



Holy Matrimony

Getting married in the Loughrigg Team Ministry (The parishes of Ambleside, Brathay and Langdale)

Dear friends,

We are delighted that you are to be married in church. All of us associated with the church will do all we can to make the day memorable for you both. Before the wedding day the minister taking the service will meet with you both. At those meetings we will go through all the various details associated with the service and discuss Christian marriage itself. If you wish, we will also have a rehearsal before the service. The purpose of this leaflet is to outline some of the details for you. You should, however, feel free to contact us at any time should you have any queries.

Marriage preparation

Christian marriage is for life and we are sure you will want to take part in preparation for this big step. To that end we will put on a Marriage Preparation Weekend in February each year or ask you to look at some online resources.

Banns

If you are marrying by Banns, they will be read out in the church you are to be married in on three Sundays within three months prior to the wedding. You will be advised of the dates. You will need to complete a form beforehand, if you have not already done so. The details on the form also give us the information we require for the Marriage Document. If any of the details that you give on the form subsequently change, please advise us as soon as possible.



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If one of you lives in another parish **you must** contact your local vicar to arrange for the Banns to be read. When this is done you will be provided with a certificate that will enable us to proceed with the wedding. If you are not marrying by Banns, we will meet with you to advise you of the procedures.

Marriage after divorce

If one of you have been married before and your previous spouse is still living, there is a discussion to be had about getting married in church. Please mention this as early as possible as it is at the discretion of the minister, according to Church of England guidelines, as to whether we can proceed.

Music

You will wish to consider music for both the Entrance of the Bride and your Procession from the church at the end of the service. You will also need to consider any hymns you might wish to sing during the service and whether or not you wish music during the Signing of the Marriage Document. The Church of England website has some helpful information about popular hymns and readings:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/weddings>

The minister will also be happy to discuss these with you.

Bells

Bells are available and need to be booked and paid for prior to the day. In some cases, bells will have to be paid for in cash.

Order of service

Often couples provide an Order of Service for their guests. These contain an outline of the service and the words of hymns to be sung.



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They are not essential and we can provide hymn books should they be required. If you are intending to have an Order of Service printed, we will provide you with the details of the service that should be included.

Flowers

There may well already be some flowers in the church on your wedding day. However you are welcome to make your own arrangements for wedding flowers should you wish to do so. If you need to gain access prior to the wedding to arrange flowers, please let us know as soon as possible.

Photographs and videos

We are keen that your official photographer works with us to ensure you get the photographs you want. It would be helpful if you could ask him or her to speak to the minister taking the wedding prior to the service so appropriate arrangements can be made. Guests, however, are requested not to take photographs during the service. If guests want to take photographs at the very end of the service as you leave, this is fine.

Readings

You will have the opportunity discuss with the minister passages that might be read during the service. You may choose one or more, providing that at least one is from the Bible. We can help you make a selection. You may also wish to consider who is to read them.

Young people

Children are very welcome in the church for the wedding. We fully understand that young children may become restless and we do not mind some noise or movement on their part. However, we would ask that they be looked after at all times by an adult to ensure their safety



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and avoid them distracting others. This is also the case with young bridesmaids or pages. We would also ask you to bear in mind that it might not be fair to ask a bridesmaid, best man or even your parents to look after a child – they are far too busy looking after you!

Fees

You can find our list of fees on our website at <https://stmarysambleside.org.uk/church-hire/weddings/>. Fees may be made payable by cheque or BACS to the appropriate PCC. These fees cover legal fees (Banns reading etc.), church fees, organist, vergers and bells as appropriate. You can discuss your specific requirements with the vicar and an invoice will be provided. The fees should be paid a month before your marriage date. In some cases the bells will have to be paid for in cash. Please be aware that the fees change each year.

Confetti

Confetti may be thrown outside the church but must be of the biodegradable type. Please ask your guests not to throw the metallic strip type. It is not fair on those who have to clear it up.

We hope these points are helpful. However, if at any time either if you have any questions or concerns about anything to do with your wedding, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do all we can to help resolve the matter for you.

We look forward to celebrating the day with you. May God bless you both in your life together, with all good wishes,

Rev. Andy Smith

Rev. Nick Hallam

Rev. Jane Natrass

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