

St Peter de Beauvoir Town

A GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED AT ST PETER'S



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About St Peter's

St Peter's is the Church of England (Anglican) parish church for De Beauvoir Town. The parish stretches from Balls Pond Road in the North to the Regent's Canal in the South, and the Kingsland Road in the East to Southgate Road in the West.

St Peter's is home to a community touched by God. We strive for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world, by providing a place for *creativity* and *refreshment*. One important way we try to do this is by welcoming couples who want to get married.

This leaflet addresses some 'frequently asked questions' about marriage in church.

1 *What do we need to do to qualify to be married at St Peter's?*

Provided you are legally allowed to marry one another, you can do it at St Peter's if one or both of you:

- (1) live in St Peter's parish; *or*
- (2) are on St Peter's electoral roll (you can be entered on this if you're over 16 and have been worshipping here regularly for at least 6 months); *or*
- (3) were baptised at St Peter's; *or*
- (4) were confirmed after being prepared for confirmation here; *or*
- (5) lived in the parish, or worshipped at St Peter's, for at least 6 months at any time in the past.

You also qualify if your parents or grandparents were married at St Peter's, *or* if one of your parents lived in the parish, or worshipped at St Peter's, for at least 6 months during your lifetime.

If you aren't sure whether you qualify, one of the ministers will be able to help you. They may need to ask you for further documents or information.

In addition, you will need to pay the *fees* laid down by law (see Question 12) and, normally, have *banns* read (see Question 4).

2 *What if one or both of us have been married before?*

In this situation, if your former husband or wife is still alive, that is not a bar to getting married at St Peter's. Before agreeing to remarry you, the minister will need to meet you to talk about it.

3 *What if one or both of us aren't UK nationals?*

Special issues arise in this situation, so again you will need to discuss it with a minister as soon as possible.

4 *Banns*

Usually, you have to have banns of marriage read at our main service on 3 Sundays before your wedding. The minister will ask you to fill out a form to provide the information we will need to read your banns and, later on, for the marriage register and your marriage certificate. You're very welcome to come along to hear your banns being read! The service starts at 10am and lasts just over an hour.

Please note: If either or both of you lives outside the parish, you must make sure your banns are read in the other parish(es) too. You must produce a banns certificate from the other parish(es) to the minister *no later than the rehearsal*. We suggest you contact the other parish(es) as soon as possible about applying for your banns to be read.

5 *What preparation will there be?*

One of the ministers will need to meet you at least twice to get to know you, discuss the arrangements for your wedding and explore with you the meaning of the marriage service. The first meeting needs to be *about 3 months before your wedding*. There will also need to be a wedding rehearsal shortly before your wedding date.

6 *The order of service*

The Church of England has wedding services in modern and traditional language. You can choose whichever you prefer. The minister will go through the alternatives with you when you meet.

If you would like a printed order of service, the minister is happy to discuss what needs to go in it. We can also provide a template order of service for you to adapt, but it will be your responsibility to produce your own. You don't have to have a printed service sheet if you choose hymns from the hymn book we use at St Peter's (*Hymns Old and New*). If you choose any other hymns you will need to get the words printed. *If you are having an order of service printed, it must be ready by the rehearsal.*

7 *What hymns and music can we have at our wedding?*

You can have any music by arrangement with the minister. We can help in 3 ways:

- (1) The minister can help you choose which hymns and other music you would like. A CD of popular wedding hymns is also available.
- (2) If you like, we can help you arrange an organist and/or a quartet of professional singers. Please tell us as soon as possible if you'd like either of these.
- (3) Music on CD can be played at the service on our PA system.

There is no choir at St Peter's.

8 *What readings can we have at our wedding?*

The minister will discuss this with you and can provide details of readings from the Bible which the church recommends for use at weddings. You are not restricted to these, though: you can choose another passage from the Bible and include non-Biblical texts, by arrangement with the minister.

9 *What about flowers?*

Most of the year there are flowers in church for Sunday for which we make no charge. For a small charge, we can put you in touch with someone who can provide posies for pew ends; if you would like this, please tell the minister as soon as possible. Professional florists are welcome to decorate the church, but an appointment will need to be arranged for them to have access.

10 *Can we have bells?*

There is a single church bell at St Peter's which can be rung by the minister either before the service, or afterwards, or both. No charge is made for this. It is not possible to have a peal of bells.

11 *What about photos, video recordings and confetti?*

We ask that no one takes photos during your wedding. The minister will be happy to allow and take part in photos afterwards, inside and outside the church, including re-enacting parts of the ceremony.

You can have a video made of your wedding by prior arrangement. A recording fee will need to be paid to the church and, if you have one, to the organist. The camera has to be in one place throughout the service so that it isn't intrusive or distracting and doesn't get in the way.

Confetti is not allowed, but alternatives such as rice may be possible by prior arrangement.

12 *What will it cost, and how do we pay?*

The following fees are set by the Church of England (2009 rates):

- (1) £22 for the publication of banns
- (2) £257.50 for the wedding, including a marriage certificate.

Total £279.50. Please pay in full by cash or cheque made payable to St Peter De Beauvoir PCC. ***The deadline for payment is 3 months before the wedding.*** If you pay by cheque, the cheque must have cleared by that time.

Cancellation: If you change your mind and decide to cancel the wedding more than a week before the set date, we will refund your fee payment less a cancellation charge of £50. If you cancel after that, no refund will be payable.

Extras: Pew Ends (see Question 9) currently cost £50. If you would like an organist or a singing quartet you will need to negotiate a price with them, but as a guide you can expect the cost of the organist to be about £100 and the quartet around £200-250. Please pay the people concerned directly.

We hope this leaflet is helpful. If you have any other questions, please speak to one of the clergy after our Sunday service or telephone the Vicar Rev'd Julia Porter on 020 7254 5670 or e-mail her on juliap@freeuk.com.