

# WEDDING INFORMATION

Congratulations! We are delighted to hear that you are planning to get married and that you wish to do so in church as part of your commitment to each other and to God. We hope this booklet will answer most of your questions, however, do also have a look at the Church of England's excellent website: [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org)

## About Us

Welcome to St Katharine Church, the Parish Church of Merstham. We are an active church within the MGTM Churches. We offer a range of services, activities and events that aim to meet

the needs of all our members and of our wider community. In all we do our aim is to draw people of all ages and backgrounds into a deeper understanding and experience of the Christian life - life with God at the centre and we believe, as God intended it for us all.



## Can we get married at St Katharine's even if we don't live in the Parish?

Every part of England is divided into Parishes under the spiritual care of a Church of England Parish Church. Most people marry in their own local parish church, but we know that you might like to marry in a church away from where you live because it has special significance for you through family or other connections. An engaged couple can now do just that if either of you can show just one of the eight connections with St Katharine's church listed below:

### That one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- was baptised in the parish church
- 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
- is on the church's electoral roll

### That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months
- That one of your parents or grandparents were married in the parish

Even if you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, we would be happy to help you explore whether it may still be possible for you to marry in St Katharine's – so do get in touch with us!



## Are there any other Legal Requirements?

Unless you are granted a special licence, you will need to have your banns read for 3 consecutive weeks before your marriage can take place. If either of you is not resident in St Katharine's Parish then you must get the banns called in the parish where you live (in addition to having your banns read at St Katharine's) and produce a certificate to the Vicar to confirm that this has been done before your wedding.

It is your responsibility to see that the banns are published and that you collect the certificates and hand them to the Vicar. (If either of you is on the Electoral Roll of a different parish, banns must be called at that parish church also and a certificate provided.) You cannot be married unless the Vicar has the appropriate certificate. If you have any questions, please enquire at the Parish Office.

### What if one of us has been married before?

We believe that marriage is a lifelong commitment, but we also recognise that things don't always work out as we have planned and committed ourselves to. If either of you has been divorced there is no right to a church wedding, but one of the clergy would love to come and talk through the subject with you and explore whether a church wedding is the right option.

## Are there any other preparations?

### Attending church

The church service is concerned with Christian marriage and assumes that those taking part believe in God and want him to be at the centre of their future life together. To help you in your preparation therefore you should attend Sunday services regularly during the months before your wedding (at least once a fortnight) so that you have a clear understanding of the Christian faith and the vows you will be making within that faith.

### Marriage Preparation

We arrange a marriage preparation course (typically, four evenings over the course of a month). You will be invited to attend in the months running up to your wedding.

### What about the Wedding Service itself?

We normally offer the most modern Wedding Service. You may borrow a service booklet to study at home, or again, take a look at the Church of England's website [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org) which lists all the different services available with links to the wording.

### Are we allowed photographs during the service?

Photographs are only permitted during the service if they are taken from the nave of the Church, are discrete and do not interfere with the flow of the service.

### How do we organise our flowers?

Please liaise with the church office about these and note the following points:

- Please make your own arrangements with your florist.
- Access to the church for florists is by arrangement with the parish office.
- Some areas in the church (e.g., the rood screen) may not be used for flowers for safety and practical reasons.
- Finally, please advise the parish office if any flowers will be left in the church after the wedding.



### What about hymns and other music?

A marriage service typically includes two or three hymns or songs. The following traditional hymns have proved very popular for weddings, but you may well wish to choose others:

- All people that on earth do dwell
- Love divine, all loves excelling
- Amazing grace
- Praise my soul the King of heaven
- Lord of all hopefulness

### Copyright

St Katharine's is not part of the CCLI Copyright scheme as we do not reproduce hymns and songs. To enable you to reproduce in your Order of Service you would need to apply for a licence directly with CCLI.

### Is confetti allowed?

You are welcome to use confetti outside the lychgate; but please ensure it is not thrown within the churchyard/grounds.

### Is there car parking available?

There is street parking along Church Hill. It may be helpful if one of the ushers remains by the lychgate to help direct guests to available spaces.

### Recording your Wedding

If you wish to record your wedding (whether audio or video) it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate licences/permissions in place and that you don't infringe copyright. Please note the video fee (permission having been received from the Rector) at St. Katharine's is £290.00 (note that this fee includes £130 being the charge to cover the Organist's Performing Rights) (This fee is in addition to any charge you pay to your photographer).

## CONTACT US

### Team Rector

Revd Nigel Griffiths  
[rector@mgtmchurches.org](mailto:rector@mgtmchurches.org)

### Parish Administrator

Sophie Dickson  
[adminops@mgtmchurches.org](mailto:adminops@mgtmchurches.org)

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

