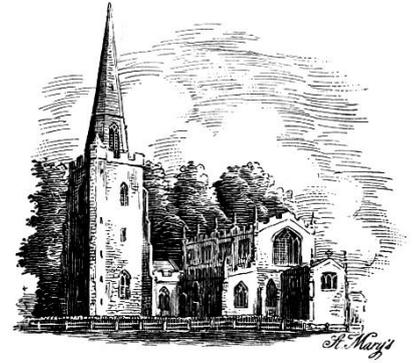


Planning a Marriage Service at St Mary's Lapworth



The Rector encourages couples to suggest music and readings which are suitable for their wedding. The service needs to fit with the expectations of the Church of England nationally and locally, and final responsibility the service rests with the Rector.

Printing an Order of Service

Giving each member of the congregation Order of Service helps them to follow the marriage service and especially to join in with the hymns and the prayers.

An Order of Service also provides a lovely souvenir of the occasion, but please note that an Order of Service is not essential; we do have hymn books we can give out.

If you want to print an order of service, please discuss your plans with the Rector. The typical headings required are:

- Processional Music: (e.g. The Bridal March, Wagner)
- First Hymn (print all the words)
- The Marriage
- The Nuptial Blessing
- Scripture Reading: (e.g. 1 Corinthians 13 read by)
- Second Hymn (print all the words)
- Prayers
- The Lord's Prayer (Include words)
 - Our Father, who art in heaven,
 - hallowed be thy name;
 - thy kingdom come;
 - thy will be done;
 - on earth as it is in heaven.
 - Give us this day our daily bread.
 - And forgive us our trespasses,
 - as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 - And lead us not into temptation;
 - but deliver us from evil.
 - For thine is the kingdom,
 - the power and the glory,
 - for ever and ever.
 - Amen.
- Third Hymn (not essential but print all the words if included)
- The Blessing
- Signing the Register (perhaps include details of music)
- Recessional Music: (e.g. The Wedding March, Mendelssohn)

To see a good example of an Order of Service can be [found here](#).

Organ music at weddings

Often there is a lot of interest in the organ music on that the bride walks in to (Entry), and the music which the couple walk out to at the end (Exit).

The most traditional music is:

- The Bridal March: Wagner (Entry)
- The Wedding March: Mendelssohn (Exit)

Other good options include:

- The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba: Handel (Entry)
- Trumpet Tunes: Purcell (Entry of Exit)
- Trumpet Voluntary: Clarke (Entry of Exit)
- Hornpipe from Handel's Water Music (Entry or Exit)
- Crown Imperial March: Walton (Exit)
- Pomp and Circumstance March N° 4: Elgar (Exit)
- Toccata from 5th Symphony: Widor (Exit)
- Finale – Royal Fireworks: Handel (Exit)

It is often possible to get an idea of what these pieces sound like from the [Organists On-line Website](#) or by searching for them on Youtube. Organ music can also be played during the signing of the registers.

The Church Choir

St Mary's has a good church choir. The choir can really help a wedding service by providing a strong lead for the congregation, especially with the singing.

If the choir is booked (there is a fee for the choir, and its availability can depend on the date and time of the wedding) then it is usual to ask the choir to sing a motet from their repertoire during the signing of the registers.

The organist appointed for the service is usually happy to discuss music directly with couples. The Rector can provide contact details.

Hymns

We would normally have two or three hymns in a wedding service. The hymns are important because they lift and enrich the service. They also are the best opportunity that the congregation has to join in with the wedding service.

For help in choosing wedding hymns you might like to look at this page of the [Church of England website](#) where it is possible to see the words and hear the music for many popular wedding hymns.

Scripture readings

A Church of England wedding we must always include at least one scripture reading. The scripture reading reminds us of church teachings on love and marriage.

Some readings particularly suitable for weddings are listed on this [Church of England website](#). Some couples request additional readings or poems. One of these can usually be accommodated if it is appropriate and not too long.

Flowers

St Mary's has a flourishing Flower Guild which decorates the church Sunday by Sunday and specialises in preparing the church for weddings.

Normally the Rector will insist that flowers in church are organised through the Flower Guild and remain in church after the service. This has great benefits for wedding couples and for the church. As volunteers, the Flower Guild provides flowers far more cost effectively than a commercial florist. They are also familiar with the particular opportunities that the church building provides for flower decorations, and they can ensure that the flowers are in keeping with a picturesque English country church.

To discuss flower arrangements, specific colours or themes and related donations, please talk to the Flower Guild. The Rector can provide contact details.

Bells

St Mary's has a tower with six bells. If a couple wish to have the bells rung for their wedding, then this can normally be arranged. A fee is payable for the bellringers.

Photos and Video

The Rector is happy to have photos taken in church during the service. Photographers must minimise the distraction that they cause to others. Before the service begins, they should ask the Rector where they may walk in church. Please do not use camera flash facilities while the service is in progress. The Rector asks photographers not to move around the church while words are being spoken.

If a service is to be videoed, either professionally or on a camcorder, then for reasons of copyright a Limited Manufacture Licence from [PRS for Music](#) is required. These usually cost from £7 to £22 depending on the number of copies required. The same licence is required if recorded music from a CD or a phone is played during the church service. Please make sure that the Rector is given a copy of the PRS for Music licence.

The organist's fee is also increased when a service is recorded.

Church heating

If the wedding is to take place outside of the summer couple may like to have the church heating turned on. This can be arranged and a fee is payable.

Cleaning and Confetti

We ask couples to pay for the vergers to be present at the wedding ceremony. The vergers clean and set out the church and tidy up afterwards. The vergers are essential if confetti is to be used.

We have one particular place for confetti. This is on the steps down to the road, under the wrought iron arch. Confetti that gets into the gravel or the grass is hard to clear up, and we ask wedding parties to take care to keep confetti to this one place.

Check List for planning a wedding service

- Are you printing an Order of Service?
- Organ music on entry
- Organ music on exit
- Do you wish to book the choir?
- First hymn
- Second hymn
- Third hymn, if required
- Arrangements for music during signing of the registers
- Scripture reading, and any other readings
- Do you wish for the church bells to be rung?
- Do you require a PRS licence to video or record the service?
- Do you require the church heating?
- Do have arrangements for flowers with the Flower Guild?