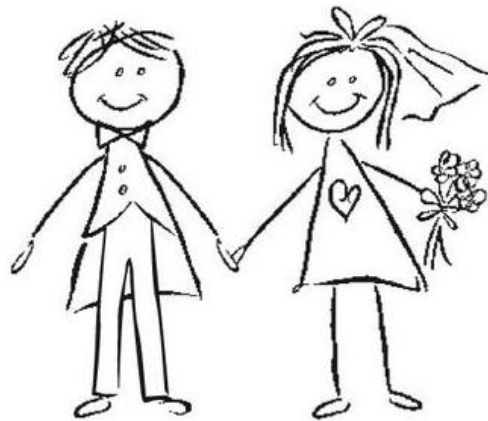


THE NETHEREXE PARISHES

***BRAMPFORD SPEKE, CADBURY, NEWTON ST CYRES, REWE WITH NETHEREXE,
STOKE CANON WITH HUXHAM, THORVERTON AND UPTON PYNE***

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING WITH US



OUR DEEPEST CONGRATULATIONS ON DECIDING TO GET MARRIED

The Netherexe Parishes are delighted that you have decided to get married in one of our churches. Our worship spaces are very special to us, and we are very pleased to be able to share them with you.

We look forward with you to your wedding day and want to help you manage the service, enabling it to run smoothly. Hopefully all the questions you may have will be answered in this little booklet. So, take some time to read together, as we think it will help you with the organisation and letting your key people know what they need to do.

Can I get married here?

If either of you live in the parish, then you have the right to marry in the parish church. It is also possible to marry in a church away from where you live if either of you can show just one of seven connections with the parish. So, if one or either of you:

- ❖ has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- ❖ was Baptised (Christened) in the parish
- ❖ was prepared for Confirmation in the parish
- ❖ has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months
- ❖ has parents or grandparents that were married in the parish
- ❖ has a parent who 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

Please discuss with us if you are uncertain about whether or not you have a qualifying connection. If you need to establish a connection with the church, you will need to begin attending worship and asking for an attendance register. This can be started as soon as you like, but must show a regular attendance of at least monthly for a minimum of six months prior to the banns being read (for which we allow three months). You will need to attend that church for the period. Each time you attend a service you can get the service leader to sign the attendance register to provide evidence of attendance. This means that we expect at least seven visits over a six month period. You can establish a connection with one of the churches in our team and this will qualify you to get married in another, but you must attend that one church for the duration of the six months. This may help if the church you are choosing to get married in has infrequent services that will be hard to establish a regular attendance.

These requirements are set out in law, so no discretion can be given to missed attendance, too few visits or incomplete at the time the banns are due to be read. It is therefore worth taking time to consider the commitment it will take to establish the connection.

Once the attendance register is complete you have fulfilled the requirement to establish a connection.

Once you have an established connection to the church you will need to complete a form which details your connection to the parish and asks for supporting evidence. If you established the connection through attendance the register is the evidence, other evidence for connection can include a copy of a bill to show a home address in the parish, a wedding certificate for parents etc. If you have any questions, please talk to our Priest-in-Charge, Tim Collins.

When should I get in touch?

It's best to get in contact around the same time as you contact or visit your reception venue, so you can synchronise the dates. It will ensure we have time to advise you about the legal requirements for marrying at the church – some circumstances require legal preliminaries that take time to process.

How can we make the service personal?

The songs or hymns in the service are your choice and other music can be played. One of the readings must be from the Bible, but poems and other readings can also be used. It is usual to have either two or three hymns during the course of your wedding service. You may choose any appropriate hymns you like, (preferably ones that are well known), the music to which the bride enters the church, and to which you both leave the church. Often couples choose to have music during the signing of the Marriage Document. You may consider using the church organist and/or bringing in other musicians. Our churches have limited options for playing recorded music so requests should be discussed with the person conducting your wedding.

A printed order of service is commonly used, and this can be to your design. You may wish to decorate the church with flowers, have the church bells rung, or have a choir. We can help guide you in creating your service.

How much will it cost?

The fees for a Church of England wedding are set nationally and reviewed each year. There are additional charges for amongst other things: an organist, choir, bells, photographer. We will talk with you about this when we meet with you.

Guidelines for divorcees

There are special guidelines on marriage in the church if you are divorced. You will need to talk your Vicar about your situation to explore the possibilities for you

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

In order to complete the legal marriage preliminaries, banns are read in the church you are going to married in, and the church where you live. It is important if either of you lives in a parish other than the one in which you intend to be married that we have the correct name and Parish of your local Church of England church, in order to read your banns here.

You must also visit the vicar of that church to make arrangements for him or her to read your banns in that church. These must be read within three months of your wedding and the signed certificate issued to you at the completion of the readings must be handed to our Priest-in-Charge Revd. Tim Collins as soon as possible. There will be a charge for this certificate. Without the Banns certificate you cannot be married - it is that important. You will be notified when we will read out your banns here. This applies whether you have qualified to marry by being resident or by having a qualifying connection with the church in which you plan to be married.

There are occasional circumstances where getting married is by another legal route. This will be discussed with you by the Priest-in-Charge.

MUSIC

For all your music requirements, you will need to contact Revd. Tim Collins well in advance of the wedding. You may like to book the organist before you decide on the music you would like but final decisions should be given at least two months before the wedding.

We can then talk to the organist / musician to discuss your choices.

In some of our churches there is also the opportunity to ask for the choir to sing, again requests should be made through the Priest-in-Charge. We recommend that you initially ask the choir what music they can offer from their repertoire. Popular music options can be found at the Church of England Weddings website (address at the end of this booklet).

BELLS

All our churches have a set of bells and ringing can be requested for the end of the ceremony. You will need to speak to the Priest-in-Charge about booking bell-ringers for your ceremony.

READINGS

You will need to choose at least one reading from the Bible for your service. You can also choose other readings, poems etc that can be inserted in the service. We recommend that you choose people to do the readings who are confident readers. Give them a copy of the words you would like them to read in plenty of time so they can practise as it is quite different reading in a large church to reading in a room at home. Popular Bible readings can be found at the Church of England Weddings website (address at the end of this booklet).

PRINTED ORDER OF SERVICES

You may like to have some personally printed order of services which you will need to organise yourselves. The suggested order is given on the last page of the wedding service that you will be given by the Priest-in-Charge. The words to the hymns printed in these orders will make life easier for your guests. It can also be helpful to include the words to the Lord's Prayer. You must send a draft of the order of service to the Priest-in-Charge at least one month prior to the wedding and **before** printing. This will ensure that you have the correct information included and the order is approved. You must bring your order of service to the rehearsal.

BEST MAN AND BRIDESMAIDS

It is lovely to involve friends and family in your special day. We are there to help them negotiate their role and support you as you get married. The Best Man should arrive with the Groom at least 30 minutes before the ceremony. Bridesmaids should arrive with the Bride and are there to support her. We recommend that the bride aims to arrive five minutes before the ceremony to allow for photographs to be taken. Being late is not recommended as many of our volunteers have other commitments and if very delayed, you may find that the organist or bell ringers must leave.



USHERS

We highly recommend you have some ushers as they can be invaluable at helping your guests on the day. They should arrive at the church half an hour before the start of the service. It is their responsibility to help guests with mobility issues to find a seat, to direct guests to seating, to ensure that parking space is maintained for the brides arrival and to make your guests feel welcome as they arrive. Please make sure they bring the Orders of Service (if you have them printed) so they can hand them out to your guests as they arrive. If you are using the church hymn books please instruct your ushers to speak to the vergers so they can show them where the books are. If you are having buttonholes the ushers will need to bring those with them to hand out to your guests. We do ask that the ushers take away the unused buttonholes and the boxes they were in at the end of the service. We also ask that Ushers walk through the church at the end of the service to collect any lost property, and to move back any furniture that has been adjusted.

FLOWERS

You may want to put flowers or other decorations in the church ready for your wedding. It is worth talking to the church warden at the church before the day as each church often has a group of people who assist with flowers for services and they may be able to give you some suggestions about what works. Equally if you want to bring in a florist or another person to arrange the flowers, that is fine, but you will need to ask the church warden about suitable times for them to gain access to the building. Our churches are largely run by volunteers, so we are reliant on them being available to open the church. May we request that flowers for your ceremony also include an arrangement for the communion table that can be left for the service the following day. Often weddings on a Saturday mean that our usual flower arrangers cannot organise arrangements for the Sunday morning and this is a lovely way of sharing together.

CONFETTI

Our churches are happy for confetti to be used as long as it is bio-degradable. We often ask that confetti is used away from the church door to avoid it blowing back into the church building and some churches request that confetti is not thrown in the churchyard, however there is usually a suitable place just beyond the church gate. Details can be discussed with the Priest-in-Charge.

CLEANING AND FURNITURE

We aim to keep our churches clean and tidy for our worship. However, if you would like a special clean ahead of your big day, we can help you to arrange for a cleaning team to come to the church for an additional cost. If you would like any furniture moved, this should be discussed with the Priest-in-Charge and church warden who can advise what is appropriate. Any furniture moved must be returned to its normal position at the end of the service.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We ask that no photographs are taken in the church during the service, with the exception of the official photographer. Please ask your official photographer on the day to make themselves known to the Priest-in-Charge or minister taking your wedding and they will be advised as to what they are allowed to do. We want to make the day memorable so the photographer will not be permitted to move around or cause a distraction. Please also advise your guests to turn off their mobile phones!

VIDEOS

If you are using a videographer, an additional fee may be charged for the organist, choir etc. This is a performance fee for their work to be recorded. Please ask your video operator to make themselves known to the vicar at the church on the day, and we will explain the procedure for taking a video of the service. We ask that only one video camera is used inside the church and that the operator remains stationary throughout. To record music played in the service, you will also require a Limited Manufacture Licence. If you are using a professional videographer, you should ensure that the correct licences or permissions have been obtained, if a family friend is recording the Priest-in-Charge can explain how to obtain a licence. The Priest-in-Charge will need to see a copy of the certificate. If you are intending to take a video please inform the Priest-in-Charge as early as possible so the appropriate permission from organist etc can be gained.

REHEARSAL

We usually conduct a rehearsal during the week running up the wedding. It will be taken by the Priest-in-Charge or minister who is conducting the ceremony and aims to give you a flavour of what the service will involve. Please be punctual. It would be helpful to bring your Best man, Brides Mother and Father or person giving the Bride away, Bridesmaids or at least the chief bridesmaid and anyone who is taking part in your wedding service, so they know exactly what to do and where to stand on the day.

OFFICIANT

The Priest-in-Charge takes all the weddings they can, but due to holidays and other calls on their time, it means that some weddings will be taken by visiting or assistant clergy. If your wedding is to be taken by someone else, you will be told who he or she is, and you will meet them at the rehearsal.

ALTERATIONS

Any alterations to the date, time etc. MUST be confirmed in WRITING and signed by either bride or groom or both and notified to the Priest-in-Charge no later than one month before the wedding. Any adjustments after this time cannot be made due to the other services happening.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

If you would like to include something special e.g. soloist or a special song, poem etc. please let the Priest-in-Charge or officiating minister know at least one month before the wedding so that we can discuss the arrangements with you.

WITNESSES

The signing of the Marriage Document takes place within the service. You will need two people to act as witnesses. These two can be anyone who has attended the whole wedding service and they MUST be over 18 years of age. We do advise you to think of who you would like to act as witnesses and then ask them prior to the actual day so they can sit on the end of a pew for easy access.

Helpful Websites in putting together a wedding service

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/> This is the Church of England website to help couples plan their wedding. It includes details of popular hymn choices, Bible readings and other useful information.

<http://www.weddingideasmag.com/12-wedding-ceremony-songs-walking-in-and-walking-out/#.VMIGxS6hvfc> This website has some traditional and more modern suggestions for music to walk and out to.

<http://www.weddingmusic.co.uk/religious-weddings-get-advice.html> This website has suggestions of music for throughout the service.

What do we do next?

If you may wish to get married here, please contact our Priest-in-Charge or email: administration@netherexe.org. We would be delighted to discuss your wedding with you.

Priest in Charge:

Revd Tim Collins

The Rectory School Lane Thorverton Devon EX5 5NR

Tel: 01392 860767

Email: tim.collins@netherexe.org

Netherexe Parishes Website www.netherexe.org

Admin Team email: administration@netherexe.org

FINALLY, as you have chosen to make our church part of your wedding day, we would like to get to know you a little better and for you to feel at home in the church in which you are to be married. Therefore, we welcome you to join us at any of our services. I hope these details will help you to work towards a happy and memorable wedding day. If we can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

And may we wish you a rich and happy marriage for the years to come.

