

Marriage

at

St Edmund's Church



Roundhay

Sharing God's Generous Love

If you are planning to have your wedding service at St. Edmund's, these notes are designed to help you. We will do everything we can to make sure your day is a happy and memorable occasion.

Visit us at: www.stedmundsroundhay.org.uk

Congratulations!

Deciding to get married is an exciting time. We believe that your love is a wonderful gift from God and we would be delighted to share your day with you at St Edmund's Church.

Booking your wedding

The first thing to do is to contact us in church, or by e-mail:

enquiries@stedmundsroundhay.org.uk

or contact the vicar Rev. Nigel Wright

tel: 01132 264033; mobile: 07970 751670

e-mail: revnigelwright@gmail.com

Can we be married at St Edmund's?

By Law, you can marry in a Church of England church if you can show that one of you:

Has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or was baptised (christened) in the parish concerned or was prepared for confirmation in the parish or has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

Or

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born: has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

Or

That one of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish

Or

If you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, you could create one, simply by attending services at least once a month for six consecutive months. If you decide to do this, leave enough time after your attendance for the banns to be read before your wedding too – about another two months should be enough.

To check if you live in the parish, look at

www.achurchnearyou.com

Other questions people ask ...

But we don't normally go to Church. Is that ok?

Please don't worry. St Edmund's is a beautiful church and we would love to welcome you and help you celebrate your wedding here. Of course, it will be a Christian marriage service and so it will be more meaningful to you if at least one of you has a faith in God.

What if one or both of us has been divorced?

Christians believe that marriage is a life-long commitment. However, we recognise that marriages can fail for all sorts of reasons and that sometimes people can discover love again and want to make a new beginning. So, at St Edmund's, we rejoice at sharing in your wedding if at all possible. A member of the clergy will want to talk with you about the past and your hopes for the future.

Are there any other legal requirements?

We have to announce your intention to marry in church on three Sundays during the three months before your wedding. This is called reading your Banns of Marriage. We do this at our 10am service, and you would be very welcome to join us and hear them read. If one of you lives in another parish then you will have to arrange for your Banns to be read at that Parish Church as well. In some circumstances, such as if one of you is a foreign national, you may need to apply for a Common Licence instead of Banns.

We are planning to be married abroad.

Can we have a service of blessing at the church later?

Yes. You would be very welcome. We would be happy to help you plan it.

How much will it cost?

We will explain the current fees to you. Some of these are set by Parliament and others are set locally (e.g. the organist's fee, costs of flowers). Nothing needs to be paid until the rehearsal

Can we personalise our service?

Yes. Although words like the vows are set down, we hope that you will make the service your own as much as possible. You can choose the hymns and what music you want to come in to and go out to. We have an excellent organist but you may wish to bring in your own musicians or use recorded music. We can help you with ideas for all of these.

Useful numbers: Organist, Mike Rodgers 0113 217 9475
Flowers: Christine Hinchcliffe 0113 293 3154

Will there be any marriage preparation?

We don't just want to provide a nice venue for your service but to help give you the best start in your married life. Because of this, all couples who marry at St Edmund's are invited to attend an informal marriage preparation course. This is held over three evenings, usually in January and February. It covers such things as communication, handling conflict and looking at the marriage service. The course is led by two members of the congregation: After you have booked your wedding we will contact you to tell you more. We hope that you will make this course a firm commitment. Couples in previous years have enjoyed the social aspect as well as the opportunity to learn and share their ideas.

In addition, a member of the clergy will meet with you to plan your service and to think more about it. There will also be a wedding rehearsal.