

St Giles Church, Durham

Getting Married at St. Giles'

*Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God;
Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*



Congratulations!

Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage! At St Giles', we're here to help and support you, whatever stage you're at with your planning.

Getting married is a bold and exciting step to take within a relationship. Choosing to come to church for your marriage service is a way of expressing your love and commitment to one another, not only in front of your friends and families but also in the presence of God.

We hope that in your preparations and in your marriage you will experience the love, grace and blessing of God.

Where to begin...

If you would like to book your wedding at St Giles', the first thing you need to do is contact the clergy. You can do this by coming to the church on a **Friday evening between 6.00pm and 7.00pm**. They will be happy to discuss your wedding with you and you will be asked to fill in a wedding booking form.

Can we get married in St Giles'?

You can get married in St Giles' if any of the following apply to either of you:

- You were baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish.
- You have ever lived in the parish for six months or more.
- You have at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more at any time before the wedding takes place.
- Your parents have lived in the parish for six months or more in your lifetime.
- Your parents have regularly attended public worship here for six months or more in your lifetime.
- Your parents or grandparents were married here.

You can check which parish you live in at: www.achurchnearyou.com

How much will it cost?

For 2018, the Church fee including banns, marriage certificate organist & verger is £619*. You will have to pay a £75.00 deposit when you book your wedding.

** Please note that this price is subject to change at any time.*

Before your wedding...

Banns of Marriage

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. It is a legal requirement that your banns be called in the parish church where each of you live and where you intend to marry for three weeks before your wedding. You will need to arrange the calling of banns with the clergy in the months before your wedding.

Marriage by Licence

Under special circumstances you can be married by licence. If needed, the clergy can discuss this with you.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually organised by the vicar as part of the preparations for your wedding.

On your wedding day...

The Marriage Ceremony

At St Giles', we want to help you make your service your own, particularly during the wedding ceremony. The marriage service offers lots of choice and flexibility for you to add what you would like in the ceremony and our clergy are always happy to guide you through the service.

Order of Service

If you wish to design your own order of service, please consult the clergy before you finalise this. They can provide you with an outline order of service if you would like this.

Readings

You may choose readings from a variety of sources, but we ask that at least one of them is a bible reading. The clergy can offer suggestions as to appropriate passages.

Music

An organist is booked as standard for your wedding. Please contact them to discuss your choice of hymns and any other music you would like during the service. There is usually time during the signing of the registers where you might like to choose some music to be played or sung.

Can we have flowers?

You are most welcome to arrange to have special flowers in church. We would ask that you liaise with our flower co-ordinator who will be able to discuss costs with you. Please contact Trish Hancock (01388 458308).

Can we have photographs taken during the service?

We understand that you would like to have lots of photos taken of your special day. However, the ceremony itself is a very special moment for you and your guests. From experience we have found that it is distracting to have too many photographs taken during the service. We would ask that your guests refrain from taking photographs during the ceremony itself. If you are bringing a photographer, the clergy will be happy to talk with them before the service. Usually there are opportunities for photographs during the signing of the register, as well as after the service when you are welcome to come back into church and make use of our beautiful grounds.

Can we have the service videoed?

You are welcome to arrange to have the service videoed although it would be helpful if you could inform the clergy if you intend to do this. The videographer will have to stay in one place throughout the service. The words and music used in the service may be subject to copyright, and there is a fee associated with that.

We would like to know more about Our church wedding...

You can visit the Church of England wedding website where you will find suggestions which will help you to plan your wedding and might help to answer some of your questions: <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

Who do We contact?

If you have any questions at all about the arrangements for your wedding, please contact the following:

St Giles Parish Office
0191 374 1079
stgileschurchdurham@live.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to St Giles' for your wedding, and we wish you all the joy and happiness in your new life together as you plan for your special day.