

What to do when

Book wedding	Pay £100 deposit
4 Months to go (or earlier)	Make appointment with the minister taking your wedding to discuss the service and to book a rehearsal. Make certain you have arranged to have your banns read in all relevant parishes
3 Months to go	Contact organist to discuss music Contact flower arrangers to discuss flower requests
2 Months to go	If you're having a service sheet organise this now You are welcome to attend All Saints Church at 10.00am on 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Sundays to hear your banns being read. Pay remaining Fees return confirmation form
1 Month to go	Let organist have final details of hymns and music Let us know what readings are to be used Let us have your banns certificates Check that other requirements are booked
45 minutes to go	Ushers arrive at Church to handout service sheets and to encourage guests to take their seats as they arrive at Church
30 minutes to go	Groom, Best man and bridesmaids arrive at Church
20 minutes to go	Bride's mother arrives at Church and is escorted to her seat by Ushers
10 minutes to go	Bride Arrives
Zero time	Service Starts

Note

You may want to make a note of the following information.

Your marriage has been booked for the following date and time:

Your Banns will be called at the 10.00am service at All Saints on:
And for the two following Sundays.

Parish of Wigston Magna

Getting Married in Church

2012 edition



Congratulations on your engagement!



Please carefully read through this booklet. It should contain the answers to your questions but if you cannot find the answer to any question don't hesitate to ask. The "What to do when" section on the back will act as a good aid memoir.

The latest updates of this booklet will be available at
www.wigstonmagna.leicester.anglican.org

St Gargoyl's



Why "You may kiss the bride" isn't included in the service

With thanks to the **Church Times**

This booklet

We hope that within the pages of this booklet there is all the information you need when organising your wedding. If we have left something out don't hesitate in contacting us and asking. This booklet is regularly reviewed and your feedback will help us improve it for other couples.

What is a wedding?

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On their wedding day the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. The congregation are witnesses of the marriage, and express their ongoing support by their presence and prayers.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13.4-7

Who can get married in Church?

Anyone living in the parish of Wigston Magna is able to get married in the Parish Church as long as they and their fiancé are entitled to get married under civil law and as long as neither is divorced or has been part of a dissolved civil partnership.

If you have been divorced or have been part of a dissolved civil partnership don't stop reading now; although your situation will be more complex you may still be able to get married in Church, please speak to us about how we can help with your marriage plans.

Most marriage happens after the calling of Banns.

Most couples get married in the parish Church of the parish in which one of them lives but there are certain circumstances in which you may marry outside your, or your fiancé's, parish.

Since 1st October 2008 there are a wider set of circumstances in which you can get married outside the parish in which you live. Rather than take up too much space here either have a word with the parish clergy or consult the Church of England's website, the page you need is at: www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/weddings/



Where to get more help

A wedding day is *not* the Bride's special day it is the Bride and Groom's special day and we want to help you make your wedding day a unique and memorable day.

The service in Church is the pivotal point of your day so we would encourage you to consult with the minister conducting your service about 4 months before your wedding day so that you have plenty of time to plan the service.

The Rev'd Richard Curtis
c/o The Vicarage
Oakham Road
Tilton—on—the—Hill
Leicestershire
LE7 9LB
07855 746041
richard@wigstonmagna.org

The Rev'd Jane Wood
(0116) 279 1133
jane@wigstonmagna.org

Organists Mr Ian Orr
(0116) 270 6194

Mrs Eileen Gillies
(0116) 288 1103

Flowers Mrs Anne Lee
(0116) 281 2885

The Ultimate Guide to Wedding Music

This is a very useful CD to help you chose music, available from:

Cherry Street Productions
49 Cherry Street
Warwick
CV34 4LR.
01926 497078
cmonks@lineone.net
www.cherrystreet.biz

Wedding cars

A space is reserved at the rear of All Saints' Church for bridal cars.
Please make certain that you are not dropped off at the front of All Saints' Church by the mini-roundabout as this blocks the highway and causes traffic great problems.

Other sources of information

You will find many 'Bridal' magazines in the newsagents but do be careful when reading through them. Remember that much of their income comes from advertising and you can easily get the impression that the best weddings cost a fortune. In our experience the most memorable weddings are not the most costly, in fact quite the contrary!

We have also found that sometimes 'Bridal' magazines contain information that is incorrect particularly in respect to the legal aspects of the wedding service.

Websites

You will find a great amount of information on the Internet but do make certain that you are looking at a site that relates to England, law and customs are different in different parts of the world!

The Church of England's website is the best place to start.

The following are just to get you started!

The Church of England www.cofe.anglican.org
 The Church of England's wedding page www.yourchurchwedding.org
 Engaged Encounters www.marriageencounter.org.uk
 The Family Planning Association www.fpa.org.uk
 Relate www.relate.org.uk
 Royal School of Church Music www.rscm.com

If you find other sites useful please share this information with us by e-mailing us at wigstonmagna@leicester.anglican.org

When can a wedding take place?

A wedding can only take place between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm. This is a little archaic but it does ensure that there is enough light for you to be certain that you are marrying the person you think you are marrying! Actually you could get married outside of these times but you would need to apply for a special license to do so.

You can get married on any day of the week, but ultimately it is the parish priest's prerogative to set the date and time of your wedding! Don't worry, we normally go for the date you want.

Advent and Lent are the two penitential seasons of the Church and since there will be no flowers or organ music, other than to accompany hymns, during these seasons we would strongly advise you to avoid these times. Prince William and Katherine Middleton's wedding happened on 29th April 2011 deliberately to avoid Lent.

No weddings take place on Holy Saturday since having a joyful event between Good Friday and Easter Day would be inappropriate and many people will be in Church decorating the Church for Easter Day.

Where can a wedding take place?

Weddings can take place either in All Saints' Church or St Wistan's Church; so you might want to consider which Church you would like to use for your wedding.

Who has to attend the wedding?

Obviously the Bride and Groom and the Priest but apart from that you will need two witnesses who have attended the service and who are over 18 years of age to sign the registers.

A Wedding is, and has to be, a public service. Anyone is welcome to attend your wedding.

Booking

If you would like to book a wedding service please phone us to make an appointment. Those who are communicant members of the Church will very likely want to get married in the context of a nuptial mass, please mention this when you book your wedding as this will affect the length of the service.

Changes

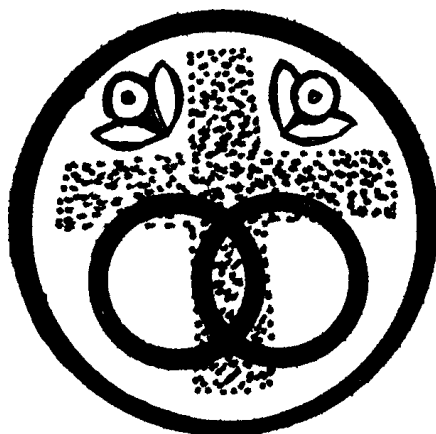
If any of your details change after you have booked your wedding **it is vital** that you let us know. Changes of address may mean that you have to change the way that you get the legal permission for your wedding.

All legal preliminaries have to be completed before your wedding can take place. **It is your responsibility to make certain all legal preliminaries have been completed correctly.**

If your phone number changes it can be difficult for us to contact you. If you change your mind about your requirements for your wedding we also need to know.

Please let us know of changes in writing or by e-mail.

If you need to postpone or cancel your wedding please also let us know in writing or by e-mail.



Confetti

We would ask people to think about the best place to throw confetti.

We are quite happy for you to throw confetti in the Churchyard however to avoid it blowing back into Church may we suggest that the best place is at the Churchyard gate. If everyone is ready with their cameras you should get some great shots.

We ask guests to take confetti boxes with them and not to throw table decorations.

Timing

It is vital to start the service promptly, there may be others after you! We would recommend:

- **Ushers arrive at the Church about 45 minutes before the start of your wedding so that they can welcome guests and make certain that the guests are seated before the bride arrives.**
- **Groom and bestman arrive 30 minutes before the start of the service to allow time for photographs and time to be seated before the Bride arrives.**
- **Bride arrives 10 minutes before the start of the service to allow time for photographs.**
- **The congregation should all be seated 5 minutes before the start of the service and it may be a good idea to put a note to this effect on your wedding invitations.**

If you are late then there will be a point at which those involved in your service e.g. choir, organist and bell ringers will need to leave. **We reserve the right to postpone your wedding to a later time if you are more than 15 minutes late as this would mean that your wedding service would intrude into the following wedding.**

If you are late and choir, organist or ringers have to leave no fees will be refunded.

So please be on time!

Photography

Most couples like to have a photographic record of their wedding. It is important that any photography is not a distraction on such a special day so it is important to talk to the person conducting your wedding about this. We have had very good experience with most photographers but some do seem to get so carried away that they distract from and spoil the service.

Video photography

Video photography is a copyright nightmare and those making such recordings must have the proper permission. Fortunately CCLI make dealing with such copyright issues much easier.

Recently the situation with Copyright licenses has changed, Which has made it much easier to comply with Copyright law.

You will need a The Wedding Video-Recording Licence which can be obtained from www.videolicence.co.uk

It is worth having a look at this website even if you are only thinking about video photography. This sight has much good advice and the terms and conditions that you will need to abide by.

If you are considering having a video made please talk to the person conducting your wedding about this as you will need their permission to film.

We must have sight of your Wedding Video-Recording License before the service starts.

If your wedding is recorded in any way the musicians are entitled to an enhanced fee.

Banns

If you are getting married after the calling of Banns, as most couples do, you will need to have your banns called in all of the following Churches:

- All Saints
- Your parish Church, if this isn't All Saints
- The parish Church where your fiancé lives
- Any Church where you or your fiancé's names appear on the electoral role.

You do not have to come and hear your banns called, but most couples like to and we encourage you to do so; it is very useful to know what the Church is like when a service is taking place. Banns are normally called on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays in the penultimate month before your wedding at the 10.00am service at All Saints; we look forward to seeing you.

It is **vitaly important** to get a banns certificate from the other parishes where your banns are being read and hand these to us before the wedding.

It is only when we have these certificates that we have the legal permission to go ahead with the service.

But we don't normally come to Church...

If you do not attend Church regularly you might find a little guidance about what to do at the distribution of communion helpful.

In the service book it says something along the lines of:
Communicant members of all Churches that proclaim the doctrine of the Trinity are welcome to receive communion.
Other members of the congregation are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you are coming forward for a blessing please bring your service sheet with you so that we are aware that you are coming for a blessing.

What if we'd like to know more?

If you would like to explore the Christian faith a little more then please have a word with us about opportunities for this. Since you are getting married in Church you will find that exploring a little more of the Christian faith will help make the most of your day.

We would like to reiterate at this point that everyone is welcome to join us for any and all of our services.

Cost

The average wedding last year cost over £20 000! Of this only a tiny amount is down to Church fees. In our experience the most memorable and enjoyable weddings are done on the smallest budgets. Asking friends and family to help with the preparations gets more people involved and each will enjoy helping you make your day really special. Perhaps there is someone you know who is a good photographer, there may be friends who would love to make the cake or do the catering, a bunch of friends could transform a hall into a wonderful banqueting venue. A wedding really doesn't need to cost anything like £20 000. You can find more practical advice at www.yourchurchwedding.org

Weddings are not a money making enterprise for the Church but there are costs that you will be asked to meet. These costs are of three types:

- There are the statutory fees that help support the ministry of the Church of England and cover the legal cost of your wedding.
- There are local fees that help towards the costs of the parish Church.
- Any 'extras' that we might have supplied, eg organist and use of organ, choir or bells etc

Occasionally couples would like a friend who is an organist to play for their wedding or a choir that they are members of to sing, please speak to the person taking your wedding about this. Musicians' Union rules on such matters are well known amongst musicians and in such circumstances the 'home' musicians are still entitled to their fee.

In 2011 the cost of a wedding in Wigston Magna range from £496.50 to £988.50 depending on what optional 'extras' you choose.

Bells

It may be possible to have the bells rung as you come out of Church. This is dependant on their being enough bell ringers and this can be difficult during the summer months and over bank holiday weekends. You should talk to the person taking your service about bells. An additional fee is payable.

The bell ringers will ring from the end of the service up to a point one hour after the booked start of your service. If the service starts after the booked time then this will shorten the time that the bells will be rung and under such circumstances no refund of the ringers fees will be given. The bell ringers will make every effort to help with your wedding but we cannot give you an absolute guarantee that they shall be able to attend. If they are unable to be at your wedding we will refund the fee we have charged for the bells.

Flowers

There are always flowers in the Church, except during Advent and Lent. However, if you would like additional floral arrangements for your wedding, you will need to make arrangements with a florist or a professional flower arranger.

One of our flower arrangers, Mrs Anne Lee, is a professional flower arranger and she can help with enquiries about flowers.

If there are other weddings on the same day as your wedding it would be a good idea to coordinate arrangements for flowers with the other couples.



Organist

It is useful to talk to the organist at an early stage about music for your wedding. If you would like help with choosing hymns for your wedding please do ask our organist or the person conducting your wedding. One tip, do read through all the verses of the hymns that you are considering and ask yourself if the words are appropriate for your wedding day. A very useful CD of wedding music is listed in the "Where to get more help" section at the end of this booklet. But please note that some of the music on this CD really requires the use of a cathedral organ and choir, the CD is still a useful guide but it does not replace a conversation with the organist.

The fee we charge on behalf of the organist covers the fee for the service and rehearsal of normal wedding music. If you would like other music then the organist will charge you an additional fee for any rehearsal time required. So please do contact the organist as soon as possible to discuss music.

Please note that under Musicians' Union rules if your wedding is recording in any way then an additional fee is payable to the organist.

Choir

Many couples like to have the choir at their wedding. The choir helps lead the singing at the wedding and will normally sing an anthem during the signing of the registers. It is important to let the organist know which hymns will be sung at your wedding in good time so that the choir have ample time to make certain that your choice of hymns are in their repertoire.

The choir will make every effort to help with your wedding but we cannot give you an absolute guarantee that they shall be able to attend. If they are unable to be at your wedding we will refund the fee we have charged for the choir.

About paying...

Fees are set at the beginning of the year so they can only be confirmed then. In recent years fees have gone up about in line with the rate of inflation.

Fees should be paid 2 months before your wedding day. Please make cheques payable to "Wigston Magna PCC".

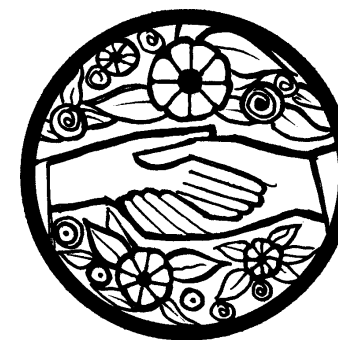
A £100 deposit is required at the time your wedding is booked.

Those attending your wedding service will also be encouraged to contribute to the work of the Church in this parish and collection plates will be made available at the back of Church for this.

Insuring your wedding.

One area that people often overlook in insurance when planning their wedding. Ecclesiastical are the insurance company that insure most Church buildings and as specialists in Church insurance they are also specialists when it comes to wedding insurance.

To find out more look at their website at www.ecclesiastical.com.



Other financial and legal matters.

As couples start out on their married lives together there are many financial things that need to be discussed and sorted out.

Wills

Wills are probably the last thing you want to think about but when you marry your last will and testament will cease to be valid so it is important to draw up new wills that will come into force after your marriage. This is particularly important if either of you have children as they will be left without guardians if you become intestate. It is a good idea to consult your solicitor about this before your wedding so that there isn't a period when you are intestate.

Finances

Couples will also want to make certain decisions about their finances. Although money is often rather tight after a wedding now is a good time to get into some good financial habits. Thinking ahead it would be good to consult your financial advisor about making provision for the future and check that you have appropriate levels of life cover for example.

You will also want to make some joint decisions about your charitable giving. Christians normally tithe their income which means that they give 10% of their income away, normally 5% is given to the Church and 5% in other charitable giving.

The Church of England depends on the regular giving of those who attend services. As you are reviewing your charitable giving please do remember this parish and the work of the Church here. We have included a standing order mandate and Gift Aid form in this booklet to make this easy and tax efficient if you decided to support the work of your Church regularly.

Help with copyright

If you are producing your own service sheet you will need to acknowledge copyright. The Parish has a CCLI licence, which makes this much easier to do, please ask the person conducting your wedding for details.

Hymns should be acknowledged thus:

[Author], © [Year, Owner] CCLI Licence Number: 94228

If parts of the service are reproduced then the following copyright acknowledgement should be used.

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000

For help with other copyright issues please contacted:

CCLI Ltd.
P.O. Box 1339
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 4YF

01323 417711
www.ccli.co.uk
www.videolicense.co.uk



A wedding is a day... a marriage is a lifetime *Preparing yourselves for your wedding*

It is very easy for a couple to get lost in the business of planning a wedding, so it is vitally important to take some time to reflect upon your relationship as you approach this most important day.

You might find the short novel "On Chesil Beach", which tells the story of a couple starting out on married life together with very different expectations, a good starter for discussion.

On Chesil Beach
By Ian McEwan
ISBN 978-0099512790

We would encourage you to consider going on an Engaged Encounter weekend which gives you both some space for a weekend as you lead up to your wedding. There is a separate leaflet about this that explains what such a weekend is like and Fr Richard can speak of such weekends from personal experience so do ask. You can also get more information from: www.marriageencounter.org.uk

Service Sheets

Many couples like to have a service sheet for their wedding and many people now either produce these themselves or get friends to help. While having a service sheet is not essential if you do produce one you will need to do this after you have talked about your service with the person conducting your wedding. It is important to acknowledge copyright on your service sheet. The texts of the wedding service, Bible readings and the words of hymns can easily be found on the Internet and there are links to resources from our website.

When considering what quantity to print to bear in mind that the bridal party will need at least 6 copies and the choir and organist may well need 9 or 10 copies.

Children

If you already have children together then you need to re-register their birth so that a new birth record can be created to show the child as a child of the parents' marriage. To do this you will need to complete a form LA1 (Application by the natural parents for the re-registration of their child's birth following the parents' marriage) – or form LA1W for births that took place in Wales. These forms can be obtained from the Home Office Identity & Passport Service website www.gro.gov.uk/gro/ or from any register office. Once completed the forms need to be returned to the local register office



What service?

Most wedding services in the Church of England use the *Common Worship* marriage service but there are three services that you can have, they are:

[The 1662 Solemnization of Matrimony](#)
(from the Book of Common Prayer)

[The 1966 Solemnization of Matrimony](#)
(Alternative Services, Series I)

[The 2000 Marriage Service](#)
(*Common Worship*)

Both the Series I and the *Common Worship* Services are available as individual booklets. The 1662 Prayer Book Service is not available as a separate booklet but can be found in the Book of Common Prayer of 1662.

These services can be obtained from Christian Resources. Christian Resources can be found at St Martin's House, Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ.

Of course these services can also be obtained, as they say, from other good book shops. You can also download these services via links from the parish website.

Note: The Prayer Book as proposed in 1928 was never authorised by Parliament so it is not possible to use the Wedding service contained within it.

It is a good idea to discuss the pros and cons of these services with the person conducting your wedding when you meet.

Wedding traditions

Many people's experience of weddings comes from films and television but often the weddings depicted are not set in England so there are some things that you will have seen in such films that are not part of English weddings.

Perhaps the best example is the American tradition of giving the couple permission to kiss each other. This comes from parts of the USA where a couple would not be allowed to be together un-chaperoned before getting married and they were certainly not allowed to kiss each other before they were married!

Queen Victoria started the tradition of the bride wearing white for a wedding in this country. White indicates the virginal status of the bride and this is of course very important when inheritance is an issue. Within the monarchy it is important that a new king or queen is the child of the previous monarch for example.

Wedding etiquette books can be helpful but in our experience they are not as accurate as one might hope.

Probably the best depictions of English weddings in film can be found in "*Four Weddings and a Funeral*" but even these are rather out of date.