

YOUR WEDDING BLESSING OR RENEWAL OF VOWS AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH , WICKHAM

We're delighted that you hope to have your marriage blessed or to renew your wedding vows in the beautiful ancient parish church of St Nicholas, Wickham.

We hope that this leaflet will answer some of the questions that you may have as you prepare for your special day.

It is important that you have a discussion about your wedding blessing with the vicar before the date of your service can be confirmed and before confirming dates with your reception venue.

WHO CAN HAVE A WEDDING BLESSING OR RENEWAL OF VOWS AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH , WICKHAM ?

Many couples who have had a civil wedding decide that they would like to dedicate their marriage to God in church soon afterwards. Other couples wish to celebrate a significant wedding anniversary by renewing their vows in church whether or not they initially got married in church.

A husband and wife can have their marriage blessed in church, whether they got married in the UK or abroad. For couples who marry abroad it can be a way of ensuring more family and friends can celebrate the marriage if they were unable to travel to another country for the legal marriage.

The Church of England service is called a Service of Prayer and Dedication which is often known as a 'blessing'. It is a simple service that acknowledges the commitment already made between husband and wife during a civil ceremony and asks for God's blessing and guidance in your new life together. As it is not a marriage service banns are not required, there is no exchange of rings and no signing of the Register.

It can be designed to have a similar feel to a wedding with hymns, readings, flowers and even bells if you would like that, or it can be an intimate, low key service.

Unlike a wedding there is no requirement to have a 'qualifying connection' with the church and therefore you are able to have a blessing in any church of your choice with the agreement of the Rector.

Services of blessing usually last around 35 minutes which is slightly shorter than a wedding as there are no registers to be signed.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO HAVE MY WEDDING BLESSED AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, WICKHAM?

You may wish to have your wedding blessed or to renew your vows St Nicholas Church, Wickham because you live in the parish or because it has special significance for you through family or other connections. Unlike a wedding there is no requirement to have a 'qualifying connection' with the church and therefore you are able to have a blessing in St Nicholas, Wickham with the agreement of the Rector.

Before your wedding can be blessed the minister conducting the blessing service must see your marriage certificate.

If one or both of you have been married before you may still be able to have a blessing in church but you will need to discuss this with the Rector.

Although same-sex marriage legislation has changed it is not legally possible for same-sex couples to marry or to have their marriage blessed in the Church of England at this time.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO HAVE A WEDDING BLESSING AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, WICKHAM?

There are no statutory fees for a wedding blessing as there would be for a marriage in the Church of England.

St Nicholas, Wickham charges a fee of £250 for a wedding blessing with an additional requested fabric donation (for maintenance of the church building) of £100.

The standard fee does not include extras which you may choose to have such as:

- a vergers who will ensure that the church is warm, clean and tidy for your wedding and can help with handing out Orders of Service and assist with disability access and guide people to their seats.
- additional heating in the church. At St Nicholas, Wickham this is mandatory during the winter months and optional at other times.
- having an organist, choir or bellringers.
- church flowers – these can either be arranged with our own flower arrangers or you may choose to provide your own flowers or use a professional florist.
- fees for using the church sound system to play recorded music or for videoing of the service.

See page 5 for a list of fees payable for these options at St Nicholas Wickham.

ADMINISTRATION

Booking deposit: A non-returnable deposit of **£100** is payable when you submit your Booking Form – *please check first with the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator that your preferred date is available.*

Fees: Fees are normally payable not later than one calendar month before the wedding. An invoice will be sent to you detailing costs and telling you when the banns are to be read. *Please see the table of marriage fees on page 5.*

MUSIC FOR YOUR SERVICE

Organist and Choir: Both are arranged through the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator. Please let us know in good time so that we can help with the arrangements for music at your service. *If you wish to bring your own musician/s or recorded music you must let us know.*

Copyright: Copyright law applies to all music ‘within copyright’ and must have the author and copyright owner noted after the hymn/song. Music covered by a CCLI licence may be printed in an order of service without further payment or permission – St Nicholas Church’s CCLI number is 610286. Please see the Christian Music Publishers’ Association website for more information: <http://www.cmpa-europe.org/weddings.htm>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Orders of service (service booklets): Your minister will discuss the order of service with you: please do not have the order of service printed before your minister has seen your final draft. Please contact the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator if you would like us to print your orders of service (*price by arrangement*).

Video: It’s essential to consult your minister before entering into any agreements about video filming. A video licence fee is payable (*see page 5*). In addition, a Performing Rights Society licence (PRS) is required. This may be obtained from www.wvrl.co.uk.

Photography: NO flash photography is allowed during the service. Guests will be requested not to take photographs during the service – only the official photographer may do so (without flash). The parish protocol for the use of drone photography must be complied with (*available from the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator*).

Flowers: If you would like us to arrange your choice of flowers for your wedding for a competitive rate, please contact Chris Beardshaw (01329 832 910) at least 6 weeks before the day of your service.

If you wish to provide your own flowers, or to use professional florists, you are most welcome to do so, but you are asked to inform Chris Beardshaw (01329 832 910), and to give her their name and telephone number so that she can arrange for the church to be open and water etc to be available.

And finally... If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your minister or the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator.

CONTACTS

Rector	Revd Jane Isaac	01329 835295	pjisaac@btinternet.com
Assistant Curate	Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley	01329 280905	revruthhs@gmail.com
Associate Minister	Revd Juliet Montague	01489 895012	revdjuliet@gmail.com
Parish Life Events Co-ordinator / Parish Administrator	Mrs Jane Goulson	01329 833299	parishlifeevents@btinternet.com
CofE website	http://www.yourchurchwedding.org		

TABLE OF FEES FOR WEDDING BLESSINGS & REQUESTED DONATIONS
FOR
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH , WICKHAM~ 2021

MARRIAGES

<i>Basic fees</i>	
Service of Blessing	£250
Requested fabric donation (maintenance of the church building) *	£100

<i>Other fees, depending on your requirements</i>	
Winter heating – 1 st Oct to 30 th April**	£40
Verger	£40
Organist	£70
Choir	£80
Video permission	£70
Bells	£160
Flowers, if provided by the church (please contact Chris Beardshaw on 01329 832 910 for individual quotation)	c.£175

* We have a beautiful church and extensive ministry to the people of the local community and further afield. This donation is requested to help us to keep the church open and active in the years ahead. If you are a UK tax payer, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration for these amounts.

** This item is mandatory in winter; optional at other times.

NB Fees are normally revised with effect from 1st January each year. Please check fees for the year in which you are getting married.

BOOKING FORM

Names:	
Address:	
Requested date and time of blessing	
Non-refundable deposit	£100. Cheques made payable to 'PCC Wickham' or contact the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator for online banking details.

Please indicate which of the following you would like at your blessing:

Organist	
Choir	
Bells	
Flowers	
Video permission	

Please return this form to the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator by email parishlifeevents@btinternet.com or by post to the Parish Office, Roman Way, Tanfield Road, Wickham PO17 5NN.