

# Weddings & Marriage in the



## Barrow and Wolds Group

✦ HOLY TRINITY ✦ ST. MARY ✦ ST. ANDREW ✦ ST. MARY



*“God is love, and those who live in love live  
in God and God lives in them.”*

*(1 John 4.16)*

## Welcome.

We are delighted that you are thinking of having your wedding service at one of our churches and we hope that your wedding will mark the start of a long and happy marriage. We are here to help you make your wedding a truly special day to remember.

There is a lot of information on the Church of England website [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org) and there you will find helpful links to all aspects of a church wedding. The information included in this leaflet is designed to give you the key information you will need to know, please contact us for more information, and always contact us before making any arrangements.

## Legal requirements.

- **Requirements for marriage** – You must be old enough, able to give your consent, and must not be closely related or already married. If you have questions or are unsure about this speak with the vicar in confidence.
- **Qualifying Connection** – You may marry in the parish church where you or one of your parents lives or has regularly attended services for six months. You may also marry in the church where one of you was baptised or confirmed or where your parents or grandparents were married. ***If you are attending church services in order to establish a connection for your wedding, we will usually ask you to attend at least once a month for six-nine months and to record your attendance.***
- **Banns** – Banns of Marriage must be called in the parish where you are to be married. If you live elsewhere they must also be called in your home parish, (you can find this at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)), a fee is charged for this including issuing a Banns Certificate, valid for three months. ***It is your responsibility to ensure this is done, and the certificate will be required before you can be legally married.***

- **Licence** - Most couples do not need a licence. Occasionally there are reasons why banns cannot be read, for example if one of you is not a British National, if that applies to you we will explain how you may go about obtaining a licence.

### **Registering your marriage and marriage certificates.**

The system of registering marriages and issuing certificates is about to change, currently your marriage would be registered by the priest taking the service and your wedding certificate issued at that time. This may well have changed by the time of your wedding and you may have to register the marriage after the ceremony at a central office and be issued with your certificate once registered. We will be able to give you more information nearer the date of your wedding.

### **Marriage preparation.**

You will be invited to attend on of our two marriage preparation days (usually October or March). These are planned to give you a full understanding of your marriage service, together with information on music, readings and other details. ***Attendance at one of these days is essential and therefore mandatory.***

### **What happens in the service?**

- **Vows** – The service includes authorised vows. Couples are not permitted to write their own marriage vows for a church wedding.
- **Music and Hymns** – The minister taking your wedding and the organist will both be able to advise you on these. We usually suggest three hymns and music during the signing of the registers and for the entrance of the bride and procession out of church as a newly married couple.
- **Readings** – You will be asked to select at least one Bible reading and we will give you suggested suitable readings. You may wish to include other readings or poems; this should be discussed with the minister taking your wedding.

- **Prayers** – There are standard prayers in the Church of England service. The minister taking your wedding will be happy to discuss alternatives with you should you wish.

### **Practical arrangements.**

- **Orders of Service** – You will need to arrange to have an order of service printed. We will be able to provide you with details of what needs to go into your order of service, including a template document.
- **Rehearsal** – This is usually in the week before your wedding and will be arranged by the minister taking the service.
- **Photography** – Your photographer is welcome to take photographs during the service. Please ask them to contact the minister taking your service to discuss what they can and cannot do.
- **Video or Recording** – If the wedding is to be recorded than an additional fee of £30 each must be paid to the organist and choir members to cover performing rights. Copyright permissions must be obtained for all music and readings used if the service is being filmed.
- **Confetti** – Biodegradable confetti may be thrown outside the building, but not inside the building please.
- **The tradition of the bride arriving late** – Please don't! The church personnel or building may well have other commitments, this may have implications for your service.

### **Choirs**

We do not have a church choir able to sing at your wedding at any of our churches, but the Caroline Sharpe Singers can be booked to sing for your service. Contact Caroline on [info@carolinesharpe.com](mailto:info@carolinesharpe.com)

## **When can I get married?**

Please complete an enquiries form or speak to us to check your desired dates are available before confirming any other bookings. Marriages must take place between 8am and 6pm on any day of the week. We do not normally book weddings for Sundays, during the week before or after Easter or from the week before Christmas until after the New Year, as these are particularly busy times within the life of the church.

## **How much does it cost?**

- **Statutory fees** are set each year by the Archbishops' Council. The current statutory fee for the wedding service, calling your banns, and the marriage certificate is £505. If you live in a different parish, that parish church will charge you £45 for calling your banns and providing a banns certificate.
- **Additional fees** are charged for the organist at £80, and the bell-ringers at £20 per bell (£160 at Barrow and Prestwold, £120 at Wymeswold and £100 at Walton). There is also a fee of £40 for the vergers who prepares the building, furniture, sound system etc for your wedding and in the winter months (September to May) a contribution of £50 towards the cost of heating and lighting. These charges are set by the individual churches and go to the people providing these services for you.

## **Deposit.**

We take a refundable deposit of £100.

Final invoices are payable six weeks before the date of your wedding, we will give you BACS payment details or you can pay by cheque.

### **Marriage blessing and renewal of marriage vows.**

We are happy to arrange services of blessing for a civil marriage and also renewal of marriage vows to mark a significant anniversary. Please contact us for more information.

### **What if I am divorced or in a civil partnership?**

Even if one or both of you are divorced, there may be a way for you to marry in church, but you will need to talk to your vicar as soon as possible. The vicar will ask to see the original copy Decree Absolute. Anyone who has entered into a civil partnership is not free to marry.

### **Same -Sex Marriage.**

The law prevents ministers of the Church of England from carrying out same-sex marriages. And although there are no authorised services for blessing a same-sex civil marriage, your local church can still support you with prayer. If you would like to discuss this further with the vicar please contact us.

### **Our church services.**

Services are usually held on Sundays at the following times. You will always be very welcome but please check our website as there may sometimes be changes to our usual pattern. We will usually let you know when your banns are being read.

- 8.30am St Mary's, Walton le Wolds, on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.
- 9.15am St Andrew's, Prestwold.
- 10.30am Holy Trinity, Barrow-upon-Soar.
- 11.15am St Mary's, Wymeswold on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

### **Staying in touch.**

We would love you to stay in touch after the wedding and will always welcome you at any of our services. Why not think about coming back to church to celebrate your wedding anniversary. If you are planning a family, you may want to think about contacting us to enquire about baptism (christening) at that time.

### **How do I book, what do I need to do next?**

The easiest way is to fill in an enquiry form on our website:

- [www.barrowandwoldsgroup.com](http://www.barrowandwoldsgroup.com)

Under 'Life Events' click on 'Weddings' and complete the Enquiry Form. Once we have received the enquiry, we will be in contact with you.

### **Contact us.**

If you would like to ask any questions or talk to us about your wedding, then you can get in touch with our administrator, Hannah:

- Email: [weddings@barrowandwoldsgroup.com](mailto:weddings@barrowandwoldsgroup.com)
- Tel: 01509 416520

or the priest in charge, Rev'd Clive Watts:

- Email: [rev.clive.watts@barrowandwoldsgroup.com](mailto:rev.clive.watts@barrowandwoldsgroup.com)
- Tel: 07534 899522

***N.B. Statutory fees and other costs quoted were correct at time of printing but are subject to variation.***

**January 2020**