

YOUR WEDDING

GETTING MARRIED IN ST MICHAEL'S

2026



PARISH OF CUMNOR

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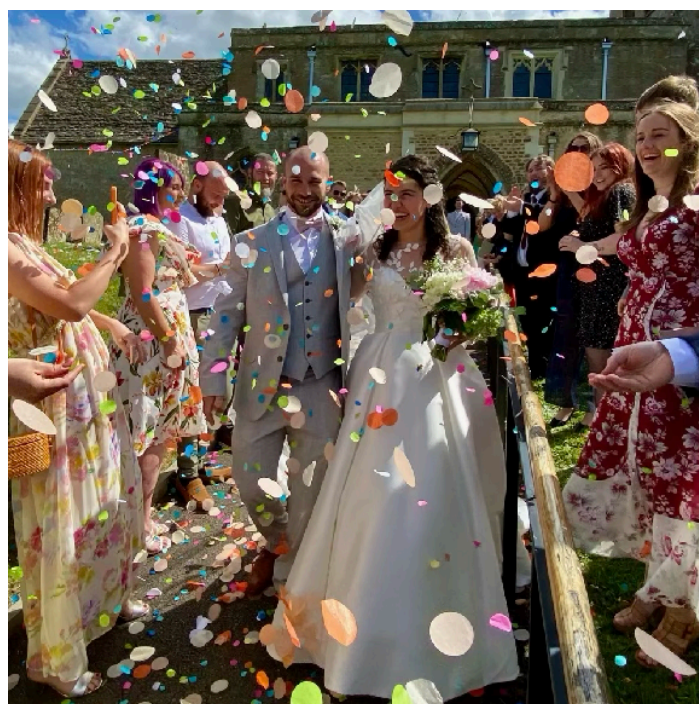
INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your engagement and thank you so much for considering a Church wedding. Our aim is to help make your wedding day truly memorable.

St Michael's is a beautiful church to get married in and we welcome couples who have a link with our parish to celebrate their wedding here.

Marriage is God's gift to all who hope to live together as husband and wife in life-long commitment. You don't have to be a Christian to get married in church, but it is a way of asking God to be the foundation of your life as a married couple.

In this booklet we have provided information that we hope you will find useful in helping to plan your wedding service, and the legal preparations that are required. The minister taking your service will work with you to tailor your individual service and if you need any more information then please contact the Parish Office on 01865 861541 or by email at office@cumnor.org.

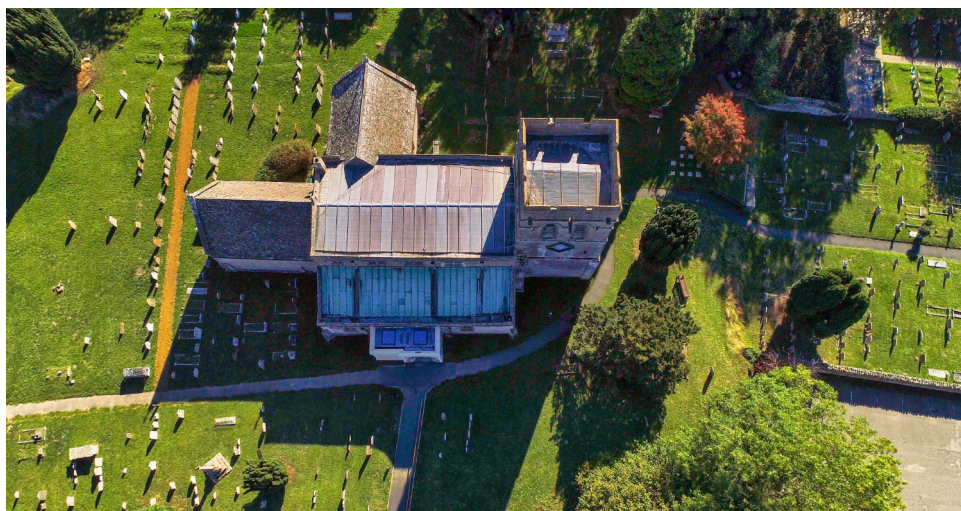


QUESTION 1: CAN WE GET MARRIED IN ST MICHAEL'S?

Anyone who lives in the Parish of Cumnor is entitled to be married at St Michael's Church. Even if you or your partner do not live in the parish it is possible for you to marry in this or any church which has significance for you, if either of you can show just one of the following seven connections with the parish:

That **one** of you:

1. Was baptised in the parish.
2. Was prepared for confirmation in the parish.
3. Has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least six months.
4. Has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least six months.
Or that one of your parents at any time after you were born:
5. Has lived in the parish for a period of at least six months.
6. Has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish for a period of at least six months.
Or that one of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish.



QUESTION 2: WHAT WILL IT COST TO GET MARRIED AT ST MICHAEL'S?

If you choose to marry in this church, we want it to be a day that is personal and special for you, and you can do that without spending a fortune. Below is the list of the national statutory fees and our current local fees:

The following fees are applicable for weddings from January 2025:

The Marriage Service	£566
Publication of Banns of Marriage	£39
Certificate of Banns (if not marrying in St Michael's)	£20
Organist	£90
Use of organ	£50
Heating	£60
Video Permit (if using own Videographer)	£50
Livestream (via YouTube)	£50
Video recording of ceremony	£50
Choir	£40
Soloist	£30
Bells	£180
Flowers	See page 16

QUESTION 3: WHAT LEGAL THINGS DO WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT?

You will need to provide evidence that you are a British National (e.g. passport) and proof of your address (eg utility bill or driving licence).

Couples marry either by Banns or Licence. Unless one of you is a Foreign National or an EEA national, you do not need to see an Oxfordshire Registrar.

Banns: These are the notices read in the church where you are to marry and the Parish church where you live. They are read three times in the weeks before your wedding. Here at St Michael's we usually begin reading them about three months prior to your marriage service.

It is up to each couple to arrange your Banns to be read in the churches where you live. (If you are trying to find your local church to attend or arrange for your Banns to be read, go to www.achurchnearyou.com, place your home postcode in the appropriate box and then find the church. Maps are included with the parish boundaries so you can check in which parish you are living). If one of you has been married before, you may be able to marry at St Michael's. Each couple will have meetings to discuss details of your previous marriage and what you have learnt and will bring to your new relationship. You will need to bring your decree absolute. The minister will go into more detail as you prepare for your marriage service.

Most couples marry after Banns. Occasionally a couple may need a Licence. If you need a Licence we will tell you and how to apply.

There are two types of Licence:

Common Licence, issued by the Registrar of the Diocese of Oxford.

Special Licence, issued by the Registrar to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Please note that: A Superintendent Registrar's Certificate will be required if one or both of you are Nationals from a country outside the United Kingdom. You will each need to obtain a certificate to enable you to marry. Fees apply for the above licences and certificate.



QUESTION 4: WHAT DO WE NEED TO HAVE IN OUR ORDER OF SERVICE?

To marry in church you will need to have at least one Bible reading, but you can choose which reading feels to be the most appropriate for you.

There are different translations of the Bible and any suitable one may be used.

If you want a poem or prose as well, then this must be approved by the minister conducting the service. S/he will decide the best place for such a reading.

Below is a selection of some Bible readings that you might like to choose from, but other scriptural readings can be used. To help plan your service and choose your reading, follow the link to the Church of England wedding planning website:

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

Old Testament

Genesis 1: 26-28

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13; 8: 6-7

Gospel

Matthew 5: 1-10

Matthew 7: 21, 24-end

Mark 10: 6-9, 13-16

John 2: 1-11

John 15: 1-8

Epistle (Letters)

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

Romans 12: 1,2, 9-13

1 Corinthians 13

Ephesians 3: 14-end

Ephesians 5: 21-end

Colossians 3: 12-17

1 John 3: 18-end

1 John 4: 7-12

In the references given above, the name of the book is given first, then the chapter followed by the specific verses. The word 'end' means read to the end of the particular chapter. If no verses are given then it means the whole chapter is to be read.

Verse and chapter lengths vary so please do read the passages and do not decide on the basis of the number of verses in the list.

Please let the minister conducting your marriage service know, in due course, which reading(s) you want and advise whether or not the minister or someone else will be reading.

QUESTION 5: CAN WE WRITE OUR OWN VOWS OR HAVE ANY SPECIAL PRAYERS OR OTHER ITEMS IN OUR SERVICE?

Couples cannot write their own vows as they are a legal agreement. You can write a special prayer to say together as part of The Blessing of the Marriage.

QUESTION 6: WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR FAMILY OR HAVE DECIDED THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE CHILDREN, SO DO WE HAVE TO HAVE THE SECTION IN THE PREFACE AND PRAYERS THAT REFERS TO CHILDREN BEING BORN AND NURTURED?

No. The minister will ask you what you feel to be the most appropriate for you.

Will you love her, honour and protect her, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? Will you take her to be your wife? To have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part; according to God's holy law. Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? Will you take him to be your husband? To have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part; according to God's holy law. • Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? Will you take her to be your wife? To have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part; according to God's holy law.

QUESTION 7: WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO CONSIDER IN PLANNING OUR WEDDING SERVICE?

You will need to consider music, hymns, Order of Service, bells, flowers and photography. The following sections will help you with each of these.

Music

We have an organist who is happy to play for your wedding (please note a fee will be incurred). We like to be as flexible as possible. If you have a relative or friend who is an organist then please let the church office know if you would like them to play for your special day.

You will need to choose music for the entry of the bride and for the recessional at the end, when you walk down the aisle together as 'husband and wife'! These are some of the popular pieces from which you might like to choose:

Entrance

The Bridal March (Wagner)

Pachelbel's Canon (Pachelbel)

Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)

Trumpet Tune (Purcell)

Trumpet Tune (Charpentier)

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)

Sheep May Safely Graze (Bach)

Exit

The Wedding March (Mendelssohn)

The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (Handel)

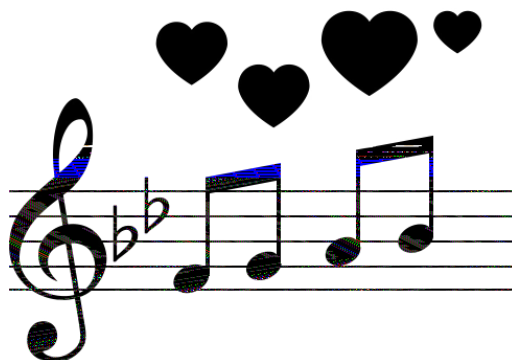
Toccata (Widor)

Allegro (La Rejouissance)

from The Firework Music (Handel)

Trumpet Voluntary/Tunes as for entrance

During the signing of the Marriage Documents/Marriage Schedule, the organist can play, our choir can sing or our soloist or a CD of appropriate music can be used.



Hymns

During the marriage service we will usually sing two or three hymns. Here are a few popular favourites to get you started, but of course there are many others that might be chosen:

- Morning Has Broken
- Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer
- Give Me Joy In My Heart
- Lord Of The Dance
- Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace
- Amazing Grace
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven
- All Things Bright And Beautiful
- O Jesus I Have Promised
- Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of God
- Jerusalem
- I Vow To Thee My Country
- Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
- Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us
- All My Hope On God Is Founded
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

- Now Thank We All Our God
- Bind Us Together Lord
- One More Step Along The Road We Go
- The King Of Love My Shepherd Is

You can listen to these and many others on YouTube. Why not search for “Popular Wedding Hymns” on Google?

The Order of Service

The minister will work with you to develop your service and the best order for each element, but a suggested outline is below:

Entrance Music

The Welcome

Hymn

The Declarations

Reading(s)

Address

Hymn (if having 3 hymns)

Marriage Ceremony

The Blessing of the Marriage

The Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn

The Registration of the Marriage

The Blessing

The Procession of the Wedding Party

Before you have your Order of Service printed please send it to the Parish Office (office@cumnor.org) so that we can check and proof-read it for you.

Bells

Bells have been part of the church ceremony and ritual for many Centuries - one theory is that they were rung to ward off evil spirits! In the Christian tradition they are rung to summon people to church or as part of a church service. They peal out joyfully for a wedding, may be heard on Sundays before normal services or ring perhaps half-muffled in sombre mood for a funeral. In addition, they may be rung to celebrate some other national event.

Flowers

We have a small team who would be happy to do some flower arrangements for you if you so wish. However, as they are volunteers, please book in as early as possible in order that they can coordinate the work.



At least 8 weeks prior to the wedding day, you should meet Angela Evans (contact details below) to discuss the fine details.

Except during Advent (the Sundays immediately prior to Christmas) and Lent (six weeks before Easter) we usually have flowers on the Communion Table. These arrangements would be free of charge but would not be a specific colour.

If you wish to have a simple colour scheme of your choice we could offer the following:

For the pedestal and the two arrangements on the Communion Table, in a colour of your choice	from £170
For two outside porch swags	from £70
For two choir pew ends	from £60
For an extra pedestal	from £80

Any specific flower requests would have to be discussed and cost adjusted accordingly. Please note, due to rising costs, these prices are subject to change at short notice.

Alternatively, you are free to make your own arrangements for your wedding service flowers. In this situation please would your florist contact me, Angela Evans, at least two months before the event. The florist should be aware that all arrangements must be free standing, and the use of extra nails, screws and double sided tape are not allowed as they will cause damage to the fabric of our Grade 1 listed building. Any water spillage should be mopped up immediately.

Contact details: Angela Evans, angelaevans@ntlworld.com or 01865 864397.

Photography

Choose carefully

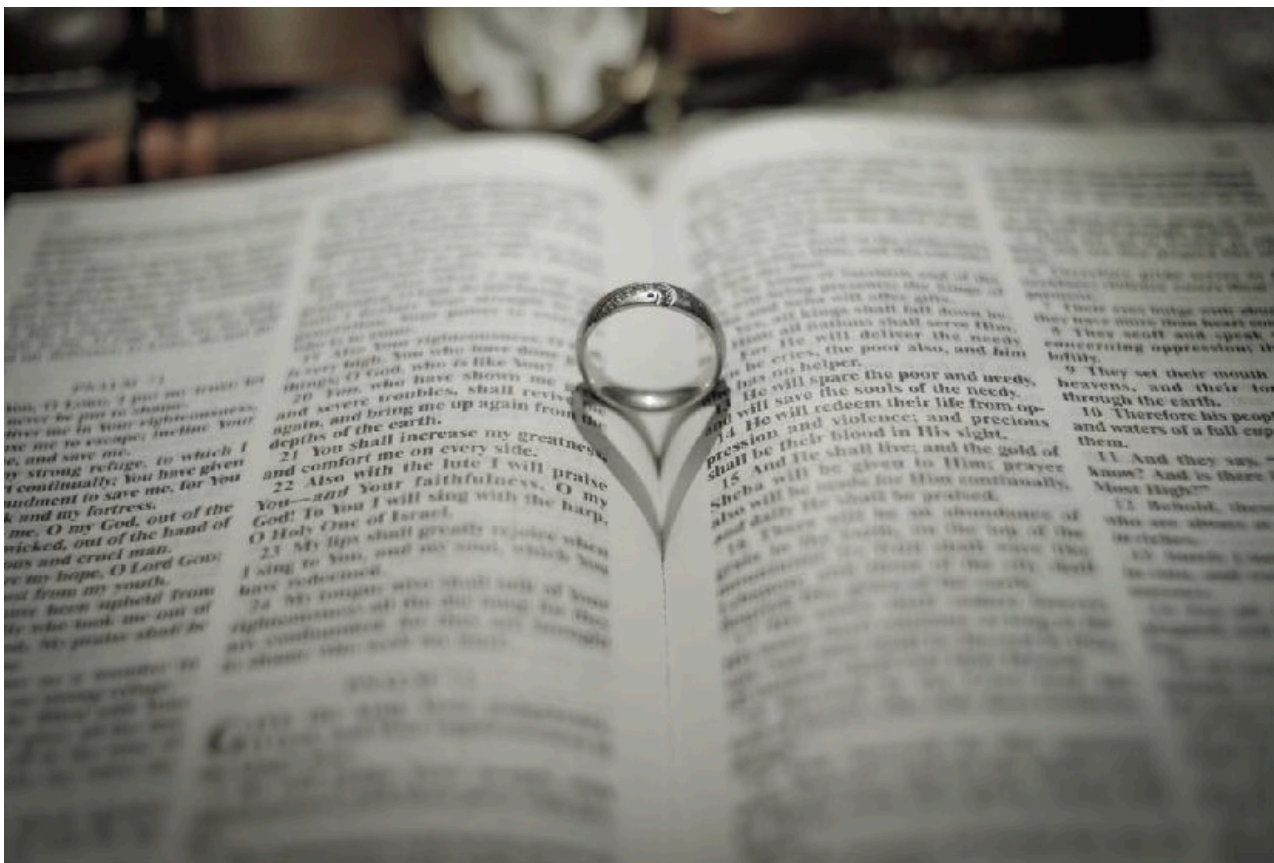
Choose a photographer with a good reputation. Personal recommendation is a good starting point, but most importantly see examples of their work and meet them before you book.

Put everyone in touch

Give the details of the photographer to the clergy and vice versa. They may want to contact each other to discuss the wedding.

Visit the church

Your photographer may want to see your wedding venue before the day, so try to arrange a visit to the church together to discuss what you would like. Photographers are welcome to attend the wedding rehearsal. Please contact the Parish office for more details.



During the service

It is your wedding and we know that you want beautiful photographs to help you remember your special day, but it is important that any photographer and guest respect that it is a church service. We ask photographers not to use flash during the service. Your official photographer will be invited to take photographs of you after you have signed the Marriage Documents.

Plan for changes

Rain need not spoil your special day and you are welcome to have your photographs taken inside the church after the service.

After the honeymoon

When you return home and receive your wedding photos, why not drop a picture in to the minister who married you? A photo is a lovely visual aid for prayer which will help the church continue to pray for your marriage.



QUESTION 8: WE WOULD LIKE A PROFESSIONAL VIDEOGRAPHER OR GUEST TO RECORD OUR DAY. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT WE NEED TO DO?

Yes, you can have a professional videographer on your day. The video operator must sign an agreement to be returned to the Parish office two weeks before the service. There is a charge of £50 for the licence.

Alternatively we can record and live-stream the service for you using our built-in AV system.

QUESTION 9: CAN OUR GUESTS THROW CONFETTI AFTER OUR WEDDING?

Yes. Please will you ask your guests to use biodegradable confetti and only throw it outside in the churchyard.

QUESTION 10: WE ARE TRYING TO PLAN WHAT TIME OUR SERVICE SHOULD START AND RECEPTION TIME. HOW LONG DOES THE SERVICE LAST?

This depends on how many hymns you choose and if you have a poetry reading, but generally you need to allow 45 minutes for the service. Remember to add on plenty of time for any photographs after the service (some photographers take longer than others to photograph all the family groups, so talk to your photographer about what you want and how long they think it might take). Also, if the bride is late arriving this will delay the start of the service.

QUESTION 11: WE HAVE DISABLED OR ELDERLY RELATIVES OR FRIENDS COMING TO OUR SERVICE. IS THE CHURCH WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE?

The church is wheelchair accessible and there is also an accessible toilet in the church.

QUESTION 12: WHAT ABOUT PARKING FOR OUR GUESTS?

St Michael's does not have its own car park, however your guests may use the Old School car park next to the church, if there is space.

Alternatively, there is plenty of on-road parking around the village.

QUESTION 13: DO YOU RUN ANY COURSES TO HELP US INVEST IN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND BUILD A STRONG AND FULFILLING MARRIAGE?

We run Marriage by Design Courses during the year (a whole day) to help you to prepare for your future life together as a married couple. This is a great opportunity to take a break from the stress and hassle of planning the wedding, to invest in your relationship and to remember why you are getting married in the first place! More details can be found at www.marriagebydesign.org.uk.

QUESTION 14: CAN YOU SUGGEST ANY USEFUL WEBSITES?

There are many websites you could look at by way of preparing for your marriage. The Church of England has a dedicated site for wedding planning: <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/> which covers all you need to know to prepare for your wedding and in helping you to decide what you might like to include in your service. The minister will help you to plan your individual service to make your day very special.

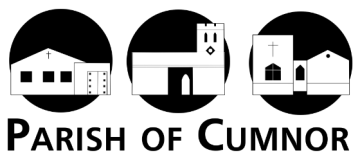
If you would like to discover more about the Christian faith and the Church of England, www.oxford.anglican.org might be a good place to start. We are part of the worldwide Church, in the Diocese of Oxford.

QUESTION 15: WHEN CAN WE COME TO CHURCH?

The church is open from approx. 9am – 5pm every day of the week, but it's at its best on a Sunday morning. Our main service is at 10:30am and this will give you a good sense of what it will be like to get married here. You will be especially invited to attend when we call your Banns in the months before your wedding day.



BLANK FOR YOUR NOTES



St Michael's, Cumnor
01865 861541 | cumnor.org | office@cumnor.org