



Pastrow Family

Churches sharing the love, grace and truth of Jesus Christ



Wedding Information Pack



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Introduction

It won't be long before you are both standing in one of our churches on one of the most momentous days of your lives. What follows in this wedding pack are some thoughts and suggestions, which I hope you will find helpful. Please ask your church wedding co-ordinator if there is anything you are uncertain about.

If there is a key to a good marriage, it is good communication, making time to share your thoughts and hopes, and talking over the events of the day. There is no time like the present to build upon this; for the better you know each other and understand yourselves, the firmer the foundations of your marriage.

You have chosen to come to church to ask for God's blessing as you start your married life. On your wedding day you will enter into a new chapter of your relationship with each other and with God. Just as communication is an invaluable key to a successful marriage, so it is to a living faith in God.

Through prayer, worship with other Christians, and reading the Bible, you can keep in touch with God. We here at The Parish of Pastrow will be only too delighted to help you with any of this, and there are courses that we run for any who wish to explore the Christian faith further.

You will always be welcome, and I pray you will find in our churches a special and spiritual home for years to come.

Every blessing for the days ahead.

Revd Carol Dunk
Vicar
Pastrow Family

Some Practical Questions People Ask

Why should we be married in church?

This is certainly a question you should have considered carefully. There are many places where you can choose to be married now: a Registry Office, a hotel set in beautiful grounds or on a Caribbean beach.

By choosing to be married in one of the Pastrow Family Churches, you have chosen to be married in the House of God and you will be making your promises to share in each other's lives. You have chosen to pledge yourselves to each other not only publicly before your friends and family, but also before your loving Father in heaven. You are asking for His blessing and help with your married life.

Do I have to be baptised before I can be married in Church?

Ideally both of you should have been baptised. The promises that you make to each other are made in church (God's house here on earth), in His holy name and before Him. It makes sense then, that you have an understanding and belief in Him, and in the significance of the undertaking you are about to give.

At least one of you should have undergone a Christian baptism (or Christening) before you may be married in church. You do not have to have been baptised in a Church of England Church; baptism is a sacrament recognised across Christian Churches. Anglicans (or members of the Church of England) can be baptised as infants or adults. If neither of you is baptised, then please speak with the Vicar as soon as you can.



What are Banns?

Here's your essential guide to Church of England banns:

- Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.
- Banns are an ancient legal tradition and have been read out every week in churches across the land for millions of couples, over many centuries.
- After your forthcoming marriage is announced, the congregation may be invited to pray for you both. It can be quite special and moving to hear this, so do go along if you can.
- Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married, if that is somewhere else.
- You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. This is usually done over three consecutive Sundays but does not have to be.
- As well as being a legal requirement, your banns readings are special public occasions when people in church hear of your intention to marry. It's an exciting and happy time, so you're welcome to invite your family and friends to hear your banns too, if you'd like.
- If there is not enough notice given for the banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or if one or both of you are British but do not live in England (or Wales), the Common Licence procedure needs to be used rather than banns.
- If one or both of you is a national of a country which is outside the European Economic Area, you will require a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to marry, rather than have banns read.

Do we need to do anything?

You need to complete a Banns of Marriage Application Form. We then record the details in the Banns Register and publish them at the appropriate time. The Banns of Marriage Application Form is the same form from which we take the details to complete your Marriage Document which is used by the Registry to produce your Marriage Certificate.

Do we need to be there when they are published?

Although there is no obligation to come and hear your Banns being called, it would be great to see you! Most couples, with their family and friends, enjoy hearing their Banns called.

What are we signing when we sign the Marriage Document?

At the end of the marriage service the couple and two witnesses will go into the side chapel or at the alter and sign the Marriage Document. This is a legal record that the marriage has taken place. It will be sent to the County Registry Office in Basingstoke. The Registry use this information to produce your Marriage Certificate. The church also records your wedding in The Register of Marriage Services. The information on the Wedding Register is supplied by you on the Banns of Marriage Application Form and so it is very important that we complete it accurately. If you have any queries, please do ask.

Who can sign the Wedding Register as a Witness?

Anyone, other than the Vicar, who has been present throughout the service. Usually it is two people from the bridal party, perhaps fathers, mothers, best man or chief bridesmaid. Witnesses should be over 18 years of age.

What is the Marriage Document for?

This is the record of the information for your wedding and is sent to the County Registry Office who use the information to produce your Marriage Certificate. The Marriage Certificates can be pre-ordered at <https://shop.hants.gov.uk/products/order-your-marriage-certificate-for-religious-buildings-ceremonies-in-hampshire>

When do we need to pay our fees?

All fees must be paid, at the very latest 4 weeks before your wedding day via bank transfer. It is also possible to pay by instalments. Details of costs are given on a pro-forma invoice eight weeks before your wedding day. Wedding fees are subject to change each year, and are set by the Church of England and are updated on the 1st January

We have children, does that have any effect on what we need to do?

If the couple to be married have children, they must re-register their children's births at the local Registry Office after the marriage has taken place. Failure to do so will contravene the law and could cause problems with the child(ren)'s inheritance rights. This does not affect children from a previous relationship. Please contact the Registrar on 0300 555 1392 if you are unsure.

Marriage After Divorce

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.

Your church wishes you a lifetime of love that grows within God's protection. But we recognise that some marriages do fail for all sorts of sad and painful reasons. So in certain circumstances the Church of England accepts that a divorced person may marry again in church and this has been the case since 2002.

The first step is to make an enquiry with the vicar of the church where you'd like to marry. Every vicar will want to help you, though there are some who don't feel able to offer a wedding to couples where one or both of the partners has been divorced. In any case, your vicar will want to talk frankly about your past and hopes for the future and will then be able to advise you.

Even if it is not possible to do your wedding, they may offer a blessing service after a civil wedding.

The law allows the Vicar freedom of conscience whether or not to marry a person with a former partner still living. Where the Vicar is not prepared to do so, couples will need to respect that decision.

My divorce is going through at the moment. I want to get married as soon as possible. Can I make the arrangements now?

Unfortunately, no. We are not permitted to make arrangements for a marriage if either of the couple is still legally married to another person. You must have your decree absolute paperwork and show it to the Vicar before we can get involved with any arrangements.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Many couples like to have an Order of Service printed for the wedding, for guests to use during the Service and as a keepsake of the day. Whilst it is quite a useful item, it is not essential, and either a home produced or a professionally printed Order of Service is acceptable. However, please do show your final draft to the Vicar who is to conduct your service, BEFORE it is printed.

We do have a number of examples of Orders of Service available, we can also prepare them for you, please just ask for details.

Front cover

Order of Service

Names of couple

Date, time and venue of wedding

Inside pages

1. Music for arrival of bride
2. The Welcome and Opening Prayer
3. First Hymn
4. The Marriage
5. Second Hymn
6. The Reading (details and name of reader)
7. The Address
8. The Prayers
9. Third Hymn
10. The Blessing
11. Signing of the Register, details of any music to be played or sung
12. Music for exit of couple
13. Some couples like to print the names of the Best Man, Bridesmaids, Pageboys etc.

You may wish to print the words of the hymns in full on your Order of Service, or use the church hymn books and print just the numbers. Please do check that we have the hymns you wish to use in our books, and in the format, you are hoping to use.

CHOOSING A READING FOR YOUR WEDDING

The wedding service normally has a Bible reading, which is chosen from a wide range of topics such as love, commitment and the best foundations for living. Some deal more specifically with the love of God and the example Jesus gave us. This booklet gives a number of readings that are suitable for a wedding.

Select one or two likely readings, read them and then ask yourself these questions:

- ☐ Which of the readings makes most sense to me?
- ☐ Are there words or phrases in some of the readings that I particularly like?
- ☐ Which of the readings reflects best what I hope for in marriage?
- ☐ Which of the readings do I find most difficult to understand? (Ask your Vicar)

The Vicar will help you to decide on a reading that fits in with your service.

Find the following passages in a Bible, read them and think about what they are saying to you. (Remember to use a translation that you are comfortable with: The King James Bible uses older traditional words, whereas the New International Version uses more modern language, for example).

Genesis 2:18-25

This early story tells of our human need to share life with other people.

John 2:1-11

This is an account of how Jesus went with His mother and friends to a wedding and gave some miraculous assistance when all the wine had been drunk before the end of the feast.

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Although he is talking about love in a broader sense than marriage, this well-known passage from St. Paul's letter to his Christian friends is often read at weddings.

Ephesians 5:21-33

St. Paul compares the marriage bond to the bond between Jesus and His followers, the Church.

Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Jesus tells a story about two men who built their homes in different places on different foundations, to show how important the right foundation is for our lives.

Mark 10:6-9

Marriages broke down and men easily divorced their wives in Jesus' time. Jesus reminds people of God's intention that every marriage should become an unbreakable bond.

Colossians 3:12-17

St. Paul describes how important it is for Jesus to be at the centre of everything we do.

John 15:9-12

Jesus tells His disciples about love and the need for us to love one another.

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

St. Paul describes how love changes us and helps us in the practical things of daily life.

1 John 4:7-12

St. John shows that God is love, and that because of God's love for us we too should love one another.

Ephesians 3:14-21

In this passage St. Paul prays that his readers should know the love of Christ at the very foundation of their lives.

Genesis 1:26-28, 31

The story of how God created men and women and the institution of marriage.



CHOOSING MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

The marriage service is an act of worship, and in particular a time to thank God for bringing you together as a couple, asking Him to bless your marriage in the future.

Usually two or three hymns (or songs) are sung in the service.

- ☐ The opening hymn will often say something of the love of God.
- ☐ The middle hymn may be a quieter one about prayer.
- ☐ The third may be a hymn of celebration.

This pattern may help you decide which hymns to have and at what stages in the service.

Usually, there are three times in the service when instrumental music is required.

- ☐ When the bride makes her entrance to the church.
- ☐ During the signing of the register.
- ☐ When the couple leave the church.

Choosing Hymns and Songs

These are the questions the Organist may want to discuss with you:

- ☐ How many hymns are you having?
- ☐ At what stage in the service will they be sung?
- ☐ Are the hymns that you want sufficiently well known for people to join in?
- ☐ Do the hymns say the things you want?
- ☐ Have you agreed with the Organist which tunes you are having for the hymns?
(Some couples could be upset if their favourite hymn is sung to the wrong tune).

CHOOSING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

These are the questions the Organist may want to discuss with you:

- ☐ Which music would you like whilst the bride enters the church?
- ☐ Do you want to come in to a loud or quiet piece of music?
- ☐ How long does the piece have to last? (Think about how long it will take you to walk to the front of the church with bridesmaids and pageboys).
- ☐ Can the Organist play the pieces you want? (If he does not have a copy of the music, you will probably have to supply it).
- ☐ It is customary for your chosen church for music to be played while the register is being signed, so what would you choose?
- ☐ Do you wish to make use of the singers or music group to help with the music during the service?

Make sure that you come to your decision on what music to have based on the advice you will get from the Vicar and the Organist.



TRADITIONAL HYMNS AND SONGS

This is a list of some traditional wedding hymns, with a very brief description of each. The list is not comprehensive. If you have any other ideas, please discuss them with the Organist.

All Things Bright and Beautiful.

A hymn of praise celebrating the beauty of God's creation.

Lead us Heavenly Father Lead Us.

A prayer to God asking Him to guide us, forgive us and to fill us with joy and peace.

Love Divine all Loves Excelling.

A hymn offering ourselves to Jesus, asking Him to change us and help us to live our lives in praise to Him.

Immortal Invisible God Only Wise.

A hymn celebrating the glory and splendour of God.

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven.

A hymn of praise to God, thanking Him for all He has done for us and for His loving nature.

The Lord's My Shepherd.

A version of Psalm 23, which is a hymn reminding us of God's care for us through good and bad times.

Other Popular Hymns/Songs:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

At the Name of Jesus

Come Down O Love Divine

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Father Hear the Prayer We Offer

Jesus Stand Among Us

Lord for the Years

Lord of all Hopefulness

Lord of the Dance

Lord Jesus Christ You have come to us

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Morning has Broken

O Jesus I have Promised

O Worship the King

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

The King of Love my Shepherd is

To God be the Glory



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

There is a wide range of music available for you to use during the service. The following list is a selection of the more traditional pieces the Church Organist will be able to play.

Entrance of the Bride

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (Handel)*

Introduction to Zadok the Priest (Handel)

Bridal March from Lohengrin (Wagner)

Trumpet Tune (Purcell)*

Prince of Denmark's March (Clarke)*

*Can also be played for the wedding party exit

Wedding Party Exit

Toccata from Symphony No 5 (Widor)

Toccata in G (Dubois)

Finale from Symphony No 1 (Vierne)

Prelude in C (Bach)

Prelude in G (Bach)

Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream (Mendelssohn)

Liberty Bell (Sousa)

Minuet from Suite Gothic (Boellmann)

Now Thank we all our God (Karg-Elert)

While the Registers are Signed

Canon (Pachelbel)

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)

Air on a G String (Bach)

Prelude in C (Bach)

Panis Angelicus (Franck)

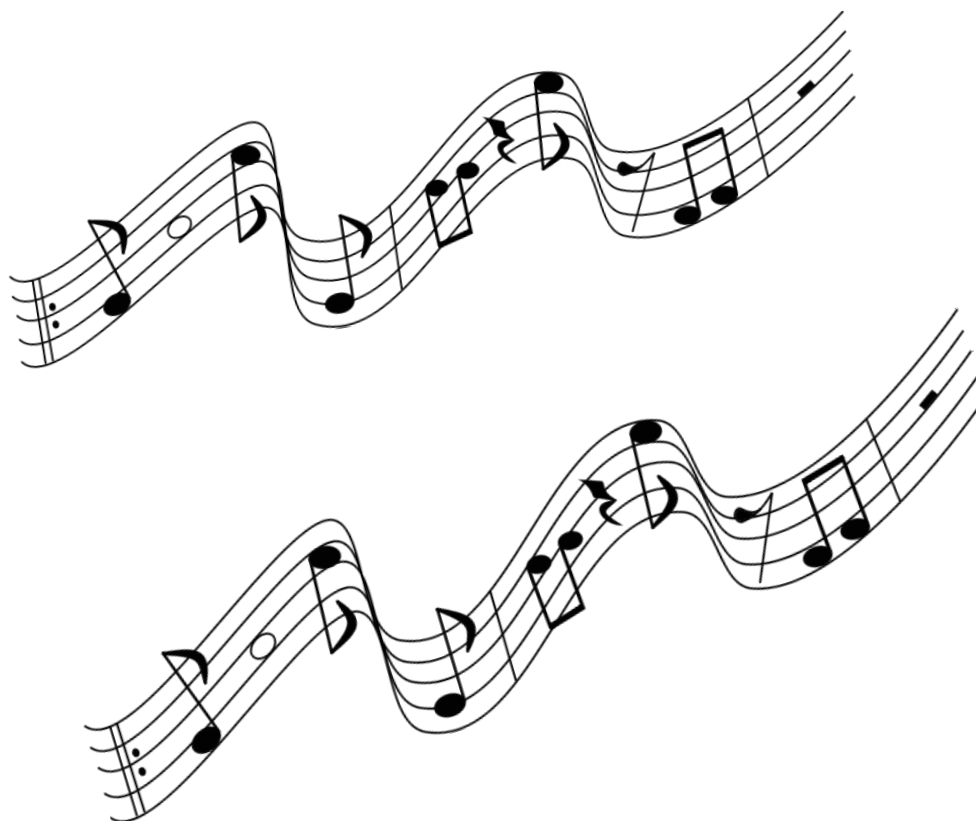
Prelude (Franck)

Prelude (Harris)

Ave Maria (Schubert)

Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)

Adagio (Albinoni)



ORDER OF SERVICE

You will need to make the following decisions about your Order of Service.

Which piece of music will be played as the bride enters the church?

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The Welcome and Opening Prayer

First Hymn.....

The Marriage

Second Hymn.....

The Reading.....

The Address

The Prayers

Third Hymn.....

The Blessing

Which piece of music will be played whilst the register is being signed?

.....

Which piece of music will be played when the bride and groom depart?

.....

CHECKLIST

Please use this as a prompt for the things you need to have thought about before the day. Remember we will be pleased to help you with anything that you are unsure about.

THREE MONTHS BEFORE

1. Have you completed your Banns Application Form and returned it to the church or done all that is necessary for a Marriage Licence?
2. If you live outside the parish, you should have completed a Banns Application Form for the parish in which you live. After your Banns have been called you must give your Banns Certificate (s) to the Vicar conducting your service before your ceremony can take place.
3. Speak to the Pastrow Administrator to book an Organist if required.
4. If using our Flower Co-ordinator ensure you have met and discussed what is required and costs are agreed? If another couple are marrying on the same day as you, it may be possible to share flower costs with them, please speak to the Flower Co-ordinator or Pastrow Administrator.

TWO TO THREE MONTHS BEFORE

1. Have you contacted the Vicar who is conducting your service to arrange a rehearsal?
2. If you plan to use an Order of Service, have you arranged for a copy of the draft to be seen by the Vicar?
3. Ensure your music choices have been passed onto the organist and that they have confirmed all is acceptable. Also confirm with the vicar your choices of music and the speak with them regarding your readings.
4. How many guests are you expecting and how many copies of your Order of Service will you require?

Our churches capacities are as follows

Holy Trinity Penton – 110	St Michaels & All Angels Weyhill - 120
Christchurch Hatherden – 120	St Thomas' Tangle - 70
St Thomas' Charlton - 130	St Georges Enham – 60
Christchurch Smannell – 120	St Peter' Hurstbourne Tarrant – 150
St Barnabus Faccombe – 100	St Peter' Linkenholt – 70
St Mary the Virgin Vernham Dean - 120	

5. What arrangements have you made for parking and directing your guests to the church?

6. Who will be the best man?

7. Who are the Bridesmaids and Pageboys?

AT THE LATEST THREE WEEKS BEFORE

1. Have you paid your church fees?

2. Confirm that all information (supplied on the Banns Application Form) is correct for Marriage Document, including supplying the witness's names.

3. Give a final copy of your Order of Service to the Organist and Vicar.

ONE WEEK BEFORE

1. Produce any Banns Certificates required from other parishes (without fail, otherwise the wedding cannot go ahead).

2. Attend rehearsal. Give the vicar any recorded music to be played on the day. Bring Orders of Service to church.

3. Advise the Vicar/verger if any of your guests will require disabled access to the church.

THE DAY

Arrive on time and have a happy and blessed Wedding Day!



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Churches sharing the love, grace and truth of Jesus Christ