



St Mark & St Cuthbert
the church on the park

Wedding



Information Sheet

Welcome, and congratulations!

Thank you for your interest in marrying at St Mark & St Cuthbert's. We are delighted that you would like to marry here. This leaflet sets out some of the information that you will need before completing an application. We recommend that you read it carefully, and then we will ask you to sign this form as well as the main wedding application form. This is to ensure that everything flows as smoothly as possible up to your big day and afterwards.

Marrying here

If at least one of you lives in the parish of Cleadon Park (we have a map, or you can check by putting your postcode into the website achurchnearyou.com) and you are both British or European nationals then marrying here is straightforward. We will call the necessary banns here for you, but see below about 'Banns' if one of you lives outside the parish.

If you both reside outside the parish, but one of you has a "qualifying connection" to marry here, then it's still easy – see below for the full details. You will need to put your connection on the wedding application form and we may need to see proof. We will call one set of banns here, and you will need to have banns called in the parish(es) where you live too (see 'Banns').

If neither of you live in the parish or have a qualifying connection, but would still like to marry in St Mark & St Cuthbert, then you can do so by making it your church and attending regularly (once a month or more). You will be warmly welcomed into our congregation, and after worshipping with us for 6 months, your wedding can take place here. And you will have built up a relationship with the church which will make your day extra special!

Qualifying Connections

You can marry in a Church of England parish church if you can show:-

That one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- was baptized 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 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.

Banns

“Banns” are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. They are an ancient legal tradition and have been read out every week in churches across the land for millions of couples, over many centuries. Banns need to be called **in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married**, so potentially in three separate places.

It is **your** responsibility to apply for banns to be called in your parish(es) of residence, and you will be given a certificate when they have been read. Your wedding cannot take place without us having received these. Banns must be read out over three Sundays during the three months prior to the wedding. If one of you does not live in a Church of England parish at all (ie you live in Scotland but want to get married in England where you grew up), banns cannot be called and you will need to apply for a marriage licence – we can give you information about this.

Non-British nationals

If one of you is not a British or European citizen then you will need to apply to the town Registry Office for a Superintendant Registrar’s

Certificate in order that all the legalities of a marriage will be valid abroad. We can advise on this, but you will need to ensure you allow several months for the process to happen.

Fees

Fees for weddings in the Church of England are set centrally each December for the following calendar year. Local costs are appended to this, such as a sum towards the heating when it is on and the organist's fee. All fees must have been paid before the wedding can take place. When you apply for a wedding, we can tell you what the current fees are. Unfortunately it isn't possible to pay for the wedding now at this year's rate. You can pay off as much as you like whenever you like in advance, but we won't be able to tell you exactly what the total will be until January of the year of your wedding. If you want to pay a balance by cheque, it needs to be at least two weeks prior to the wedding date. Most people prefer to pay cash.

Times & Decorations

Church weddings must take place between the hours of 8am and 6pm. For ease of staff and the church diary, we normalise bookings into three timeslots: 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm. Some flexibility may be available if you have booked a weekday wedding. As the first booking on a particular day, you may request any of the options. If other services are already booked in, then you will need to be flexible. We always ensure 2 hours between weddings, and we book a maximum number of weddings per day or per weekend. As you may realise, weddings are just one of the range of services and events which also take place in the church and grounds, so due to other commitments for the building *and* our vicar, it is possible that your preferred date will not be available.

If you book a wedding on a day when there is more than one service (or someone else books the same day after you) then we may ask permission to put you in touch with each other. Within reason, we try to accommodate requests for particular flower colours or decorations and so there may need to be some negotiation!

Preparation/Attendance/Rehearsal

You will always be welcome in any of our worship services – and coming to church will help you to feel a part of the community and make the church seem even more special and ‘your’ church when it comes to the wedding. Attendance in worship if you have a QC or live in the parish is not required, but it is encouraged.

Your wedding won’t just happen, and neither will a successful marriage. We will invite you to join us in a preparation course of 2 or 3 social evenings (or a day) for a number of the year’s wedding couples, to help you think about this step you are making. Even if you have been bringing up a family together for years, there’s always something to be gained from taking time to concentrate on what marriage will mean for you, so we hope you will be able to plan to attend when invited.

We will also arrange to meet you at home or at the vicarage at least once, to talk through your hopes for your wedding and your marriage, and look at the logistics of the service itself – readings, music, prayers. The week before or of the wedding, we will ask all the ‘active’ members of your party to come to ‘rehearse’ – walk and talk through who stands and sits where and when on the day, so you feel a little bit more comfortable and prepared. If we haven’t already received them, this is when you will need to bring your banns certificate and the balance of the fees.

Photos & Videos

The marriage ceremony is a central part of your wedding day, and the most sacred. In our parishes we believe that the church is a sacred space and we always discourage photography in all of our services. The final say belongs to the priest who will take the ceremony, but you should know that if you bring a photographer we will ask them to respect our views, and only take photographs of the bride's arrival and procession, and the arrival of the bride to the groom, then at the signing of the register and the procession out of church. We often might agree to a photographer taking a few classic shots of the vows and rings moment, and the celebration of the marriage (traditional kiss after the proclamation has been made). We do not allow photographs of the blessing and prayers. We will probably ask you to submit details of your photographer to us when you have booked them.

In the notices before the start of the ceremony, we will explain to your guests that we have restricted photography, and ask them to respect this also, and save their photos of you until after the service (often brides particularly ask us to ask for no photographs, in order that the dress remains a surprise to people at the evening 'do' and isn't already on Facebook!)

If you would like your wedding to be videoed, you should know that we do not charge for it because we do not expect it in our services. If this is really important to you, you may want to think again about your venue. If you do choose to look for a church which will allow videographers, you will usually need to pay an additional fee to the church, negotiate with the organist and it will be your responsibility to obtain the recording licence that you will need.

Please complete, detach & return this page with your application:

Names:

Proposed date of Wedding:

We are applying to marry at St Mark & St Cuthbert's, Cleadon Park, and we have read and understood the following:

That one of us must reside in the parish or demonstrate a qualifying connection to St Cuthbert's, as listed on the application form, or that we will attend worship here regularly. In the latter case, we understand that until we have attended habitually for six months the wedding cannot be confirmed.

If either of us lives outside the parish, we acknowledge our responsibility to apply for banns of marriage to be called in our parish(es) of residence, and understand that without certificate(s), a wedding cannot take place.

We acknowledge that the exact fees for our wedding will not be available until January each year and we accept the fee which will be notified at that time. We understand that a wedding cannot take place without all fees having been paid.

We understand that if we are not the only wedding on the day we choose, it may not be possible for us to bring extra decoration into the church in advance of half an hour before the service.

We will ensure that if any of our contact details or addresses change between booking and the wedding, we will notify the church to enable communication to continue (eg fees notification). *If we cannot contact you by phone or email and you move, you risk your wedding being cancelled!*

We accept that the practice of the parish is to discourage photography & not to allow video during services. We will ensure our photographer knows this and will ask them to abide by this.

Signed

Signed

Date