

# Benefice of Camelot Parishes

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## Your Wedding in the Camelot Group of Parishes Some guidance notes, November 2017

**Please note that there is a separate and fuller note available for weddings at St Michael's North Cadbury. If you are planning to get married at St Michael's North Cadbury please refer to this fuller note.**

### **Wedding Preparation**

A useful website is:-

[www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org)

### **Marriage Preparation**

Some useful websites are:-

[www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)

For FOCCUS questionnaire with facilitator,  
one day Marriage Preparation Day, Preparing Together  
(click our services, then marriage preparation)

[www.relationshipcentral.org](http://www.relationshipcentral.org)  
Course

For details of Marriage Preparation

The Marriage Book, Nicky and Sila Lee (book of the Marriage Preparation Course)

Growing Together: A guide for couples getting married, Andrew Body

The 5 Love Languages, Gary Chapman

The Highway Code for Marriage, Michael and Hilary Perrott

A weekend event for engaged couples called Engaged Encounter, information from  
[www.marriageencounter.org.uk](http://www.marriageencounter.org.uk)

### **Participation of other ministers**

You may have a friend or a member of the family who is ordained in the Church of England or some other recognised Christian denomination. Current or retired Church of England priests can officiate at your wedding with the approval both of the Rector and of the Diocese. Ministers of other denominations (for instance, Catholics or Methodists) can (again with the approval of the Rector) assist at your wedding, for instance, by leading the prayers,

giving the address or by doing one or more readings. However, the officiant in charge of the service needs to be a priest in the Church of England and its overall form needs to be in accordance with an authorised Church of England service.

### **Organists**

We have a number of skilled and experienced organists available to play at weddings and one of these will be allocated to your wedding if you so wish. You will be able to discuss your choice of hymns and music on entry, exit and the signing of the registers with the organist.

Alternatively, you may wish to use your own organists and other musicians and this too is perfectly acceptable.

### **Remarriage of divorcees**

Under certain circumstances it is possible to be remarried in church following a divorce. We follow the Bishops' Guidelines in this respect. Please contact the Rector if you would like further information on this. We are aware that this may well raise sensitive issues and we aim in all circumstances to deal with any enquiries with care and confidentiality.

There is a helpful leaflet which can be downloaded from

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/marriage-after-divorce/>

This gives some indication of the relevant issues for the purposes of the Bishop's Guidelines.

### **Photography**

Official photographers are very welcome and we try to accommodate all reasonable requests with the ground rule of 'unobtrusiveness.' We do ask, however, that guests do not take their own photographs during the service itself as this can prove to be distracting.

### **Video recordings**

If a video recording is required the necessary equipment can be brought in. The organist and any other professional musician have the right to charge double their normal fees if they are being recorded.

There are no copyright charges provided that (a) copies of the recording and rights in it are not sold on for profit (b) no more than three copies of the recording are made and (c) no part of the recording is shown in public.

If couples have any doubts as to the possibility of copyright infringement resulting from recordings being made, they are advised to look at the PRS for Music website, [www.prsformusic.com](http://www.prsformusic.com), to investigate what licence might be needed. One that is recommended by them for weddings is the Limited Manufacture Licence available from £15

upwards. Couples should also raise the question of copyright with their videographer as it may be that they will include copyright protection within the total package which they offer.

### **Confetti**

Biodegradable confetti (for instance, rose petals) may be thrown after the service. However, no confetti of any kind may be thrown in the service itself and within the church because of cleaning and other issues. No paper confetti is permitted at all as this is difficult to clear up and can become unsightly in the churchyard and surrounding area.

### **Six Months Public Worship**

Anyone who lives in one of the Camelot Parishes or who has certain types of personal or family connection with one of the Camelot Parishes is entitled to be married at any of the Camelot churches. For more information on the types of connection that carry such an entitlement please see

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/finding-a-church/>

If you have no such personal or family connection then it will be necessary for you to attend public worship regularly in the Camelot Parish where you wish to be married for a period of 6 months ending at least one month before your wedding.

The purpose of this is for you to establish a Qualifying Connection with this Parish. This then gives you the legal right to be married there. Without such a Connection we are not able to conduct your wedding.

We interpret regular public worship as meaning at least a monthly attendance over the 6 month period.

### **Banns**

Banns is the formal giving of a notice in church concerning your forthcoming wedding. It gives people an opportunity to raise any **legal** (i.e. not personal) objections to the marriage. A similar opportunity is given in the marriage service itself. Banns need to be properly read in order for your wedding to take place legally unless you are to be married by Superintendent Registrar's Certificate (please see the process outlined below).

We will arrange for the reading of banns here but if one or both of you are resident outside the parish then banns also need to be read in the parish in which you are resident. For this purpose you will need to approach your local Church of England parish church and make the necessary arrangements. There will be a small fee payable to your local parish church and they will produce a certificate as evidence that banns have been properly read there. Banns need to be read three times and within three months of the wedding. It is **most** important that you make contact with your local parish church and arrange for banns to be read there as otherwise it is impossible from a legal point of view to perform the wedding. There is a

website [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) which on submitting your postcode can advise you of the identity of your local parish church.

Where one or other of the couple are neither UK nationals nor nationals of any country in the European Economic Area it is not possible to use banns as the legal preliminary to the wedding. The rules applying to these couples are set out below.

### **Marriage of nationals from outside the European Economic Area ('EEA')**

As from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015, new rules apply where one or both of the couple is a national from outside the EEA. Nationals of the USA, Canada and Australia, for instance, fall into this category.

Where the rules apply, it is now necessary for the couple to contact and appear in person before a designated Register Office giving evidence of identity, residence and nationality and of their entitlement and intention to marry at one of the Camelot churches. Following the giving of this notice there is a 28 day waiting period before a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate can be issued. This Certificate will then authorise us legally to conduct your wedding.

A list of designated Register Offices can be downloaded from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-register-offices-in-england-and-wales>

When approaching the Register Office it is understood that couples will need a letter from ourselves to confirm that the church is happy to conduct this wedding. Once we have had an initial meeting and agreed in principle that the wedding can go ahead we are happy to supply such a letter. However, we understand that the Register Office will require us in this letter to confirm that the Qualifying Connection has been obtained. So it is advisable to obtain the Qualifying Connection as soon as possible so that when the appointment with the Register Office is made all the necessary confirmations can be given.

It is also advisable to let the Register Office know that the wedding will be a church one as we understand that designated staff at the Register Office are required in order to deal with church weddings.

### **Marriage of those not currently resident in England and Wales**

Some complications can arise where couples are resident in parts of the United Kingdom other than England and Wales. In these circumstances we would ask the Diocesan Registry for their advice as to whether banns can be read or whether it is necessary to apply for a Bishop's Licence.

Where couples are resident outside the United Kingdom it is not possible to read banns and the wedding must proceed under Bishop's Licence (where the couple involved are both EEA

nationals). For cases where the couple are non-resident and one or more of them are non EEA nationals we understand that Bishop's Licence would not be available and again we would need to seek further advice from the Diocesan Registry in these circumstances.

Bishop's Licence requires personal attendance at the Diocesan Registry and an appointment must be made in this respect.

### **Identity**

Because of these new rules it is now important for us to check more formally the identity of couples who are from within the EEA and for whom banns will be the legal preliminary to the wedding. So it will be necessary for us to see some appropriate evidence of identity such as passports.

### **Fees**

A schedule of fees will be sent to you separately. These are payable at the wedding rehearsal (normally in the week before the wedding).

Fees for conducting the marriage service itself, reading the banns and producing a marriage certificate are fixed nationally by the Church of England and revised each year usually by an amount equivalent to inflation.

In addition, there are a number of optional extra fees to cover additional services provided by the local church. In our context, these could cover items such as heating and the services of an organist and bellringers.

Because the fees set by the Church of England are revised each year, it is not possible to provide you with a formal breakdown and schedule of fees at this stage. When this does become possible we will send you such a schedule. The fees are payable on or before the wedding rehearsal (which is normally in the week before the wedding) and the schedule will indicate our preferred method of payment.

However, for budget purposes, we recognise that it is likely to be helpful at this stage to have a general indication of the amount of the fees. So we offer the figures given below on this basis but please note that they cannot and are not intended to be the final figures:-

#### **Church of England fees (2018 rates)**

For service, reading banns here and providing certificate	474
For reading banns in home parish	43

#### **Optional extras**

Heating (if required)	100
Organist	100

Bellringers

By arrangement <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> If it is possible to arrange for the bells to be rung the normal rate is £25 per bellringer where bells are rung both before and after the service and £15 where they are rung on simply one of these occasions. But special arrangements may exist in some of the Camelot churches so it is difficult to give a firm figure in this respect.

The fees are payable at the wedding rehearsal and our preferred method of payment is by cheques in favour of 'The Camelot Group of Parishes' for the church fees (including heating if needed) and in favour of the organist for his or her fees. The bellringers may be paid by cash.

If cheques are difficult it is possible to pay all the fees in cash. BACS transfer details are available on request. However, we do need any BACS transfers to be made at least six weeks before the wedding. The reason for this is that charity regulations do not enable us to operate a secure and efficient system of internet banking (i.e. one that can only be operated by at least two people). Therefore time is needed in order to check receipt of any fees from our monthly bank statements.

### **Marriage Certificates**

The Marriage Certificate is a copy of the original Marriage Registers and should be sufficient evidence of your marriage for official purposes. We are happy if requested (for an additional fee of £4) to supply you with two Marriage Certificates at the time of your wedding although will mean that the time for signing of the Registers will be somewhat extended.

### **First meeting**

We would like to meet with you at the earliest opportunity after you have made the booking for your wedding to go through all the practical details with you. Could you please bring evidence of identity and address to this first meeting as well as evidence of any existing Qualifying Connection if you have one (for instance, your or a parent's residence in the parish). If your name has been changed by Deed Poll evidence of this is also needed.