Buckingham Parish Church

# 2025 Wedding Information

Website: bpchurch.uk

We are delighted that you would like to be married in church and are here to help you prepare for your wedding day. A church is not a wedding venue, it is a worshipping community where throughout the generations couples have come to have their love for each other blessed by God and to make solemn vows of lifelong commitment in front of God and his people.

The community here at BPC will be praying for you as you prepare for your wedding. Hopefully you will join with us at the 6pm Sunday worship as part of your wedding preparations. We will help you plan your service so that your friends and family can take part and witness you making your vows of love to each other. If you have a dream for your wedding then don't be afraid to ask, it might just be possible!

This leaflet contains important details about your wedding, you might also like to visit yourchurchwedding.org for further information and inspiration!

## Key Contacts

* Clergy: Revd Will Pearson Gee – rector@bpchurch.uk
* Revd Ope Ayileye – curate@bpchurch.uk
* Wedding Coordinator: Sue Fox – parector@bpchurch.uk
* Organist and Choir: Rob Tucker – choir@bpchurch.uk
* Bells: Ibby Marshall – office@bpchurch.uk
* Flowers: Susan Mileham – susan@mileham.net

Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact these people to confirm the details of your wedding. You must confirm with them no later than two months before your wedding.

## Legal Requirements

Marriage is both a religious and legal ceremony. It is important that we follow the correct legal procedures. The normal legal process is for banns of marriage to be published in church.
Banns may be published for:
1. Anyone who lives within the Buckingham Parish;
2. Anyone with a ‘qualifying connection’ with the Buckingham Parish;
3. Anyone on the church electoral roll of the Buckingham Parish.

Both of you will need to show something to confirm your identity (passport, photo card, driver's licence etc.) to the minister before your wedding to prove your nationality. This can be done at one of your meetings.
If you are not a British or European National, please let the minister know as soon as possible to arrange a superintendent registrar's certificate.
If you are planning to change your name and get a new passport for the honeymoon, there is a form the clergy can sign to enable this.

## The Publication of Banns

Your banns will normally be called at BPC at the 9am Service on the first three Sundays one month before your wedding – i.e., if your wedding is in June, the banns will be called on the first three Sundays in May. You should attend at least once.
Where one or both of you live outside the parish, you must contact the vicar of the parish in which you live to arrange for banns to be called in that parish church. After they have been called, a certificate will be issued (for which you will have to pay a fee). You must give the certificate to the minister conducting your wedding before the wedding can go ahead.

## Marriage in Church after Divorce

The Church teaches that marriage is a lifelong commitment. However, we recognise that for a number of reasons marriages can fail. Since 2002 the Church has made it possible, in some circumstances, for there to be a subsequent marriage after divorce. If either of you has been married before, please mention this early. There will need to be a frank and open conversation about the previous relationship.

## Marriage Certificate

From 4th May 2021 marriage certificates are no longer issued at the time of marriage. After your wedding you will need to apply online. The cost will be £11 per copy. Your application will be processed within seven days and sent to your requested address via 1st Class Post.

## Officiating Minister

It may not be possible for the minister who first meets you to conduct your service. However, we are part of a Team Parish and there are other priests who can conduct your service. The minister will let you know in advance.

## Church Music

Our organist will help you with music choices. There are recordings and hymn suggestions at yourchurchwedding.org. Please also note if you use recorded music and wish to video the wedding, you may need a licence (see www.ccli.co.uk). Please contact the organist as early as possible.

## What Happens Next?

* Space to Think – We’ll meet with you to think about the vows you will make.
* Sunday Services – You're invited to Sunday services to get familiar with the church.
* Order of Service – We'll help you plan your service before it's printed.
* Banns – Attend services when your banns are read (first 3 Sundays, 2 months prior).
* Rehearsal – We’ll arrange a rehearsal during the week before your wedding.

## A Final Word

We are not a wedding business, we are a church. If your plans change, please let us know. We are here to help you—don’t hesitate to ask for more information or speak to someone after services.