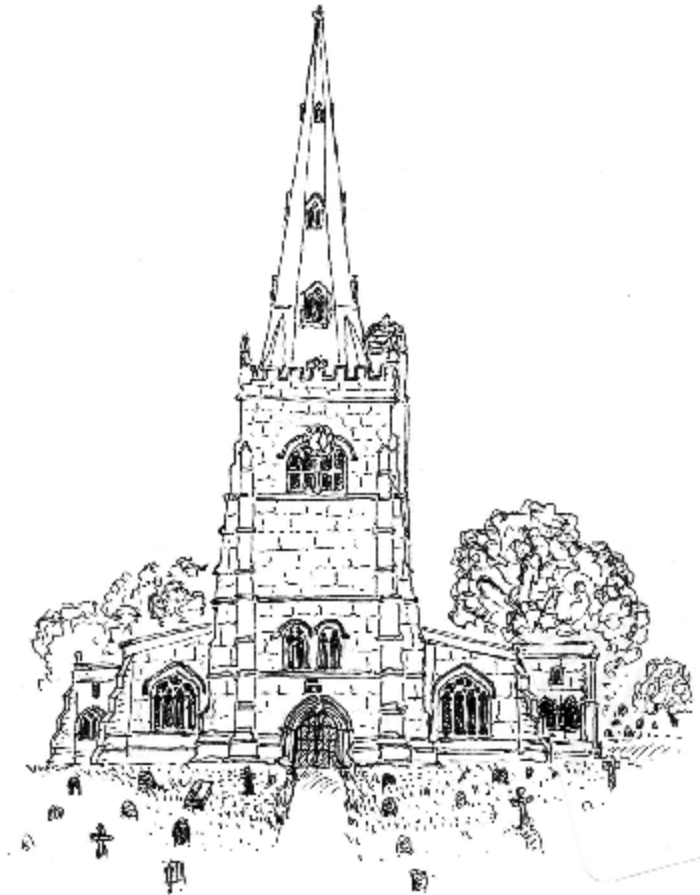


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester



Your wedding at
St Mary the Virgin
Godmanchester

Congratulations on your engagement!

We are delighted that you are considering celebrating your marriage at St Mary's. This leaflet outlines the procedure for organising and planning the church service. We hope it will help you in your decision-making, and take some of the stress out of planning your wedding.

Useful Contact Information

Clergy	Revd David Busk, Priest in charge 59 Post St Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2AQ 01480 436400 dwbusk@hotmail.com
Parish Office	<i>(10-12 on Tuesday and Saturdays, and 10.30-12 on Thursdays)</i> 59 Post Street Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2AQ 01480 453354
Flower Guild	Mrs Jean Miller 01480 437488 p.miller2020@ntlworld.com
Organist	Mr Ken Diffey 01480 458846 diffey@gmchester.fsnet.co.uk
Treasurer	Mr Peter Ballantine 01480 450432 peter@btine.fsnet.co.uk

www.stmarysgodmanchester.org

To get to know the church people and building prior to your wedding, the best thing is to come to our services. The main Sunday Eucharist is at 9.45am, and full details of regular service times and special events are on our website.

How do I know whether I am eligible to get married in Godmanchester?

(a) Residence requirements

The law requires that at least one of you must be either resident in the parish or on the church electoral roll (which means being a regular member of the congregation). If Godmanchester is very much your 'home town' but you have recently moved out of the family home, please contact a member of the clergy team for advice on residence requirements.

(b) Previous marriages

If either of you has been married before, please contact the clergy as early as possible in your planning. A previous marriage will not necessarily make marriage in church inappropriate, but it is important to talk through the issues at an early stage. You will need to bring with you to the initial meeting with the priest your *decree absolute*.

(c) Other considerations

If you have questions about other issues that might affect your eligibility for marriage, please contact the clergy as soon as possible. If we don't know the answer to your question, we will be able to find out for you.

What are the legal preliminaries for marriage?

According to the law, you can get married in church either after Banns, or by Licence. Calling Banns of Marriage is by far the most common (and cheapest!) method. The law requires that your banns be called in the parish where you will be getting married, and in the parish(es) where each of you lives. You will need to contact the parish priest of all the applicable parishes to ensure that banns are called. The priest who marries you will need to see all the Certificates of Banns. Most couples enjoy coming to church to hear their banns called.

In some circumstances a Licence (usually a Common Licence) would be more appropriate; the priest who is to marry you will advise if this is the case.

What happens when I enquire about getting married at St Mary's?

When you contacted the parish office, you will have been given this leaflet together with an application form. You need to fill in the first page of the form with your personal and contact details (don't worry too much about the second page yet, unless there are details that you wish to make a note of), and you need to tell us what date and time you would ideally like your marriage service to take place. A copy of your application form will be given to the clergy, who will contact you to arrange an initial appointment.

Meeting with the priest

Usually you will have a meeting with the priest as soon as possible after you make your initial enquiry. This meeting is to discuss residence requirements and any other issues (e.g. previous marriages), to confirm the date and time of the service, and to talk through the decisions you will need to make about the marriage service. Sometimes it is not possible to have your first choice of date or time, but once these have been agreed, your booking is secure. It is usually possible to change the date and time of a booking, given enough notice and providing it does not clash with any other bookings. The priest may suggest a second meeting if it seems that there is a lot to discuss.

Once you have seen the priest for the initial interview, you may wish to use the information in this booklet to begin to plan what music, readings, and hymns you would like to have at your marriage service. Please feel free to contact us if we can help you with those decisions.

It is worth noting that a bride who is intending to change her name can apply for a passport in her new name before the wedding, so as to be able to use her new passport on the honeymoon. Please enquire at the Passport Office or Post Office for details, and bring the relevant form to your priest in good time.

In the January before your wedding, we will write to you to check the arrangements so far in place. We will also let you know the date of the marriage preparation session provided by *Relate*. This usually takes place in Huntingdon in the early spring, and is an excellent opportunity to join with other couples to think ahead beyond the wedding day and to prepare for the joys and challenges of married life. Please also feel free to be in contact with your priest at any point during the process if you would like to talk through anything - we are here to help.

As the wedding approaches, the priest will wish to meet you again to finalise the details of the service.

During the week before the wedding, there will be a rehearsal in church, which is particularly for the bride and groom, best man, chief bridesmaid and father of the bride. Most couples make this into a family event, and invite others along, too. The priest will suggest a date and time for this.

Planning your marriage service

Order of Service: You may be getting your order of service printed professionally – if so, please ask the priest to send you a copy of what needs to be printed. Alternatively, we can print orders of service in our parish office.

Flowers: We are very blessed in having a talented and dedicated flower guild, who do all the flower arrangements in the church at a reasonable cost and to a professional standard. Please contact Mrs Jean Miller (437488) to plan your flowers for the church. She can put you in touch with a local florist who will be able to provide matching corsages / bridal bouquets. The Church has a policy of not using flowers during Lent (the period of six weeks before Easter) – if you are in any doubt, ask your priest. Occasionally we have more than one wedding booked on the same day, which means that the same flowers must be used for both services, and the cost can be shared between the two couples.

Choir and organ: Almost all couples book our organist. Some also wish to book the choir, either to sing an anthem or to help lead the congregational singing. Let us know as soon as possible if you think you would like to book the choir.

Bells: We have an excellent team of bellringers. Please confirm as soon as possible if you would like bells after your marriage service, so that we can ensure that they will be available – all our ringers are volunteers.

Photography and video: Our 'house rule' is that we allow photography as the bride arrives, at the signing of the register, and as the couple leaves the church, but not at other times during the service. Video filming may be allowed at those same three points of the service, subject to the agreement of the organist well in advance of the service once music has been agreed (noting that any subsequent change in musical requirements could invalidate the agreement) and the payment of an extra fee (see back page). For video filming to take place you will need to apply for a licence from www.videolicence.co.uk, and your priest will need to see evidence that such a licence has been obtained. You are welcome to have photographs and video taken after the service in the churchyard, which is a beautiful setting; in the case of bad weather you are welcome to come back into church for photographs and video, provided there is not another service about to take place!

Confetti: We ask that you don't use confetti in the church or churchyard, but that you save it for outside the churchyard gates.

Timing: A standard marriage service with one reading and two hymns usually lasts about 35 minutes. It is good if the bride aims to arrive 5 minutes early to allow time for adjusting the veil etc, and for photographs. Don't forget to allow time at the end of the service for photographs etc. before heading off for the reception.

Choosing the music

Choosing the music for your wedding can be a great opportunity to think about what the service means to you, but it can also be quite daunting! Below are some suggestions – these are just the ones that tend to crop up most often (usually because they are good, and people like them!). You will need to choose:

- **Hymns or songs for the congregation to sing.**
There is usually a hymn near the start of the service, and one near the end. If you want an extra hymn, it would go after the readings. Think about the words, and also think about whether your friends and family will know the tune, and be able to join in. The hymns below are just suggestions – feel free to ask your priest for advice. You can find the words to most hymns at www.cyberhymnal.org.

Love divine all loves excelling
Come down, O love divine
All creatures of our God and King
All things bright and beautiful
Jerusalem (And did those feet in ancient time...)
One more step along the world I go
Give me joy in my heart
Make me a channel of your peace
Amazing grace
Be still for the presence of the Lord
Great is thy faithfulness

- **Music for the entrance and exit, and at the signing of the register.**
Most couples choose organ music at the entrance and exit. During the signing of the register you might choose a choir anthem (if you have booked the choir) or an organ piece, or even a track from a CD. We have a CD player in church that plugs into the PA system.

Organ music (if you have a different piece in mind, check with the organist)

Wagner – Wedding Chorus from *Lohengrin* ('here comes the bride')
Mendelssohn – Wedding march from *A midsummer night's dream*
Jeremiah Clarke – Trumpet Voluntary
[a k a *The Prince of Denmark's March*]
Handel – excerpts from *The Water Music*
Pachelbel – Canon in D
Purcell – Trumpet Tune
Walton – Crown Imperial
Handel – Music for the Royal Fireworks

Choir anthems

(check with the organist or with your priest – some pieces may not be possible if numbers in the choir are low, and all our singers are volunteers!)

Mozart – Ave Verum Corpus

Elgar – Ave Verum Corpus

Tallis – If ye love me

Bach – Jesu, joy of man's desiring

Rutter – For the beauty of the earth

Rutter – The Lord bless you and keep you

Rutter – All things bright and beautiful

Rutter – A Gaelic blessing

Rutter – God be in my head

Wesley – Lead me, Lord

Brian Hoare – Lord, you are the light of life to me

Bruckner – Locus Iste

Walford Davies – God be in my head

Choosing a reading

- You will need to choose at least one reading from the New Testament
 - 1 Corinthians 13
 - Ephesians 3.14-end
 - Philippians 4.4-9
 - Colossians 3.12-17
 - 1 John 4.7-12
 - John 2.1-11
 - John 15.9-17
- If you want another Bible reading as well, why not choose a reading from the Old Testament, such as
 - Genesis 1.26-28
 - Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6-7

To view these readings in full, go to <http://bible.oremus.org> and type in the bible reference exactly as it is given in the list above into the first 'search' box. If you have another reading in mind, you can ask your priest whether it would be appropriate. If you do not have internet access, your priest will be able to print out some possible readings for you, on request.

- Some couples also like to have a poem or other non-biblical reading at their wedding – please do discuss this with your priest. The main consideration is that the readings you choose reflect what you want to say about your marriage, but you may want advice about whether a particular reading is appropriate.

Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester

WEDDING FEES 2007

ITEM	Statutory / Obligatory / Optional	2007
Banns	STAT	£19.00
Certificate of Banns (<i>only required if marrying in another church</i>)	STAT	£12.00
Marriage certificate	STAT	£3.50
Wedding	STAT	£240.00
Blessing of a marriage – <i>this is a separate service. Ignore this if you are marrying in church.</i>	OBL	£10.00
Organist	OPT	£60.00
Choir	OPT	£70.00
Verger	OBL	£40.00
Bells	OPT	£120.00
Flower Guild - <i>fee is for arranging only; flowers are extra at couple's expense. All flowers in church are arranged by the Flower Guild. Contact Jean Miller on 437488 or e-mail: p.miller2020@ntlworld.com</i>	OPT – <i>fee obligatory if flowers required</i>	£50.00
Heating	OPT – <i>not usually needed during summer months</i>	£60.00
Marriage Preparation Course	OBL	£25.00

Orders of Service supplied through the Parish Office (based on an A5 booklet on white or cream)

Typesetting: First 4 pages	£12.00
Typesetting: each subsequent 4 pages	£6.00
Copying: per sheet A4 paper (single-sided)	£0.08
Copying: per sheet A4 paper (double-sided)	£0.16
Copying: per sheet A4 card (single-sided)	£0.12
Copying: per sheet A4 card (double-sided)	£0.24

NOTES

- Statutory fees (STAT) are set centrally by the Church of England.
- Obligatory fees (OBL) are for essential elements in the service. They are set by Godmanchester Parochial Church Council and are intended to cover costs.
- Optional fees (OPT) are for other items that you may like to include; most couples choose to book the organist, and about half also want the choir / bells etc. We will do our best to ensure that choir and bells are available for those couples who wish to book them, but since all our singers and ringers are volunteers, we cannot guarantee this. Except in the case of junior choir members, optional fees are for the maintenance of the relevant services and are not payments to the individual volunteers.