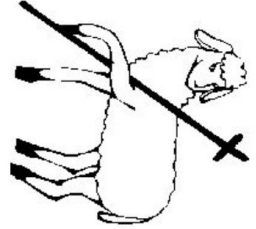


ST AGNES
LONGSIGHT



Getting Married in Church

a brief guide to weddings at St Agnes'

GETTING MARRIED AT ST AGNES

- *If you would like to get married at St Agnes' Parish Church or need your Banns of Marriage read please contact the parish priest.*
- *Being divorced is no longer an insurmountable problem for those who wish to be married in church. Please just telephone the parish priest and arrange to meet with him. Christians believe in a loving and forgiving God and the priest is more than happy to discuss the remarriage of divorced people in church.*
- *Details about our Parochial Fees can be found in church or on the parish website.*
- *To get married at St Agnes' you need to either live within the parish boundary or have your name entered on the Electoral Roll*

- *This booklet is only a interim resource and it is for guidance only - please contact the parish priest for information. More details about Marriage in the Church of England can be found here:*

www.cofe.anglican.org/lifechanges/index.html

- *Our parish website has further information on weddings and general information at*

www.stagneslongsight.org

Your Wedding at St Agnes Longsight

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On this your wedding day as bride and bridegroom you face each other, make your promises and receive God's blessing. The congregation are witnesses of the marriage, and express their support by their presence and their prayers. Their support does not end today: you will value continued encouragement in the days and years ahead of you. The Service in Church consists of the following sections:

The Welcome

The priest welcomes you and your family and friends to the church for this special occasion.

Preface

The priest introduces the service outlining the importance of Christian marriage.

The Declarations

It is necessary for the couple and the congregation to declare that they know of no impediment to the marriage.

The Collect

A special prayer to begin the service.

Readings

One or two readings from the Bible are read wither by the priest or a member of the family.

Sermon

The priest may give a short address

The Vows

The couple make their vows to one another - these vows are the solemn contract made between the man and woman.

The Giving of Rings

The couple may exchange rings or alternatively the man may give a ring to his bride. The priest blesses the ring(s).

The Proclamation

From the marriage service, the priest says 'In the presence of God, and before this congregation, N and N have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.'

The Blessing of the Marriage

The blessing of the marriage is an important part of the service. It is this prayers asking for God's blessing and grace that reminds the couple that they have made their marriage vows before God and his Church.

Registration of the Marriage

the Marriage registers are completed now or immediately after the service. Two copies are made and a certificate of marriage is given to the couple.

Prayers

The congregation joins in praying for the newly married couple, asking that God will be with you in the marriage, to strengthen and uphold you. That your home may be a place of peace and joy and that you may live together in love for the rest of your life.

Dismissal

The priest blesses the people and the couple leave the church together.

MUSIC & HYMNS

Before your wedding please consult with the priest and the church organists about music for your wedding. Normally you will need to think of

- *A Bridal March* - for the entry of the bride at the beginning of the service.
- *A Wedding March* - to be played as the bride and groom leave the church at the end.
- *Hymns*: normally two hymns are sung but more, may be chosen if necessary. The priest will guide you with this and hymn books are available for you to help you make your choice.

Music may also be played during the signing of the registers. If you want a particular piece of music please talk to the organist in good time.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Most couple will want a photographic record of their wedding day. It is important that whoever you choose to take your photographs contacts the priest at least a week before the service. A wedding is a solemn occasion and a religious service and it is not possible for the photographer to walk round during the service or to take photographs at certain times.

VIDEO RECORDINGS

Much of the music used in church is copyright and a license is required by law to video the service - whether you choose a professional videographer or a member of your family or a friend.

Please let the priest now as soon as possible if you intend to have a video recording. There is an extra charge for the use of video recording equipment. This fee covers the Churches Copyright License and the organist's extra fee.

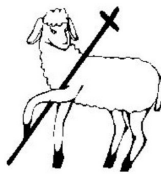
BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Marriages in the Church of England take place after the Reading of Banns or the granting of a Licence. To get married in St Agnes Church at least one of the parties **MUST** live in the Parish. (The priest will be able to tell you if you do or not.)

The Banns of Marriage are read in St Agnes church on three Sundays before the marriage and if either the man or woman lives in a different parish then the Banns will also need to be called in that Parish church too. This must be arranged in good time as without the certificate of Banns from the other parish the marriage can not take place. The priest will explain this to you when you meet.

LICENCE

In certain circumstances it may be necessary for the marriage to take place by licence. These cases are less common and the priest will tell you if this is necessary.



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www.stagneslongsight.org/pastoral