Shape

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

|  |
| --- |
| WEDDING NOTES |
|

Thank you for choosing St Andrew’s for your wedding. It is a lovely place to get married, and we hope and pray that you will have a joyful day. These notes are intended to answer some of the common questions that people have about their wedding at St Andrew’s.

A really good website called *Your Church Wedding* that answers lots of questions about weddings in the Church of England is here: <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>. And don’t hesitate to ask us if anything is unclear. Your first port of call is likely to be Clare Kerr, our weddings administrator. Or our parish priest, Simon Taylor, or the priest conducting your wedding if that is someone else, will be happy to help. All their contact details and other useful contacts are below.

**Can we have our wedding at St Andrew’s?**

If one or both of you live in the parish of Stapleford[[1]](#footnote-1), or one or both of you are on the electoral roll of St Andrew’s, you can have your wedding in St Andrew’s.

Even if neither of those applies you can still have your wedding with us if one of you has a ‘qualifying connection’ with St Andrew’s. There is clear information about this on the *Your Church Wedding* website. You will need to tell us what your connection is, and we will need evidence of it. If your connection is a christening or another family wedding that took place at St Andrew’s, then we will be able to look it up in our church registers if you can give us approximate dates.

**What if one of us is not a British citizen?**

Usually the production of current passports for each of you satisfies the government’s rules. We need to see them even if you are both British. Let us know early if either of you is from a country outside the European Economic Area, and we will advise you what steps are necessary.

**What if one of us has been divorced?**

We will conduct weddings where one or both of you has been married and divorced, but not in absolutely all circumstances. If either of you is divorced, please discuss it with us early.

**Preparing for the wedding service**

This will be done at meetings with the priest who is going to conduct your wedding. He or she will need to meet with you once or twice. Among other things you will be able to discuss how the service works, what readings and music you would like and so on.

**Banns**

‘Banns’ are an announcement in church that the wedding will be taking place. Normally banns have to be read both at St Andrew’s and (if either of you do not live in the parish of Stapleford) at the parish church or churches where each of the bride and groom live. The banns have to be read on 3 Sundays in the 3 months before the wedding. We will let you know on what dates we intend to read your banns. You don’t have to be there, but if you want to attend we will be happy to read the banns on dates you can come. We have to read the banns at our main morning service which starts at 10.30 am, but we can do it at other Sunday services as well by arrangement.

There is a fee for reading the banns at each of the churches, and another fee for a certificate that they have been read. We don’t need a certificate for banns we have read for a wedding that is going to be at St Andrew’s, but you will need to show us the certificate from your home parish(es) before we can conduct the wedding at St Andrew’s.

If you live in Stapleford but are being married elsewhere we will read banns for you at St Andrew’s. We are happy to arrange the dates so that you can come if you want to. We will charge you the standard fees for reading the banns and for the certificate that you will need to show the priest who is conducting your wedding. Our weddings administrator will make all the arrangements with you.

**Fees**

There are fees to pay for a church wedding, banns etc, and additional fees for things like the choir and the bells and for heating in the winter. Our weddings administrator will talk you through all that and provide you with a clear invoice and information as to how and when to pay.

**Donations**

We will not ask for any donation in addition to the fees, but occasionally couples want to make a collection for charity at the service or ask their guests to make a donation to a charity. You might have a favourite charity in mind, but if you don’t please do consider donating to our two main church charities. One is the [Stapleford-Nachingwea Link](https://standrewstapleford.org/Groups/313035/Nachingwea_Link.aspx), supporting development (in health, education, agriculture and the church) in a remote part of Tanzania. The other is the [St Andrew’s Church Society Partnership](https://standrewstapleford.org/Groups/316483/The_Childrens_Society.aspx), which supports the work of the Children’s Society in helping disadvantaged children across the UK.

**Photography and videos**

It is great to have good photos or video of your wedding, and we want to help achieve that. But a word of warning: we have had a number of photographers and videographers who have no idea how to behave in a church service and who spoil the wedding for everyone else present.

So, we are very glad for you to have a photographer and/or videographer at the wedding, but do discuss it with the priest conducting your wedding in good time so that we can decide together with you what is appropriate and practicable. It can be really helpful if they can come to the rehearsal too, so they can work out with you and the priest what positions are good for everyone.

Our basic rules: they must not wander about during the wedding, but pick their spots in the church and stick to them; cameras must not have audible shutter sounds; no flash photography at all should not be used during the service. All of these can spoil things. You need to provide these rules to your photographer and videographer and make sure they understand them and will keep them. If they don’t, they will be told to leave. Sorry to be strict, but we have a lot of experience about how to make wedding services work well - and how photographers can spoil them for others present.

One more thing, it is really best if your guests don’t start taking pictures during the service, so do let them know they shouldn’t.

**Organist, choir and bells**

We are happy to try and arrange all of these, but it is obviously helpful to discuss what you want fairly early. Talk to our weddings administrator, and she will make the arrangements for you.

**Flowers**

There will be some flowers in the church, except during Advent and Lent (the periods before Christmas and Easter). You might want to pay for more, and we are happy for you to bring in your own flower arrangers. Please contact our weddings administrator to discuss. We very occasionally have more than one wedding on a Saturday, so you might have to liaise with another couple. We will let you know if that is the case.

**Rehearsal**

You will need to fix a rehearsal for the service with the priest conducting your wedding, usually one evening in the week before the service (but preferably not the evening before the big day). Apart from the bride and groom it is helpful if the best man and chief bridesmaid can come. Parents and ushers and other bridesmaids can come if you like, but are not needed, and it can all get a bit busy if they do.

**Confetti**

We are happy for you to use biodegradable confetti in the churchyard. It really really does need to be biodegradable! Flower petals are best. You can dry your own if you start early enough.

**Ushers**

It is helpful to have someone from each family in the church at least half an hour before the wedding to look after guests, and also to help with clearing up afterwards.

**Verger**

Our verger will be present at the rehearsal and on the day to prepare the church and to help with any last minute queries.

**After the wedding**

Married life can be tougher than you expected. If you are worried about how things are going after the wedding, get in touch with Simon Taylor or the priest who conducted the wedding. We would love to help.

**Contacts**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weddings Administrator and Verger: *Clare Kerr*  H: 01223 842 984  M: 07745 976 611  E: [clarerkerr@aol.com](mailto:clarerkerr@aol.com)  Parish priest: *Reverend Simon Taylor*  The Vicarage  43 Mingle Lane  Stapleford  CAMBRIDGE  CB22 5SY  H: 01223 840 256  M: 07970 716 163  E: [simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com) | Organist & choirmaster: *John Bryden*  M: 07803 706 847  E: [music@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:music@standrewstapleford.org)  Captain of Bellringers: *Tony Smith*  H: 01223 843 379  E: [anthonysmith01@virginmedia.com](mailto:anthonysmith01@virginmedia.com) |

1. A map here shows the parish boundary, which for historical reasons is not quite the same as the village boundary: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a&extent=-0.4317,51.313,0.1986,51.5945>. You have to put in the church postcode CB22 5SY in the search bar. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)