months	
All Fees - cheque/Bacs payment	1-2 months	
Rehearsal Banns certificate from another church presented	1 week	

Registered Charity Number: 1130967



All Saints Church Writtle