



Getting married at St. Barnabas church Emmer Green

Congratulations! By reading this leaflet you and your partner are taking another step along the road of your commitment to one another. Christian marriage isn't just about the wedding day and saying the right words. It's a lifelong commitment and needs a lot of thought and preparation.

This leaflet is designed to clarify possible questions you may have at this time. Please do not hesitate to contact the Vicar if you would like any further clarification of the relevant issues; a simple chat at this time may help to answer all of your important questions.

1. Can we get married at any church of our choice?

The best thing to do is to check with the minister in charge at the church you wish to be married in. Within the Church of England the general rule is that you must get married at either you or your partner's parish church. However, in exceptional circumstances, you may be able to get married at another church by application with a common or special licence.

2. What order of service is used; can we write our own words?

Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer are the orders of service which the Church of England are legally bound to use. At this time the Church of England is still the state church of the country which means that Church of England clergy are allowed to act as marriage registrars and for that reason are obliged by state law to observe that only the orders of service mentioned above are used.

3. What do we need to do now?

In the first instance contact the Vicar (contact details on the back of this leaflet). Before your wedding day you need to do the following:

- Provide all the details for the register and for the service.
- Ask about the current rate of fees for the wedding.
- If one of you lives outside of the parish of Emmer Green you will need to provide a Banns Certificate from your local church.

Banns are the public announcement of your marriage. They are required by law, to enable anyone to lodge any legal impediment.

- Your Banns will be read at St. Barnabas during the main service, 9.30 a.m., on the first three Sundays of the month prior to the wedding. You may wish to hear your Banns being read. It is suggested that you may wish to attend the first reading, in order to ensure that the process has started, and the details are correct.
- If you need to get a Banns Certificate from another church you need to arrange with that church to read your banns. After they have been read for the third time, you can apply to the Vicar for a Banns Certificate, which confirms that no objection has been raised. You will need to present this certificate before the marriage takes place.

4. When is the rehearsal?

A rehearsal is often arranged about 10 days or so before the event. This is a convenient time to pay the fees and present the Banns Certificate. It is essential for both Bride and Groom to be present at the rehearsal. Others who can benefit are: Best Man and Bridesmaids, Person giving Bride away. The rehearsal takes about an hour.

5. What about flowers in church?

The fees mentioned above do not include flowers. It is not essential to have flowers. The voluntary church florists are happy to provide appropriate flower arrangements; alternatively you can ask a member of the family or a professional florist to arrange the flowers. Please ensure that the vicar knows of your requirements, to avoid a possible conflict with other arrangements.

6. Can we take photographs and use video cameras?

Your marriage is a sacred service. It is not appropriate that members of the congregation use cameras or video cameras without prior permission as it can be distracting. Once the service is over they are welcome to use them as they wish. Nevertheless, you may wish to have a record of the service, and it would normally be in order to have a photographer, and/or a video recorder, professional or friend. Please ensure that they are asked to arrive at the church at least 30 minutes before the service. When a service is recorded, two copyrights are involved:

- The performance copyright of the organist,
- The composer's copyright. We don't make arrangements for this. It will be your responsibility to meet your legal obligation. If the composer has been dead for 50 years there is usually no problems as the copyrights lapse.

7. What about music?

You will need to choose two or three hymns to have during the service. These will need to be printed on your order of service. You will also need to choose the music to be played at the entrance of the bride, during the signing of the register and at the end of the service.

Another option which you may choose is to have a choir to lead the singing of the hymns and/or sing a piece during the signing of the registers. Remember that if you do decide to have the choir, don't forget to order extra orders of service!

The current fees for the organist and choir can be requested from the vicar. If you choose to video your service each of these two fees increase by 50% to comply with the musicians' performing rights.

Enclosed with this leaflet is a list of suggested music that you may choose to have at the beginning or end of the service or during the signing of the registers. Other pieces may well be available but extra time and money may be required if they are not in the current repertoire and the music has to be purchased and learnt.

If there is a piece of music on a CD that you would particularly like to have please consult with the vicar and organist.

8. **What else is available?**

To really personalise your service you can choose to have a slide show of all your favourite photographs with background music as your guests arrive. You will need to get your photos and music to the vicar at least 21 days before the wedding. The format and length can be discussed with the audio-visual operator who will make contact with you on request.



Contact details

If you have any other questions that you would like to ask, please contact: Revd Derek Chandler, Vicar, 20 St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA. Telephone: 0118 947 8239