



Your Church wedding!

For those who would like to be married in the
Avon Valley Partnership

Breamore, Fordingbridge, Godshill, Hale & Woodgreen

Part 1 - Before Booking

You can find lots of wedding information at:

www.AVP-Benefice.org.uk

and

www.yourchurchwedding.org

Canon Gary Philbrick
Priest-in-Charge
rectory@avp-benefice.org.uk
01425 839622

The Church Office
church.office@fordingbridge.com
01425 653163

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Welcome and introduction

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married at one of the Churches of the Avon Valley Partnership.

This booklet is intended to help you decide whether one of our Churches is the best place for you wedding.

This booklet contains:

- the legal requirements for getting married in a Church of England building,
- a list of the fees charged.

Once you have booked a date, you will be invited to meet one of the Clergy, who will explain the process to you, give you a copy of the Marriage Service and a Booklet of Readings, Hymns and Prayers to help you begin your planning, and answer any questions you may have at this early stage.

If you have any questions now, do please get in touch – contact details are on the front page.



Who can get married in a Church of England church?

To be married in a Church of England Church, you need either to:

- Live in a Parish, or
- Have a Qualifying Connection to a Parish (*see next page*)

To check the name of your Parish Church, go to www.achurchnearyou.com - and type in your Postcode.

If you qualify to get married in a Parish Church, and you are British or EU Citizen, the usual process is to have your **Banns** (a public declaration that you intend to be married) read out in church for three Sundays. You would be most welcome to join the Church community for the service and to hear the banns read.

(If you are not British or an EU Citizen, it is still usually possible to be married here - please speak to us about the different arrangements for the Marriage Preliminaries)

Banns also need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the Church in which you are to be married. If you live in our Parish this means that the banns are read once, if you live outside of the parish **you** need to contact the Vicar of your local Church to arrange this – we will tell you when you need to do this.

They will charge you a separate fee. You must have your banns read out in each Church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. This is often done over three consecutive Sundays.

What if one of us is divorced (or both)?

The Church of England believes that marriage is for life. But it recognises that sadly, some marriages do fail. In the Avon Valley Partnership we believe that God offers as a new start, and so we have a policy of welcoming couples for marriage, one or both of whom have been married before.

We would welcome a conversation with you, talking frankly about your past and your hopes for the future.

Occasionally, a service of prayer and dedication after a Civil Ceremony is appropriate. This doesn't say that it is possible to re-marry in church

I am a Roman Catholic – does that make a difference?

Not to us; however, if you wish to have your marriage recognised by the Roman Catholic Church, you need to speak with your local RC Priest.

Qualifying Connections

These are designed to make it possible to get married in a Church where one or both partners have a connection, but neither is currently resident in the parish – it might be the Church where you grew up, or a Church where you currently worship.

These legal 'Qualifying Connections' are:

Either the bride or groom:

- was baptised in the parish;

or

- had their confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish;

or

- has at any time had their usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

- has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

**Or, a parent of either the bride or groom
(*within the lifetime of the bride or groom*):**

- had their usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

- habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

Or a parent or grandparent of either the bride or groom

- was married in that church.

 **None of those apply to me – can I still get married in one of your churches?**

Possibly! If you are not resident in the parish, or you cannot demonstrate a legal qualifying connection with the Church of your choice, then in order for you to qualify to have your wedding there you must attend worship regularly (once a month minimum) for at least 6 months **before you book the wedding.**

 **I don't have any 'qualifying connections' and live too far away to be able to attend worship.**

If you are not able to satisfy any of the legal requirements (residency, a qualifying connection, or regular attendance) it will be not be possible for you to be married here.

In this case we will help you to look for a Church where you could get married, and help with any arrangements, or it may be possible to offer you a Service of Blessing of the Marriage, preceded by a civil ceremony elsewhere.

We can get married in the Avon Valley Partnership! What happens next?

Please now contact the Church Office (*Contact details on the front page*) to book a wedding date.

Once you have booked a wedding date, one of the Clergy will be in touch to book a date to meet. We will explain the process to you, give you a copy of the Marriage Service and a Booklet of Readings, Hymns and Prayers to help you begin your planning, and answer any questions you may have at this early stage.


Early each year, on a Sunday afternoon, we hold a 'Marriage Preparation Session' to which we invite all those couples planning to marry in one of our Churches in the current year.

We will remind you of the process to prepare for your wedding, and cover some of the practical details that apply to weddings here.

It also provides a relaxed opportunity for you to work as a couple, exploring a variety of wider issues related to marriage today – thinking about marriage, and not just the wedding!

By the time of that meeting, we will know which of the Clergy will be officiating at your wedding, and you will be able to arrange a meeting, , to begin the more detailed preparation, this usually happens three months or so before your big day.

You are welcome to get in touch with us if you have any questions any time before (or after!) your wedding – contact details are on the front page.

 **What are the fees?**
from January 2017

Fees for a 'Wedding after Banns' - for those resident or on the Church Electoral Roll
These are Statutory fees, set by Parliament.

CHURCH	456.00	<i>includes calling of banns, fee to PCC and minister</i>
VERGER	30.00	<i>to prepare the church, assist with guests and clear up afterwards</i>

BASIC FEE **£486.00**

OPTIONAL EXTRAS: (include as necessary)

BELLS (<i>Weekend</i>)	125.00	<i>before & after the service</i>
BELLS (<i>Mon-Fri</i>)	150.00	<i>before & after the service</i>
ORGANIST	143.00	<i>includes meeting to discuss details</i>
CHOIR	163.00	<i>choir & Director of Music</i>
FORMAL AUDIO RECORDING	50.00	
FORMAL VIDEO RECORDING	100.00	
HEATING (<i>Oct - Mar</i>)	55.00	
ORDERS OF SERVICE	40.00	<i>if we are providing these for you</i>

An invoice for the fees will be sent approximately three months before the service.

Fees are to be paid in full no later than one month before the date of the wedding.

Cheques, made payable to ***Parish of Fordingbridge*** should be sent to:

The Church Office
The Rainbow Centre
39 Salisbury Street
Fordingbridge
SP6 1AB

If you wish to pay by BACS please contact the church office first.