

**The Parish of Timperley
Christ Church and Holy Cross**

Getting Married



wedding
faith • hope • love

General Information

Your notes

The church's support for you as a couple begins the moment you book your wedding, and it lasts for a lifetime. If at any point in your engagement or marriage you find that you are struggling, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are always happy to sit and listen to you, to offer pointers or to recommend more formal help from somewhere.

Here are some contact details and resources that may be helpful as you plan your wedding and enter into marriage:

Parish clergy

Useful books

Common Worship: The marriage service (Church House Publishing) ISBN: 9780715120385

The marriage book (Nicky and Sila Lee) ISBN: 9781905887392

The five love languages (Gary Chapman) ISBN: 9780802412706

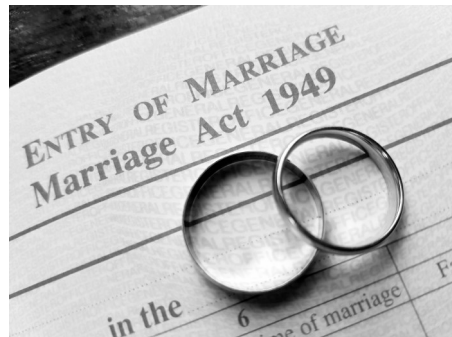
Things I wish I'd known before we got married (Gary Chapman) ISBN: 9780802481832

Heavenly weddings that don't cost the Earth (Susan Sayers) ISBN: 9781844172979

Relate: Before you say "I do" (Elizabeth Martyn) ISBN: 9780091884581

Useful websites

www.timperleyparish.org.uk
timperleyparish.wordpress.com
www.yourchurchwedding.org
www.relate.org.uk
www.relationshipcentral.org



Preparing for Marriage

Weddings are really big events, and you will be putting a lot of effort, time and money into your day, as well as the emotional energy involved.

After your wedding day comes your marriage. Part of our commitment to you is to ensure that you are well prepared not only for the big day, but for a lifetime of loving one another.

Our Marriage Preparation morning will provide you with some opportunities to talk privately as a couple about your hopes and fears for marriage. We will also give you some exercises to take away and do in your own time. These are designed to draw you closer together, and help you to get to know each other even better than you already do.

In the meantime, you may like to read one or two of the books recommended on the inside page of this booklet.

You could also take time to reflect on some of the words from the wedding service. These can be found online, or in the Common Worship Marriage book listed earlier in the booklet.

Congratulations on your engagement!

We are thrilled that you are considering getting married at Christ Church or Holy Cross. We would like to do everything we can to welcome you here, and make your day a success.

Please read through the information provided here carefully. This booklet will tell you about:

- The legal aspects of getting married here
- Our two unique venues and what they offer
- The process of booking a wedding with us
- The fees we are required to charge for weddings
- What to think about once you've booked the big day
- Who to contact for help or more information

The information contained here may be helpful for you in the months leading up to your wedding, so keep it in a safe place.

Once you've read the information here, complete and return the enclosed application form. Once we have received your form we will contact you to confirm that your chosen date and time is available. Occasionally paperwork can be mislaid: if you don't hear from us within a week of returning your form, please contact us to check we received it.



Can I get married at Christ Church or Holy Cross?

If either of you lives in the parish you will be able to get married here in either church.

Additionally, the law has now changed to allow some couples to get married in church even if they do not live in the parish. If you have at least **one** of the following connections to Christ Church or Holy Cross, you will be able to marry here:

If one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **OR**
- was baptised in the parish **OR**
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish **OR**
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services at Christ Church or Holy Cross for a period of at least 6 months **OR**

If 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 Christ Church or Holy Cross for a period of at least 6 months **OR**

If one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish

If neither of you are resident in the parish, and you have no qualifying connections to Christ Church or Holy Cross, you may still be able to have your wedding service here. To be eligible, you will need to worship in the parish regularly (at least once a month) for at least six months, and then fill in a form to join the list of church members (called the electoral roll). After this, you would be legally entitled to be married in the parish, and would be able to book your wedding.

Banns

If you are getting married in Timperley, but either of you live in a different parish, you will need to arrange for your banns to be read in your home parish. You can find out which parish you live in by visiting:

Flowers

We are fortunate to have very gifted florists in both churches, who will provide a dedicated and attentive service for your wedding day. A fee of £60 to cover church flowers is included in the price of your wedding. Included in this fee are:

- Arrangements on the altar
- A pedestal arrangement
- Arrangements in the Lady Chapel (at Christ Church)
- An arrangement around the paschal candle (the big candle that burns at the front of the church)

Arrangements can be done in a colour of your choice. Extra flowers (such as arrangements on the window sills, or pew ends) can be provided but may incur a further cost.

You are welcome to employ a florist to provide additional arrangements to those provided by the church, although most couples feel that what we offer is substantial enough. However, due to limitations on our insurance policies we are unable to offer any decoration of the lychgate at the bottom of the path at Christ Church. If you would like this to be done you are welcome to employ an external florist.

Our florist will be at the Marriage Preparation morning to discuss ideas for your flowers, and you will be able to get her contact details at this morning.



Other things to think about

We will discuss the details of the day in more detail at the Marriage Preparation morning. However, if you want to plan ahead, here are some things you might like to think through:

The ceremony

- Are there special poems or book extracts that you would like? Are there any words from the Bible that are especially meaningful to you?
- Are there people you can involve in the day by asking them to read something aloud?
- What hymns do you and your guests know and like?
- What music would you like to come into church to, and leave to?
- If you have children, have you thought about whether you would like to involve them in any way?

Don't worry if you're not ready to think about these things yet. They are all topics that we will cover at the Marriage Preparation morning, where we will provide examples for you to take away and think about.



<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/parishmap.php>

It is your responsibility to contact your parish church in good time to arrange this. There will be a small fee to pay (for weddings in 2020 this is £45). Once they have read your banns, your home church will give you a certificate which needs to be given to us at your wedding rehearsal.

What happens if either of us is divorced?

We wish you a lifetime of love and will do everything we can to support couples in their lifelong commitment to one another. However, we recognise that some marriages do fail for all sorts of sad and painful reasons.

In some circumstances, we will be able to conduct a wedding service following the divorce of one or both parties. In other circumstances, it may be more appropriate for us to offer a service of prayer and dedication after a civil wedding. In all instances, we would like to help as best as we are able.

There are strict guidelines, issued by the Church of England and the Bishop of Chester, which we must adhere to when considering each application. These are detailed in a letter that you will have received with this information booklet. Once you have read the letter and understand the guidelines, a member of the clergy will meet with you to explore how we can best help. Contact Jim or Jenny to arrange this meeting.

If either of you have been previously married, and you haven't received this letter, please contact Jim or Jenny before proceeding with your wedding application.

What if one of us is a foreign national?

There are various legal preliminaries that we must follow prior to a wedding. Most couples are able to proceed by way of religious preliminaries, which is the reading of banns. However, if either of you is a non-EEU national, we will need to follow civil preliminaries. This will involve obtaining a superintendent registrar's certificate. If this applies to you, please contact us as soon as possible, and before proceeding with your wedding application. We will then guide you through the proper processes to ensure your marriage is legal.

Special services

We also offer a variety of other special services at Christ Church and Holy Cross.

Renewal of vows or wedding blessing

We'd love to welcome you (and your family and friends if appropriate) for a Service of Thanksgiving for your marriage. Often couples choose this option to mark an important anniversary or life event, or after a particularly difficult time in the marriage. But you don't need to have a specific reason!

Wedding and baptism

If you and/or your children would like to be baptised as part of your wedding ceremony, this is something we can offer.

A Service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage

Many people who have a civil wedding, whether in the UK or abroad, feel they would like to dedicate their marriage to God in church soon afterwards. This is a simple service, open to anyone. The words of the service acknowledge the commitment you have already made and ask for God's blessing and guidance in your new life together. Because it is not a marriage service, banns are not required, and there is no signing of the Register.

When can I get married?

The law permits us to conduct weddings between 8am and 6pm. Most couples will choose a time around midday or early afternoon, but, subject to availability, the choice is yours.

We don't usually offer weddings on Sundays or on major Christian festivals (Christmas Day and Easter Day) unless there are exceptional circumstances.

At other times the availability of the church buildings and clergy is not guaranteed, although we will be as flexible as we can to accommodate you. We strongly recommend that you do not finalise your booking of a reception venue until you have received confirmation of the date and time of your wedding from us. We will only be able to contact you with this confirmation once we have received your completed application form.

Notes:

1. Statutory fees are those laid down nationally by the Church of England. Additional fees are those set locally by the PCC. Additional fees are legally optional; however we consider these fees vital to the smooth running of a wedding and your contributions are gratefully received.

2. The organist fee is payable if the organ is used in a ceremony, and applies even if the services of a relative or family friend are employed for the occasion.

3. The vergers are vital to the smooth running of your ceremony. He or she is responsible for opening up the building, ensuring the church is ready to receive you and your guests, and providing direction and advice to guests, ushers and others as needed.

4. Our florists offer a comprehensive service at an affordable price. Full details of this will be discussed with couples.

Payment is due at the ceremony rehearsal, without which the ceremony will be unable to proceed. Please pay cash (exact amount) or cheque (payable to Timperley Parochial Church Council). Payment by BACS is also possible. Please ask the member of clergy conducting your wedding for details of how to do this.

The maintenance of our beautiful churches is a heavy financial burden on our congregations. A large part of the fee charged is not kept by the local church, but passed to the Diocese. If you are able to make an additional gift to the church, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are a UK tax payer, we would also be able to reclaim the tax on this gift to maximise its value. For more details please speak to a member of the clergy.

How much does it cost?

The fees for weddings usually increase in January of each year. Fees for 2021 are as follows:

WEDDING	
Statutory Fees	
Marriage Service	£464.00
Reading of Banns	£31.00
Additional Fees¹	
Organist	£100.00
<i>Organist's copyright fee if ceremony is filmed</i>	<i>£100.00</i>
Verger	£60.00
Flowers	£60.00
TOTAL (Excluding copyright fee)	£715.00

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND DEDICATION AFTER A CIVIL MARRIAGE or WEDDING BLESSING / RENEWAL OF VOWS	
Additional Fees¹	
Ceremony	£250.00
Organist ²	£100.00
<i>Organist's copyright fee if ceremony is filmed</i>	<i>£100.00</i>
Verger ³	£60.00
Flowers ⁴	£60.00
TOTAL (Excluding copyright fee)	£470.00

Christ Church or Holy Cross?



There are two churches in the parish, and you are welcome to be married in either of them. Both have their own character and atmosphere.

Christ Church is a Victorian church situated on the junction of Thorley Lane and Ridgeway Road. It has a prayerful atmosphere and you can sense the footprints of generations who have worshipped and celebrated here before. There is a maximum capacity of approx. 250 people.

Holy Cross is a beautiful modern building situated on the junction of Park Road and Acresfield Road. It has a maximum capacity of approx. 120 people, and off road parking for 40 cars. It offers a more intimate space that is light and airy. We also have a hall attached to Holy Cross that can be hired as a budget option for your wedding reception.

Both churches are fully accessible to those with limited mobility.

If you would like to see the buildings before you choose where to have your wedding, the best way to do this is to come along to a service. We have church services suitable for all ages: check our website for details.



What happens next?

If you would like to book a wedding at Christ Church or Holy Cross, then complete the enclosed application form and return it as soon as possible.

Once we receive this, we will contact you with confirmation of your preferred date and time. If the date you would like is not available, we will discuss alternatives with you.

In January of the year of your wedding, we will invite you to a Marriage Preparation morning. This will be held at Christ Church and is a very important part of preparing for your wedding. During this morning you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet the minister who will be taking your ceremony and book a meeting with him or her to plan the day
- Learn about what happens on the day
- Begin to think about how we can make your wedding personal to you
- Talk to the church florist about your flower arrangements
- Talk to the church organist about options for music
- Have a look around the church
- Meet other couples getting married in the same year
- Think through, as a couple, the vows you will make together
- Ask any questions you may have



The law now requires us to check the identity of every person getting married in the parish. Please bring a valid passport to the Marriage Preparation morning so we can fulfil this requirement. If you do not have a current passport, please contact the clergy for advice.

In the months before your wedding, you will meet as a couple with the minister who will officiate on the day. This is an opportunity to talk about your choices for the ceremony, and for us to work together on making it a day that is personal and special to you.

Sometime in the week before your wedding, you will have a rehearsal in church with the minister. This is a chance to 'walk through' the whole service, and put to bed any last minute nerves or uncertainties you might have about the day. It is helpful if the rehearsal is attended by as many of the bridal party as possible, as well as anyone who is reading or performing on the day.

You will also need to settle the cost of your wedding at the rehearsal, as well as provide a banns certificate from the parish in which you live, if you don't live in Timperley parish. Without these two things, your wedding would not be able to go ahead. But we will give you plenty of reminders!

