



Your Wedding

At St Mary the Virgin Goldington

This is an exciting time and we offer you our congratulations and assure you of our prayers.

We are delighted that you are interested in getting married at St Mary's. A church has stood on this site in Goldington for hundreds of years, and thousands of couples have exchanged marriage vows in this place before family and friends and in the sight of almighty God. You would therefore be joining in a great tradition, whereby you will exchange some of the most wonderful words that a couple can say to one another, as you seek God's blessing for your married life.

You may marry in the parish church in which you are resident, or (since 1st October 2008) by a 'Qualifying Connection' if you meet one of the following criteria: -

1. **one of you was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish;**
2. **one of you has ever lived in the parish for six months or more;**
3. **one of you has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more;**
4. **one of your parents has lived in the parish for six months or more in your lifetime;**
5. **one of your parents has regularly attended public worship there for six months or more in your lifetime;**
6. **your parents or grandparents were married in the parish.**

Also you should be over 18 and currently UK or EU citizens. To be married by banns. If you are a non EU citizen then you can still be married but with a slightly different legal process. If you are divorced it may be possible for you to marry in this church .

You have chosen to be married in the parish church and I will be preparing you for your wedding. All arrangements will be made with me direct and my contact details are:-

**The Revd Simon Dommett,
St. Mary's Vicarage
Church Lane
Bedford
01234 351920
the.revd.simon@gmailcom**

Once we have agreed a date and time for your marriage to take place, we will meet to discuss the arrangements and to complete the appropriate forms. This meeting will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have and to begin to discuss the contents of the service - music, hymns, service sheets, readings, flowers, bells etc. Yours will normally be the only wedding in your church on any particular day.

There will be further meetings to finalise your wedding details and to look in depth at the service and the vows you will be making.

Hymnbooks are available in church, but if you plan to have a printed service sheet I will guide you through the layout, and I must agree the draft before printing. If you are unsure of your choice of music I have CDs of wedding music and hymns you may borrow.

We ask you to make your own arrangements for church flowers after discussion with me. We will also discuss your photography plans.

We do ask you to be respectful towards our much-loved church buildings and ask you to refrain from using confetti of any type in the church. Any confetti used must be biodegradable.

Banns will need to be read on three Sundays in the parish in which you are both resident, and the parish where your wedding will take place, and then a Banns Certificate issued. I will guide you in arranging this in your home parish, and advise you of the dates your banns will be read in our churches. It is hoped you will join us at the Sunday Services to hear your banns read.

A rehearsal will be booked, usually several days before the wedding, when parents, bridesmaids, the bestman and anyone else taking a significant role in your wedding will be welcome to attend. We will sort the church 'reserved' seating for immediate family at the rehearsal, and a complete 'walk-through' of the service.

I am sure you are aware that there are authorised statutory marriage fees, and in addition, depending on choices you make, local church fees. The fees for 2019 are shown at the end of the leaflet. Once details are finalised I will advise you of the total cost and how this is to be paid. All fees must be settled in full before the wedding rehearsal.

I hope this helps to answer some of your questions. Do contact me if you have any concerns, and be assured of our prayers for you.

With our best wishes to you both,

Rev Simon Dommett

Vicar of Goldington

Parochial Legal Fees

Calling Banns of Marriage	£ 30
Banns certificate	£ 14
Marriage Service	£515
<i>including all legal fees and verges</i>	
Marriage Certificate	£4
Bells	£110
Organist	£90
Heating (<i>If required</i>)	£75

Fees can be paid by Cash, Cheque
or Bank Transfer

A full invoice will be given after requirements
have been agreed.

Please note that a deposit of £100 is required at the time of booking the wedding, which will usually be part of the final fee for your wedding. (Should you later decide not to proceed, we ask that you consider making this a gift to the ongoing work of St Mary's in this community.)

If you live outside of the parish you will also need to pay for Banns of Marriage to be read in your local church as well. Currently £44 with the certificate

What happens next?

If you are booking a wedding for next year, we will contact you several months before your wedding, confirming the fees, and inviting you to two interviews, plus a marriage preparation evening (when you will meet other couples who are getting married at St Mary's and have some fun exploring what keeps relationships in good repair, because like you, we want your marriage to last and to be a source of strength and growth).

The first interview is usually about 5-6 months before your wedding and is to confirm the details of what music, readings and other details will be personal to your wedding ceremony. The second interview will be about 2-3 months before the wedding, when we shall look through your draft Order of Service, and take you through the meaning of the words of the wedding ceremony.

We will also invite you to come to church, to get to know the place where you will be married. We will be praying for you when your Banns are called in church, and it adds meaning to your day when you have got to know some of the church family here at St Mary's. We look forward to meeting with you to talk further.

There is no charge for exploring the idea of getting married, and we shall be pleased to help and guide you in this important stage in your life.

