



Cheveley Group
Parishes of
Cheveley, Ashley,
Woodditton
and Kirtling.

Getting Married



Priest in Charge:

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Getting Married

By choosing to get married in a church, couples are saying that they want God to be part of their wedding day and their marriage together, and they seek God's blessing in the service and their future life together.

We are delighted that you are considering a wedding in one of our churches, and hope this leaflet will address your questions.

Deciding to get married is one of the most important decisions you can make in life. Marriage is considered a sacrament (a way to become closer to God) by many Christians, as marriage is a faithful and lifelong loving commitment which reflects God's own faithful and unconditional love for us.

Can I get married in this Church?

The first step is to contact the Churchwarden of the particular church.

That first contact will enable the Churchwarden to confirm that you are entitled to be married in the Parish Churches – either by being resident there or by attending worship regularly, or having a pre-existing or family connection with the church.

Everyone who lives in the Parish is entitled to be married in the Church whether or not they attend church worship. Since September 2010 there are more ways to have a qualifying connection to permit marriage in a church; you can check these on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org

If either of you has been married before, the Priest-in-Charge will meet with you to establish whether your circumstances fit the Bishop's guidelines on re-marriage. Often there is no problem, but if we are unable to offer a wedding service, we may well be able to arrange a service of blessing and thanksgiving in church for your marriage. The Priest will discuss initial details and arrange to meet you face to face.



What are Marriage Banns?

The Banns of marriage are the public announcement in a Parish Church for three Sundays before the wedding date that a marriage is going to take place between two specified persons. Traditionally, this gives members of the public a chance to object to the marriage but this is an extremely rare occurrence these days!

What sort of preparation is necessary?

Couples usually have three preparation sessions with the Minister who will be taking the service, prior to the wedding. The first introductory session, which should take place as soon as possible, involves getting information for the banns etc. and discussion about dates. We will also give you information about fees and contact details of people who can offer you practical help. It's also an opportunity for the Minister who will be taking the service to hear a bit about you and your hopes for your married life together.

The second session is a more detailed look at the question of marriage and what it involves. We will look at the service itself and talk about hymns, music, readings etc.

The third session includes a chance to practice saying the vows in the privacy of the Rectory study – a chance to trip over the words and get the giggles without anyone listening in!

Finally a rehearsal takes place about a week before the wedding itself in the church where you will be married. We often invite the couple and the wedding party to come to the Sunday morning service to rehearse with a cup of coffee after the service.

Outside the face to face meetings, please feel free to contact the Minister with any questions or worries you may have about the service or Christian marriage in particular. They can advise on books and websites to help to plan your special day

What happens in the service?

As mentioned above, the Minister will spend some time with you explaining the details of the service, but here are the main elements:

- ✚ The priest welcomes everyone and reminds all present about God's purpose for marriage.

The bride and groom make their vows to each other before God and all present, using the words:

*"for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish, till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow".*

Wedding rings are blessed by the priest with these words:

*" Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings
be to those who wear them a symbol of unending
love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow
and covenant which they have made this day
through Jesus Christ our Lord"*

The rings are then exchanged and the priest joins the couple's right hands together and says:

*"Those whom God has joined together let no one
put asunder."*

Then the priest blesses the couple:

*"....let their love for each other be a seal upon their
hearts and a crown upon their heads...."*

- ✚ There is a Bible reading and the Minister gives a short talk.

- ✝ Prayers are said for the couple, and everyone in church joins in the Lord's Prayer.

Hymns may be sung.

- ✝ At the end of the Service, the wedding registers are signed.

The service lasts less than an hour, including some time outside the Church for wedding photographs to be taken.

After the wedding?

Couples often feel a special connection with the church where they were married and you are more than welcome to come and join us in any of the services and community activities that form a part of the life of the parishes of Cheveley, Ashley, Woodditton, and Kirtling. If not already resident in the parishes we can arrange to send you the monthly parish magazine.

