

Getting married at St Mary's Church, Nottingham



Thank you for enquiring about holding your wedding at St Mary's Church, Nottingham

In this leaflet, you will find some information about arrangements and fees. If you would like to follow up your enquiry, please telephone our Parish Office on 0115 9483658 to arrange a meeting with a member of the clergy.

Some couples like to come to church during the months before their wedding, in order to feel more at home. We should be very pleased to see you and make you feel welcome. Please make yourselves known to a member of the clergy.

The main service times are below. However, if you are thinking of coming along, it might be worth checking with the Parish Office to make sure that this is the correct time for the day you intend to visit, as service times do differ occasionally.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

10.45am	Sung Eucharist
6.30pm	Choral Evensong

The marriage service should be the highlight of your wedding day, and we will work with you to make sure that it is. St Mary's is the perfect setting for a beautiful wedding, with its medieval architecture and superb choir. It has a team of dedicated clergy who are committed to helping you make the very best of your day.

REQUIREMENTS

In order to book a wedding, there are a number of legal requirements to be satisfied.

If you live in the Lace Market, the Victoria Centre, the Park or elsewhere in the parish, you are generally entitled to marry in St Mary's Church. However, an engaged couple are able to marry in this church if they can show just one of the following connections with the parish:

- 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 regularly gone to normal church services 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 normal church services in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- One of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish

For those who live further afield, there are two possible options:

- Attend the church for six months and become a regular member of the congregation. This is by far the easiest way, and it is an enjoyable way of getting to know the church community in preparation for your wedding.
- Obtain a Special Licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury. For details, see <http://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/Marriage.html>.

Being divorced does not necessarily create a difficulty, but please mention your circumstances to the clergy during your first meeting.

Once you have decided to get married at St Mary's, one of the clergy will meet with you for a preliminary meeting to talk over the kind of service that you would like, and to help you with some choices.

If you are a regular church-goer, you may like to have your wedding in the context of a Holy Communion Service. In this style of service, the Bride & Groom receive communion after they are married, and the choir may sing one of the superb liturgical settings. A straightforward wedding service can include your own choice of music, readings, hymns and prayers. Most weddings last around 40 minutes, including the signing of the registers.

DO I 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 think seriously about being baptised or any other matters of faith.

WEDDING PREPARATION

A happy marriage does not just happen; it takes a lot of hard work. We see it as a privilege to help engaged couples work towards making their marriage a happy one. We invite you to explore your hopes and fears for the future, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The clergy do not wish to be intrusive, however, and this is not compulsory. Nearer the time, the clergy will also want to set a date for a rehearsal, and this will be the opportunity to run through the whole service in church.

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

It is not easy to park close to St Mary's, 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 in one of the city car parks.

CALLING YOUR BANNS

The Church of England has a legal requirement of "calling the banns of marriage". In other words, your wedding has to be announced in the parish where you reside, as well as in the church where you are to be married. This and the related costs are something you will need to discuss with the clergy.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We try to ensure that the service is an act of worship for all who come, and as such discourage the use of video cameras and flash photography during it. However, your professional photographer can speak to the clergy before the wedding and get their permission for photos during the signing of the registers, and general photos of the service without flash.

We usually allow half an hour for photographs outside the church after the service, or inside if it is wet.

VIDEOS

If you wish to make a video recording of your wedding, it is possible, but it will add considerably to the cost. Please ask the Parish Office for details.

CONFETTI

Some of your guests may have confetti, which may be thrown as you enter your car by the gate.

FLOWERS

You will have to make your own arrangements for flowers in church. For opening times prior to the service, please contact the Parish Office.

CHOIR

Our Director of Music, John Keys, will gladly talk to you about the availability of the choir for your wedding, and about possible music for the service.

FEES FOR WEDDINGS IN 2009

The church fees include the use of the building (along with heating and lighting), the wedding certificate, reading of banns, the service itself and fees for the clergy and vergers.

If you require any further information regarding getting married within the Church of England, please visit the website at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/weddings>

CHURCH FEES

Total £485

OPTIONAL EXTRAS - *whilst we make every effort to ensure that these extras are available, should you request them, we ask you to note that we cannot guarantee them.*

Order of Service (100 copies, if required) £50

6 Bells (if available) £150

8 Bells (if available) £200

10 Bells (if available) £250

12 Bells (if available) £300

If bells are required before AND after the service, please note that this fee will be doubled.

Organist £95/£120 (with choir)

Choir £35 per chorister

Recording fees - if a recording is made of the service (either video or audio) the music fees will be doubled.

Please note that there is an additional charge of £100 for Sunday weddings.

We ask for a **non-refundable** deposit of £100 to book the church. Please make cheques payable to: *St Mary's Fees Account.*

For any further information regarding any aspect of your wedding, or for an informal discussion, please contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with one of the clergy.

0115 9483658

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