



St Marylebone
Parish Church

www.stmarylebone.org

02079357315

**A Guide to
Marriages
and
Services of Thanksgiving after a Civil
Ceremony**

2019



We are delighted you are considering a service at St. Marylebone Parish Church. This leaflet will help you decide what might be best for you.

Can you get married here?

The law relating to Marriage in Church in England is very specific. You can now be married at St Marylebone by qualifying in one of the following ways:

1. By living in the parish. The parish boundary is outlined on this website: www.achurchnearyou.com. Just type in your postcode.
2. Being on our Electoral Roll. To be on our Electoral Roll you will need to worship with us regularly for at least 6 months before the date of your marriage and be qualified by being a baptised Christian. As this will allow you to be married after the callings of Banns (see below) you should allow for a least 7 months to elapse between your first attendance as a regular worshipper and the date of your marriage.
3. You were Baptized or Confirmed in the Parish.
4. Your parents regularly attend(ed) worship at St Marylebone.
5. Your parents or grandparents were married in this Parish Church.
6. If you have no connection with the Parish whatsoever, then it is only possible to be married here if there is a compelling reason. In such a rare circumstance a Special Licence must be sought and granted. You would have to discuss this with the Rector.

Attending Church regularly before you marry (and afterwards too) is important. It helps you to get to know us and *vice versa*. This means that your wedding day can be spent amongst friends and in a place that is familiar not strange. Coming to church also helps you come to a better understanding of the meaning of love and its consequences.

Date & Time

Make an appointment to meet the Rector. Discuss with him what date and time you would like to be married. He will do his best to help find a time convenient to everyone. We do not normally marry couples in the seasons of Lent and Advent as these are the more solemn seasons of the Church's calendar. Any day of the week, during daylight hours, is possible.

Legal Preliminaries to Marriage: Banns & Common Licence

Holy Matrimony in the Church of England has both a religious and a legal personality. This means that couples need to observe carefully all the necessary legal preliminaries to marriage.

The most common legal preliminary to marriage is Banns (*Banns* is an old word for proclamation.) This means that your intention to marry will be announced publicly in Church on 3 successive Sundays in the month prior to the month of your wedding. Publication of your banns allows for any impediments to your proposed marriage to be raised. Fear not, this hardly ever happens!

Banns must be published in the Parish where you live, and also in the Parish in which you are to marry, if this is different from the Parish in which you live. For example, if you live in the Parish of St. John, Hyde Park, but worship at St. Marylebone and are on our Church Electoral Roll, then you need to have your banns published at St. John's and at St. Marylebone, even if you have never been to St. John's before. Please talk this through with the Rector. He will be happy to help you. If you are unsure in which parish you live go to: www.achurchnearyou.com and type in your postcode.

Sometimes, however, Banns are insufficient to deal with all the legal issues involved in marriage. In the case when one or both persons hold a foreign passport, for example, then it is our policy that if the couple are to marry at St Marylebone they do so under Common Licence. A Common Licence, if granted by the Bishop of London under the advice of his legal officer, allows a couple to be married without Banns being published in

the way described above. If it is appropriate for a couple to marry under Common Licence then the Parish will advise you how to go about applying. The process is not complex. The clergy will chat through all these issues with you.

Flowers

Our fees do not include flowers. We are very happy for you to have flowers in St Marylebone and usually couples will organise flowers to be brought in by a florist of their choosing but you can make a donation of £125.00 to the parish church which will provide you with four vases of lilies or other suitable flowers.

Recording

Some couples wish their wedding at St Marylebone to be recorded for posterity. If you wish to do this then we are very happy for this to take place within certain parameters. It is important however to take note of the policy of this Parish Church (and other similar Greater Parish Churches) concerning the recording of services (video and/or audio). **If your wedding is to be recorded in any way by anyone when the Organist and/or Choir are present, then the music fee increases by 50%.**

There is no increase in the music fee when traditional photography is used.

Rehearsal

Nearer your wedding day (usually the evening before) it will be helpful to have a wedding rehearsal. This normally takes place at 6 pm on the preceding day and gives a chance for Bride and Bridegroom, Best Man, Ushers, Readers, Bridesmaids and Father of the Bride to walk through just what will happen on the day itself.

Confetti

We are happy for natural/biodegradable petals or confetti to be thrown following your wedding.

Wedding Preparation

Amidst all the activity of booking and arranging your wedding, it is important not to lose sight of why you are getting married. Couples are often caught up in the ‘how’ that they forget the ‘why’.

Once all the necessary legal and practical arrangements have been made, it will be essential for you to meet with one of the clergy to discuss with them the meaning of marriage, its delights and demands. Expect to meet with the rector two or three times before the wedding.

How much will it cost?

in 2018, a full wedding service package will cost £3163.00 or £3818.00 (if recorded) and includes organ, organist, Director of Music, Full Choir, Heating and Lighting contribution, Verger, Priest, Fees, Banns, two copies of the Marriage Certificate and up to 100 copies of the Order of Service.

Invoices should be paid at least **four weeks** before your wedding. You will be invoiced well in advance of that date.

Payment can be made in one of two ways:

By a single cheque made payable to: “*St Marylebone Parish Church*” and sent to:

The Finance Officer
St Marylebone Parish Church,
17 Marylebone Road,
London
NW1 5LT.

Electronically payment can be made by using the following details:

Account Name:	St Marylebone Parish Church
Sort Code:	20-03-79
Account No.:	50808210
IBAN	GB27 BARC 2003 7950 8082 10
SWIFTBIC	BARCGB22

There are two parts to the wedding fee. They are the **Parish Fee** and the **Music Fee**.

The Parish Fee

This presently includes the use of the church, heating, lighting, the vergers and cleaner, all fees and up to 100 copies of the order of service. Orders of Service which entail extra work or extra pages will be charged at cost. Wedding fees are also included as is a single copy of the Marriage Certificate (additional copies are charged at cost). Where the marriage is to take place after the calling of Banns, the Banns fee is also included.

The Music Fee

Music on your wedding day is very important. We have a very fine musical tradition here at St Marylebone. On attending the Choral Eucharist at 11am on a Sunday morning you will have heard just how fine our choir of professional classical musicians is. The Director of Music at St Marylebone is **Gavin Roberts MA (Cantab), MMus, MPerf, FRCO** and our Assistant Director of Music is **Thomas Allery, MA., MMus, FRCO**. They will be happy to talk with you about your choice of music, and recommend organ and choir pieces suitable to the occasion. If you have any particular requests they will be happy to hear them. For a recommended (rather than exhaustive) list of Organ Music and Choral items, please see the list appended to this document. Please do not feel limited by this list of suggestions however.

Please note that recorded music cannot be played at weddings at St Marylebone.

The Standard Music Fee includes the organ, an organist, ten professional singers and a Director of Music. Sometimes it might be possible to use a **Reduced Choir, or** indeed, to use a solo voice or instrumentalist.

Readings

Every wedding in the Church of England will include at least one reading from Holy Scripture. You may find this website helpful. It lists suitable Bible passages:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/weddings>

The Wedding Service

You have a choice of marriage services. One uses contemporary language (you, yours), the other uses traditional language (thee, thou).

The Rector will discuss the options with you. Both services may be found at this website: Contemporary Service:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/weddings>

Holy Matrimony: the choices you need to make

It is helpful if you understand the structure that your wedding will take and what decisions you will need to make concerning music & readings.

The structure of the service is outlined below. The choices you will need to make are in bold:

- **Music before the Service (organ music)**
- **Arrival of the Bride (organ processional)**
- Greeting
- Preface & Declarations
- **Hymn (congregation)**
- **Reading(s) from Holy Scripture**
- Address by the officiating priest
- **Anthem (choir)**
- **THE MARRIAGE**
- **Hymn (congregation)**
- Signing of Registers (**during which the choir sings anthems or the organ plays**)
- Prayers & Lord's Prayer
- **Anthem (choir)**
- **Reading of Poetry/Prose (optional)**
- Hymn (**congregation**)
- General Blessing
- **Bride & Groom depart (organ recessional)**

Order of Service

On the day of your wedding the congregation will need to follow the proceedings in an Order of Service. This will include within it the words of the hymns, the names of the musical items, the reading(s) etc. St. Marylebone will undertake the printing of 100 good quality copies. The

printing fee is included in the Parish Fee. The Orders of Service are printed professionally and make a wonderful memento of the day for you, your friends and family. Additional copies are charged at cost.

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What if I have been married before?

If you are a widow or widower, there is rarely an issue here. However, if you or your partner has been divorced you cannot get married at St. Marylebone. We are happy, in most circumstances, to conduct a Service of Thanksgiving (Blessing) after a Civil Ceremony. Please come and discuss the options.

The Rector is always happy to meet with couples considering this option.

The final decision on whether to proceed or not rests with the Rector.

Conclusion

All of this can sound a little overwhelming at first, but with enough time and thoughtful planning you will end up with a beautiful day on which to celebrate your love for one another.

The most important thing in all of this is to get to know the Rector and the wider parish family at St. Marylebone. This makes the arrangement of your wedding an altogether less stressful experience.

We want to help all we can in crowning your love with God's blessing, and making your wedding day the best it can be.

Hymns

Singing hymns is a great way for the whole congregation to express their joy and thanks to God for your love. We recommend that you consider having up to 3 hymns. The Rector will be happy to discuss this choice with you, but here are some of the most popular and well-loved wedding hymns:

- *All my hope on God is founded*
- *All people that on earth do dwell*
- *And did those feet in ancient time ('Jerusalem')*
- *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart*
- *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*
- *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*
- *Immortal, invisible, God only wise*
- *King of glory, King of peace*
- *Love Divine, all loves excelling*
- *Now thank we all our God*
- *O worship the King, all glorious above*
- *Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of Creation*
- *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*
- *The King of Love my shepherd is*

If you are not sure of the tunes which accompany these words, then visit this website: www.cyberhymnal.org. The tune will be played in a very terrible synthesized form (!) but it might just help you to recognise the melody.

Music for Weddings & Thanksgivings: Some ideas to help you *(this list is not meant to be exhaustive – just a few suggestions)*

Processional (Entrance): *(some of these pieces are also suitable for the Recessional (Exit)).*

Charpentier M - A Prelude to 'Te Deum'
Clarke J - The Prince of Denmark's March
Handel – Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Handel GF - Hornpipe in D, from 'The Water Music'
Handel GF - La Rejouissance
Pachelbel J – Canon in D
Purcell H - Trumpet Tune in D
Stanley - Trumpet Tune
Van Oortmerssen – Nun ruhen alle Wälder
Verdi G - Grand March, from 'Aida'
Wagner - Bridal Chorus from 'Lohengrin'
Widor – Marche Pontificale

Recessional (Exit): *(see also Processional list)*

Bach J S - Prelude and Fugue in C
Bach J S - Prelude and Fugue in G
Dubois, T – Toccata in G *from 12 Pieces for Organ*
Elgar – Pomp & Circumstance March No 1
Elgar – Pomp & Circumstance March No 4
Gigout – Grand Choeur Dialogue
Karg Elert S - Choral Improvisation on 'Nun danket alle Gott'
Mendelssohn - Wedding March
Vierne L - Finale, from Symphony No. 1
Widor C M - Toccata
Walton - Crown Imperial March

Choral Music during the Service:

Bach/Gounod - Ave Maria (soloist) #
Bach J S - Jesu, joy of man's desiring #
Duruflé - Ubi caritas * #
Fauré G - Cantique de Jean Racine #
Grahl S - Amazing Grace
Grahl S - How do I love thee
Hadley P - My beloved spake +
Haydn F - The heavens are telling +
Ireland J - Greater Love * #
Jacob G - Brother James' air (Psalm 23) #
Mathias - Let the people praise thee * +
Mozart W A - Laudate Dominum #
Parry C H H - I was glad * +
Purcell - Rejoice in the Lord always +
Rutter J - The Lord bless you and keep you #
Rutter J - This is the day
Schubert F - Ave Maria (soloist) #
Vaughan Williams - Let all the world * +
Walford Davies - Psalm 121 #
Walton - Set me as a seal * #
Walton - Jubilate Deo (O be joyful in the Lord) * +
Vivaldi A - Gloria in excelsis

** denotes music only possible with full choir*

denotes music that is more reflective

+ denotes music that is celebratory

Many pieces of music are available on YouTube.

It helps to choose several version as there are many poor recordings uploaded to social media and media sharing sites.

Revised February 2019