

Congratulations on choosing marriage!



**Welcome
to our guide to getting married
in the Church of England
at St John's Church
Knoye Road, Preston, Brighton BN1 6RB**

*[The medieval church of St Peter in
Preston Park is no longer used for weddings.]*

Can we marry at St John's Church?

Yes, you can marry at St John's if

one of you:

- 1 lives in the parish (You can check this at www.achurchnearyou.com by typing in your postcode)
- 2 is on the Church Electoral Roll at St John's

You can also marry here if

one of you:

- 3 has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- 4 has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months or
- 5 was baptised (christened) in the parish or
- 6 was confirmed in the parish or

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

- 7 has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- 8 has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for at least 6 months or

one of your parents or grandparents

- 9 was married in the parish

Please note: for 3-9 above you will need to provide the evidence of this qualifying connection to St John's.

If none of 1-9 applies, you can still marry here if

- 10 you are granted a Special Licence by the Archbishop of Canterbury (*Please note: these are not granted automatically — and they are expensive! Currently around £250.*)

What if one of us is divorced?

Since 2002, it is sometimes possible to be married in church if one of you has been married before and your former spouse is still alive. The priest is happy to talk with you about your situation and help you explore the options open to you under the Church of England's national guidelines.

When can we get married?

- * anytime between the hours of 8.00 am and 6.00 pm
- * normally weddings take place at St John's on Saturdays

What can St John's offer?

- * an attractive building with a light, spacious interior
- * the option of hiring the Knoyle Hall for your reception
- * a warm, friendly and supportive community
- * our prayers as you prepare for your wedding day
- * a chance to think about God and his place in your life
- * talented musicians and flower arrangers
- * an opportunity to think about your future life together
- * a walk-through rehearsal before your wedding
- * the possibility of involving friends and family in your marriage service through readings, music, and prayers

How much will it cost?

A simple, basic wedding at St John's costs £465 in 2015.

Popular add-ons include:

- * music: organist (£85) and choir (£80)
- * flowers: as a guide, pedestal arrangements cost around £60 each and pillar arrangements £20 each.
- * permission to film the service: £40

Legal aspects of weddings

In order to comply with UK civil law, certain legal issues need to be addressed before the wedding takes place.

Briefly, these issues may include:

- * **your age:** if you are under 18, you will need your parents' consent to marry. By law in the UK, you must be 16 before you can marry.
- * **the calling of Banns:** Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and the opportunity for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.
- * **your nationality:** if you are from outside the European Economic Area, this will involve some different paperwork..

However, do not worry about any of this! The priest will advise you and help you to arrange what needs to be done in your situation.

Please note: although same sex marriage legislation is now in force, it remains the case that it is not legally possible for same sex couples to marry in the Church of England.

Contacts:

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Getting to know us:

Church website
www.brightonstjohn.org.uk

Come and meet the
St John's community at our
10.00 am Sunday service
- a warm welcome awaits!

Buses 5 and 5A go past the
front door.