

Getting married at St Francis

If you are thinking about a Church wedding in Terriers you may find it helpful to have some details about the preliminary arrangements for the service. General information about getting married in church can be found at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

As you may know, the Church of England has been thinking for some time about the best way to respond to changing social conditions and in particular to the increasing mobility of our society today. After much discussion the Church of England Marriage Measure came into force in October 2008.

The Measure does not affect the existing right of parishioners. A couple continue to have the right to be married in the parish church of a parish where one or both of them are resident or entered on the electoral roll.

However some people would like to marry in a church because it has special significance for them, even though it is not where they live. This measure enables a church to offer the same welcome to a couple who wish to marry there and who can demonstrate a straightforward connection with the parish as it does to those who live in the parish itself, without the couple having to apply for a special licence.

The object of the Measure is to grant couples the same right to marry in the parish church of a parish with which one or both of them can demonstrate a "qualifying connection" of a kind specified in the new legislation as a person resident in the parish would have.

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

- **that person:**
 - was baptised in the parish. (This does not apply where the baptism formed part of a combined service of baptism or confirmation); or
 - had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or
 - has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
 - has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

- a Parent of that person has at any time during that person's lifetime:
 - had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
 - habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

- a Parent or Grandparent of that person was married in the parish.

In all these cases/In all cases involving church services – i.e. coming to/going to/attending normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage – this applies only to Church of England services.

Assuming that you or your fiancé(e) lives in the parish of Terriers or has a “qualifying connection” as outlined above, these are the things you need to know:

- **Banns**

If either of you lives outside the parish, you will need to make arrangements for your banns to be read in the church of the parish where you live. Banns in this parish are read at the 10.00 am service on the first three Sundays of the month *before* the month in which your marriage is to take place. We look forward to seeing you then.

- **Preparation**

The church will be in touch with you some time before your wedding date to arrange a meeting at which you and the Vicar can discuss the service in more detail and fix a date for your rehearsal. This meeting will normally take place three or four months before the date of your wedding.

- **Music**

You may already have in mind a choice of music to be played at your wedding. If you are uncertain about your choices the person who leads our team of singers and musicians will be very happy to advise you. It is usually possible to talk to her over a cup of coffee after the Parish Communion (10.00 a.m. every Sunday). Here is a list of popular hymns which you may find helpful:

Wedding Hymns

*Two hymnbooks are used at this church. They are “Hymns Ancient and Modern” (New Standard edition) in “Hymns Old and New” (Complete Anglican edition). In them the following hymns are recommended as particularly suitable for weddings (those marked * are still under copyright):*

“Hymns Ancient and Modern”		“Hymns Old and New”
	A new commandment*	35
156	Come down, O Love divine	114
450	Crown with love, Lord, this glad day*	
113	Father, hear the prayer we offer	161
356	Father, Lord of all creation*	163
200	Fill thou my life, O Lord my God	171
104	For the beauty of the earth	184
459	Give me joy in my heart	201
	God in the planning*	213
179	God of Mercy, God of grace	227
154	Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost	245
374	Help us to help each other Lord	275
471	Holy Spirit, come, confirm us*	288
378	Jesus, good above all other*	350
379	Jesus, humble was your birth*	
380	Jesus, Lord, we look to thee	
475	Jesus, Lord, we pray*	
194	King of glory, King of peace	375
224	Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us	379

482	Life is great!*	393
	Lord, for the years*	409
393	Lord of all good*	
394	Lord of all hopefulness*	413
131	Love divine, all loves excelling	428
	May the grace of Christ our Saviour	446
205	Now thank we all our God	474
152	O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace	501
280	O perfect love, all human thought transcending*	533
203	O praise ye the Lord	534
233	O thou who camest from above	541
101	O worship the King, all glorious above	551
503	Of all the Spirit's gifts to me*	
192	Praise, my soul, the King of heaven	565
207	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation	573
126	The King of love my shepherd is	649
	Wherever you go*	744

The following are also popular:

116	All things bright and beautiful	25
294	And did those feet in ancient time	33
148	At the name of Jesus	54
343	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart*	70
214	Guide me, O thou great Redeemer	252
375	I danced in the morning when the world was begun*	305
235	O Jesus, I have promised	503
415	Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer*	558
422	Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*	631
426	The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want	654

- **Order of Service**

Couples may design their own order of service (or leave it to a local printer). This should include an outline of the service and all the words which you wish your guests to say or sing. Please be very careful when choosing hymns. The words of any hymn written by an author who died after New Year's Eve, 1938, are still under copyright. Many will be covered by this Church's Copyright Licence, which must be quoted, with the appropriate acknowledgements, in any order of service. Please check with the Vicar whether the hymns you have chosen fall into this category. If they do not you *must* have the written permission of the appropriate copyright administrator before including them in your order of service. This is *your* legal responsibility, but we will be happy to give whatever advice and help we can – including offering a design and printing service for couples who want a more simple order of service.

- **Flowers**

You may have already arranged for a family friend or a professional florist to provide the flowers for your wedding. If you would like the Church to organise the flowers for you, the leader of our team of flower-arrangers will be happy to discuss with you the size and

colours of any floral displays, but this must be done at least six weeks before the date of your wedding. There is a charge for this service (please see below).

- **Fees and expenses**

Here is a list of the fees currently charged, with optional “extras”:

Wedding Fees and Expenses, 2009

- **Fees** (*these are set by law*)

Publication of banns (in each parish)	£ 22.00
Banns certificate (“away” parish only)	£ 12.00
Marriage Service	£254.00
Marriage certificate	£ 3.50

- **Additional Expenses**

Organist (if required)	£ 55.00*
Contribution to church costs (including use of organ)	£ 30.00
(without organ)	£ 24.00
Fee for Verger/cleaner	£ 12.00
Choir (if required)	£ 55.00*
Flowers (if required)	£ 75.00

** A different rate applies if substantial preparation (beyond the playing of hymns and organ voluntaries) is required. Please ask for further details.*

The banns fees are normally payable with the completion of the banns application form. All other fees are payable at the wedding rehearsal.

At present we do not envisage any major change in the level of charges made for such items as heating and lighting, although we do from time to time revise the charges made for the services of organist and choir in the light of advice from the Royal School of Church Music.

In addition to the website mentioned above, you will also find guidance about matters which often concern couples preparing for their wedding at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/weddings/>. If neither website answers your particular queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Vicar, whether by e-mail (vicar@terrierschurch.org.uk) or by telephone (01494 520676).