



Weddings at Christ Church Kensington

Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for considering getting married at Christ Church. We love helping people to get married and are delighted to marry people whatever they believe. But to choose to marry at Christ Church is to choose a wedding that is shaped around the Christian understanding of marriage.

The Bible sees marriage as a covenant: a permanent, exclusive, self-sacrificial and unbreakable commitment between a man and a woman, within which their love for one another can flourish. In this respect it reflects, and is intended to strengthen, the exclusive love relationship that God wants to have with his people.

Flowing from this understanding of marriage, we have several conditions for any couple getting married at Christ Church:

1. You agree to receive marriage preparation from us

This will take the form of a few meetings. Our aim is to look at the Bible with you to reflect on God's purposes for marriage, to work through issues that commonly put marriages under strain, and to help build some support networks within church for the inevitable challenges that lie ahead. With our agreement you can arrange suitable marriage preparation elsewhere.

2. You both identify as Christians OR you both identify as not Christian.

To be a Christian is to personally and actively trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. This shapes the whole course of a person's life and it is simply not wise to yoke together two people who are aiming to walk in different directions.

3. Your marriage is between one man and one woman, neither of whom has a living spouse or ex-spouse.

This reflects the covenant nature of Christian marriage. In exceptional circumstances we may occasionally marry those who have been divorced. If you want to have a confidential conversation about this, please contact one of our pastoral staff.

4. If Christian, you refrain from sleeping or living together prior to marriage.

God made sex and rejoices in it, but he made it to celebrate and strengthen covenant oneness. God's forgiveness is full and freely given for whatever has happened in the past, but we ask that those who identify as Christian believers show their trust in Jesus by not living or sleeping together from now until their wedding day.

Because we are a Church of England Church, you need to have a qualifying connection with us to marry here. You can marry here if one of you:

1. has at any time lived in our parish for a period of at least 6 months or
2. was baptised in our parish or
3. was prepared for confirmation in our parish or



4. has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months or
5. has a parent who, at any time after you were born, has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
6. has a parent who, at any time after you were born, has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months or
7. has a parent or grandparent who was married in the parish.

Finally, it might help you to know about the statutory fees associated with a wedding here (set by the Church of England): Publication of Banns £32, Certificate of Banns £16, Marriage Service £480, Organist £225, Choir £120pp.

If you think we can help at all with your plans please complete this short form, and return it to the Church office, who will then arrange for you to meet with one of our pastoral staff.

Bride's Name:	Groom's Name:
Bride's Address:	Groom's Address:
Marital Status: Previously Married, Single, Divorced	Marital Status: Previously Married, Single, Divorced
Qualifying connection: (1-7)	
What has attracted you to holding your wedding at Christ Church?	