



St Marylebone
Parish Church

**A Guide to Marriages
and
Services of Thanksgiving after a Civil Ceremony
2025**



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

You may also find it helpful to look at “Your Church Wedding” on the Church of England’s website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding>

Can you get married here?

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

1. By living within the parish. The parish boundary is outlined on this website: www.achurchnearyou.com. Just type in your postcode.
2. Being on our Electoral Roll (parish church membership list). 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 calling 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 Baptised 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 year. 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 three successive Sundays in the month prior to the month of your wedding. Publication of your Banns allows for any impediments/objections

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.

Since 2021, following the reading of Banns, the parish church where you are to be married will draw up a Marriage Document.

Marriage of Foreign Nationals

Sometimes, however, Banns are insufficient to deal with all the legal issues involved in marriage. If one or both persons intending to marry holds a foreign passport, the couple might have to ask to be married by a Marriage Schedule provided by the Registrar of the Local Authority in which one of the couple lives.

The process is not complex. The clergy will chat through all these issues with you at your first meeting.

Please note that Banns (with the issue by the parish of a Marriage Document) can only be read if the marriage to be solemnised is between: UK/Irish nationals, those with Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme and those with Pre-Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme. All other foreign nationals will have to be

married by a Marriage Schedule provided by the Registrar of the Local Authority in which one of the couple lives.

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.

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 £250.00 to the parish church which will provide you with five vases of 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 or Livestreamed 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. We can usually provide this. Under no circumstances is foil, plastic or other forms of non-biodegradable confetti to be used.

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?

A full wedding service package will cost approximately **£4,000.00** or approximately **£4,900.00** (if recorded/livestreamed). This fee includes organ, organist, Director of Music, Full Choir, (piano and pianist if required), a year-round contribution to Heating and Lighting costs, Verger, Priest, Fees, Banns and up to 100 copies of the Order of Service (extra copies will be charged at cost).

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

Payment should be made electronically, using the following details

Account Name: The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Marylebone
with Holy Trinity St Marylebone
Sort Code: 20-03-79
Account No.: 50808210

There are several parts to the wedding fee. This includes the **Parish Fee**, the **Music Fee** and the statutory **Legal Fees**.

The Parish Fee

This includes the use of the parish church, heating, lighting, the verger and cleaner and up to 100 copies of the Order of Service. Orders of Service which entail extra work or extra pages will be charged at extra cost. Where the marriage is to take place after the calling of Banns, the Banns fee is also included. *Please note that, following a change in the law in 2021, Church Registers are no longer used during the service and Marriage Certificates are now issued by the Local Authority Registrar after the marriage ceremony.*

The Music Fee

Music on your wedding day is very important. We have a very fine musical tradition here at St Marylebone. Having attended the Choral Eucharist at 11am on a Sunday morning you will have heard just how fine our choir of professional classical musicians is. The Rector will be happy to talk with you about your choice of music and recommend organ and choir pieces suitable to the occasion. For a list of Organ Music and Choral items (recommended rather than exhaustive), please see the list appended to this document. Please do not feel limited by this list of suggestions.

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.

Legal Fees

These are statutory legal fees payable at any parish church or wedding venue payable to the relevant authority. i.e., the Diocese of London or the Local Authority.

Readings

Every wedding in the Church of England will include at least one reading from Holy Scripture. A list of suitable Bible passages can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/bible-readings-your-wedding>

The Wedding Service

You have a choice of marriage services: a service using contemporary language (you, yours, etc.) and traditional language (thee, thou, etc.). The Rector will discuss the options with you.

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/instrumental music) as the guests arrive**
- **Arrival of the Bride (organ processional)**
- Greeting
- Preface & Declarations
- **Hymn (congregation)**
- **Reading(s) from Holy Scripture**
- **Anthem (choir)**
- Address by the officiating priest
- **Anthem (choir)**
- **THE MARRIAGE**
- **Hymn (congregation) during which the Marriage Document is signed**
- 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 professional printing fee is included in the Parish Fee. The Orders of Service make a wonderful memento of the day for you, your friends and family. Additional copies are charged at cost.

Livestreaming

St Marylebone is fortunate is being able to Livestream services (at an additional cost). You will, should you choose this option, be provided with a livestreaming code which you can share with family and friends who are not able to attend the service.

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 three 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*
- *Any other suitable hymn of your choosing*

If you are not sure of the tunes which accompany these words, then visit [www.https://hymnary.org/](https://hymnary.org/). You can, of course, also try searching on YouTube.

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

The list is virtually endless and can include arrangements of music from shows, songs or sound tracks – just let us know what you would like.

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

The list is virtually endless and can include arrangements of music from shows, songs or soundtracks – just let us know what you would like.

Choral Music during the Service:

Bach/Gounod - Ave Maria (soloist) #
Bach J S - Jesu, joy of man's desiring #
Durufle - 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

The list is virtually endless and can include arrangements of music from shows, songs or sound tracks – just let us know what you would like.

** 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 versions as there are many poor recordings uploaded to social media and media sharing sites.



StMarylebone
Parish Church

Rector: The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Evans
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Chaplain: The Revd Stephen Hearn
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Priest Pastor: The Revd Katy Hacker Hughes
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Honorary Assistant Priest: The Revd Canon Dr Robert Titley
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Assistant Curate: The Revd Lydia McLean
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The Choir of St Marylebone Parish Church

Director of Music: Bertie Baigent MA(Cantab), DipRAM, FRCO, ATCL, DipABRSM

Assistant Director of Music: Luke Mitchell BA(Oxon), LTCL, ARCO

Organ Scholar: Maya Shepherd

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