

Getting married at Christ Church Portsdown 2020



Christ Church
For Christ. For you.





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Vicar

The Reverend Andy Wilson

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I am delighted that you would like to get married here at the parish church of Christ Church Portsdown. A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment accompanied by celebration and joy. The church takes your marriage seriously, and the information in this booklet is designed to help you make your preparations for your wedding, whether the ceremony you want is quiet and simple or more elaborate. At the heart of the service, bride and bridegroom face each other to make their promises and receive God's blessing.

The most important part of your wedding day will be the service held in church. Your celebration is a key part of the life of this church. You and your family and friends will become part of the ancient tradition of prayer and worship that has taken place at Christ Church for nearly 150 years. As you prepare for your wedding day, we will be praying for you, as well as meeting with you on several occasions to prepare you for your marriage.

You may also like to take a look at www.yourchurchwedding.org, an excellent website, which has lots of information about getting married in a Church of England church.

Wishing you every blessing

Andy

Reverend Andy Wilson

Christ Church Portsdown

Registered Charity No: 1137597

www.christchurchportsdown.org

Vicar: Revd Andrew M Wilson BSc BA

Legal aspects of marriage

In marriage you take on a whole new legal status. To ensure that the marriage complies with both UK Civil and Church law, there are certain aspects of a church wedding that must be fulfilled.

If either of you live in the parish of Portsdown, or have a qualifying connection to the parish (see below) and you are both British citizens who have never been married before then you should be able to marry at Christ Church. Under other circumstances it still might be possible for you to marry at Christ Church as described below.

We live outside the parish

If neither of you live in the parish of Portsdown it may still be possible for you to marry at Christ Church, provided that either

- one (or both) of you is on the Church Electoral Roll (membership list)
- one (or both) of you has a 'qualifying connection' with the parish

Qualifying Connection

If Christ Church has special significance for you through family or other special connections, it may be possible for you to marry here. You will need to provide evidence for at least one of the following connections:

that one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- was baptised (christened) at Christ Church or
- was prepared for confirmation at Christ Church or
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services at Christ Church for a period of at least 6 months

or

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 or
- has regularly attended normal church services at Christ Church for a period of at least 6 months

or

that one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married at Christ Church

One (or both) of us has been married before

There are special guidelines on marriage in the church if you are divorced. It may be possible to marry at Christ Church, but you will need to talk to the Vicar about your situation to explore the possibilities for you. If either has been married and divorced more than once, it is unlikely that permission will be granted.

One (or both) of us is not a British national / I live overseas

In these cases there will be additional paperwork to complete. The Vicar will advise on this.

Am I old enough to marry?

If you are under 18 years old you will need your parents' consent to marry and by law you cannot be married in the UK until you are 16.

Reading of Banns

Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. Banns need to be read in the parish church in which you are to be married as well as the parish where each of you lives, if that is somewhere else. You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding.

The Vicar will advise you on which Sunday your banns will be read at Christ Church. They are read at our main 10.30am Sunday morning services. It is not a requirement that you attend, but most couples do like to come and hear their banns read.

If either of you live in a parish other than Portsdown, then a certificate of the reading of banns in your parish church must be collected and delivered to the Vicar at Portsdown prior to the marriage service rehearsal. A list of local parishes is included at the back of this booklet. If you are not sure which parish you live in the Vicar can advise, or you can find out at www.acny.co.uk.

Note: If banns are not read as required, then the marriage cannot take place.

Time of wedding

To be legal the wedding must take place between 8am and 6pm on any day. It also has to fit in with other events in church and the availability of the ministers. At Christ Church we do not usually schedule weddings to start within 2½ hours of each other.

Documentation required

The Vicar may need to see the following identification

Birth Certificates to verify name and age

Passports to verify nationality

Deed poll documents if you have ever changed your name by deed poll

Decree absolute if you have previously been married

Death certificate if you have been widowed

Consent form if you are under 18

Proof of address or qualifying connection

Fees

These fees are a combination of statutory fees fixed annually by the Archbishops' Council and fees for locally provided services which are set by the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Church Fees

Statutory Fees

Publication of Banns	£31
Marriage service	£463
Marriage Cert*	£11
Total	£505

Standard Fees

Verger fee	£50
Heating fee (Oct-Mar)	£65

Additional Fees

Organist fee (no video)	£75
Organist fee (video)	£150
Flowers by arrangement	
Service booklets by arrangement	

*The fee for a Marriage Certificate is set by the Secretary of State and may increase from 1st April 2020.

All Fees are payable a month in advance of the wedding date by cash or by cheque payable to: *Christ Church Portsdown* or by bank transfer to

Sort Code: 54-30-11

Account No: 01523171

Account Name: Christ Church Portsdown

Reference: WEDddmmyy

(where *ddmmyy* is the date of your wedding, e.g. 010720 for a wedding on 1st July 2020)

A returnable deposit of £50 is required when booking the wedding. This is deducted from the final total.

Additionally, if either of you lives outside of the parish of Portsdown, a fee of £45 will need to be paid to the parish(es) where you live for the reading of banns (see page 4).

Offerings

No collection is taken during the wedding service. However, many like to give a gift of thanks to the church. There will be a plate by the church door for this purpose. All donations will go towards the work of the church.

Preparation and Planning

These important meetings with the minister taking your service will help you plan for your wedding and prepare for married life. Please confirm dates, times and venues with the Vicar.

Meeting 1 General information (hymns, flowers, order of service etc.)

Meeting 2 Marriage Preparation – a chance to look at the words of the service and consider what marriage means

Meeting 3 The minister taking your service will meet with you about six weeks before the service to confirm final details

Meeting 4 The wedding rehearsal - This takes place in church a few days before your service and is held by arrangement with the minister who will officiate at your wedding. This includes the best man, bridesmaids, pageboys, and the person 'giving away' the bride. Please feel free to invite parents, photographers or anyone else you feel it will be useful to be there. This is a time to run through the service and to put everyone at ease.

WHO DOES WHAT?

You will probably want to choose some people to have a special role in your service. Here are some of the key roles.

The **bridesmaids** are there to tend to the needs of the bride throughout the service, making sure that the dress is arranged properly, and generally 'waiting' on the bride. The bride usually passes her bouquet to the chief bridesmaid at the beginning of the service.

The **best man** is there to assist the bridegroom, not least in taking care of the ring(s) and presenting them to the minister when asked.

You may wish to provide **ushers** who will welcome your guests and assist people as they arrive. Ushers should be present at least 30 minutes before the wedding and distribute orders of service and buttonholes. They will also assist your guests to seating. It is traditional for the family of the groom to sit on the right hand side of the church behind the groom. The family of the bride sit on the left, with a space saved for the person 'giving away' the bride. You may not wish to split the congregation in this way, especially if one family is very small.

Traditionally the bride is **given away** by her father. This involves walking into church and down the aisle with the bride, and presenting her to the minister. It is not always possible or appropriate for the bride's father to fulfil this role, in which case someone else should be chosen.

There should be two **witnesses** to the wedding who will sign the registers. They must be present at the ceremony and are usually adults. If you wish to have someone under the age of 18, then the minister must be happy that they are of sufficient maturity to fully appreciate and understand the nature of the ceremony of marriage.

The church will appoint a **Verger** to be on duty during the service. The Verger will open the church an hour before the service for early guests, ensure that everything runs smoothly during the service, including playing any CDs you may have provided, and welcoming late guests, and finally lock the church building once you have left.

Flowers

At Christ Church flowers are arranged in a pedestal at the East end of church each week on a voluntary basis and are donated by members of the parish. If however you would prefer your own special flowers for your wedding day we can supply and arrange this in the church to suit your requirements.

Prices:

Pedestals £50 each or 2 for £90 (to a maximum of 4)

Pew ends £12 each (to a maximum of 10)

If you wish to include roses or lilies or have other special requirements it may be necessary to increase these charges, but this would be discussed with you.

All flowers are ordered to complement your own colour scheme. If two weddings requiring flowers occur on the same day the brides will be asked to come to some arrangement between them regarding a colour scheme.

The flower ladies are experienced amateur flower arrangers. They provide foliage for the arrangements from their own gardens and take every care in what they do. Costs cover the purchase of flowers and sundries such as oasis and ribbon.

Bookings for flowers should be made six weeks in advance and payment two weeks prior to the date of the wedding.

If you wish to remove any flowers from the church after the service for your reception or otherwise, discussions when ordering are necessary, as are the use of containers. The pedestal display at the East end is required to remain in church.

If you are planning to organise your wedding flowers yourself, please inform us in good time to enable us to make necessary arrangements beforehand.

We enjoy arranging flowers especially for weddings and hope that our contribution helps to make your wedding day a very special one.

All enquiries to:

Jenny Whiteside (023 9237 6333) or Ros Molloy (023 9226 8928)

Order of service

The sequence of events in your wedding service will be discussed with you. It is not essential to have a printed order of service, but it does help your guests to know what is happening and provides a memento of the day.

If you do have a printed order, then we will discuss the layout with you. Most couples produce this themselves (or ask a friend to do so), but you can arrange for a professional printer to do it for you. Please have any proofs checked by the minister taking your service before printing.

Alternatively we can print this for you in the church office. Please ask the Vicar if you would like to know prices for this.

The usual order of service is as follows, but please check with the minister taking your service.

- Entrance of the Bride
- The Welcome
- Hymn
- Preface
- The Declarations
- Reading(s)
- Address
- The Vows
- The Giving of Rings
- The Blessing of the Marriage
- Hymn
- Registration of the Marriage
- Prayers
- The Dismissal
- Exit

Although the service is conducted according to the authorised format used in the Church of England, there are plenty of opportunities to make the service uniquely and personally your own, including readings, music and participants. All things that take place in the service are at the discretion of the Vicar. You may wish to start planning your service on the Church of England's wedding website: (<http://www.ceremonyplanner.yourchurchwedding.org>)

Other Information

Access

Please let us know whether any of your guests have special access requirements so that we can accommodate them as best we can, including providing space for wheelchairs. Please discuss any special parking requirements with the Vicar. The church is fitted with a hearing loop.

Passports

Brides to be may have their passport in their new name prior to the wedding. This is advisable if you are travelling to certain countries. It is advisable to allow three months for the Passport Office to process your application. Collect a form PD2 from the post office and bring it for signing by the minister who will officiate at your marriage service.

Confetti

Confetti is allowed in the churchyard, BUT NOT inside the church or near the church door. ONLY biodegradable confetti may be used. We do not allow the scattering of rose petals, or similar in church.

Animals

We do NOT allow animals to take part in any of our services i.e. as ring bearers.

Photographs and Video

NO PHOTOGRAPHS OR VIDEOS BY THE GUESTS ARE ALLOWED DURING THE SERVICE. This is to safeguard the sanctity and worshipful atmosphere of your very special service. It also avoids legal issues and complications with copyright and performers rights licences and enables all guests to participate in the service without any distraction. Guests are welcome to take photographs in the church after the service has ended, if they wish.

Official Photography and Videos

You may wish to have photographs or a video taken of your service by a professional, or a trusted friend or member of the family. This is allowed at the Vicar's discretion.

This policy applies to all official photographers and videographers and must be adhered to otherwise discretionary permission will be withdrawn.

Photographer

The authorised photographer will take pictures, without flash, during the service from locations agreed with the minister taking the service and after the signing of the register at the table.

Video

The authorised video operator will operate the video, without secondary lighting, during the service from either of the two designated positions at the front of the church or from the rear of the church.

Note that the organist fee is increased if the service is videoed [see table of fees on page 5]. If your service is videoed and you play previously recorded music (e.g. from a CD or digital device), then you or your videographer are responsible for obtaining the necessary license. (see www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/filming-a-wedding).

Bible Reading

There will always be at least one reading from the Bible in your service. This may be read by the Minister or by one of your guests. On the next few pages you will find some suggested readings:

Genesis 1.26-28

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6,7

My beloved speaks and says to me:

'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle dove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.'

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of one's house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt -a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Matthew 5.1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

Matthew 7.21, 24-29

Jesus said, 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell -and great was its fall!'

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10.6-9, 13-16

Jesus said, 'From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of

purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

John 15.9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you

to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

Romans 7.1, 2, 9-18

Do you not know, brothers and sisters - for I am speaking to those who know the law - that the law is binding on a person only during that person's lifetime? Thus a married woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives; but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the law concerning the husband.

I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died, and the very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.

Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

Romans 8.31-35, 37-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12.1, 2, 9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God -what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 15.1-3, 5-7, 13

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbour for the good purpose of building up the neighbour. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.'

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my

possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3.14-21

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4.1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called

to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 5.21-33

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind -yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 3.18-24

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 4.7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Hymns

It is usual to have two hymns at a wedding, although you can have more (or fewer) if you wish. We have thousands of hymns in our hymn books. If you have a favourite do ask. Some of the most popular choices for weddings include:

Amazing Grace
Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
Come Down O Love Divine
Come to a Wedding
Father Hear the Prayer We Offer
For the beauty of the earth
Give me joy in my heart
God in the planning and purpose of life
God of all living
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us
Lord of all Hopefulness
Lord of the Dance
Lord, for the Years
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Make Me a Channel of your Peace
Morning has Broken
One More Step Along the World I Go
Now Thank We all our God
Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven
Tell Out My Soul
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The Lord's My Shepherd
We pledge to one another

Many of these can be listened to at the Church of England's weddings website, (www.yourchurchwedding.org/article/hymns-for-your-wedding)

Local Parishes

If either of you does not live in the parish of Portsdown then you should contact your parish church(es) between 3 and 6 months before your wedding to arrange the reading of Banns. You can find details of the parish in which you live by entering your postcode at www.achurchnearyou.com. Details of some local churches are listed below.

St Alban, Copnor

104 Copnor Road
Portsmouth
PO3 5AL
023 9266 3664

St Phillip, Cosham

Hawthorn Crescent
Cosham
Hampshire
PO6 2TL
023 9237 6307

St Wilfrid , Cowplain

Padnell Road
Cowplain
Hampshire
PO8 8DZ
023 9226 2295

Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn

Crookhorn Lane
Crookhorn
Waterlooville
PO7 5QB
023 9225 6814

All Saints, Denmead

Hambledon Road
Denmead
Hants
PO7 6NN
023 9226 8757

St Andrew, Farlington

Parish Office
Church of the Resurrection
Penrhyn Avenue
023 9242 1849

Hart Plain Church

Hart Plain Avenue,
Waterlooville.
PO8 8RG
023 9225 4452

St Francis, Leigh Park

Riders Lane
Leigh Park
PO9 4QJ
023 9247 5276

St Mark , North End

Derby Road
North End
Portsea
Hampshire
PO2 8HR
023 9266 5753

St Michael & All Angels, Paulsgrove

Hempstead Road
Paulsgrove
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO6 4AS
023 9237 8194

The Ascension, Portsea

Copythorn Road
Portsea
Hampshire
PO2 0JG
023 9266 2956

St Mary, Portsea

Fratton Road
Portsmouth
023 9281 4444

St Saviour, Portsea

283 Twyford Avenue
Portsea
Hampshire
PO2 8PB
023 9266 3664

Portsmouth Cathedral

St Thomas's Street
Old Portsmouth
PO1 2HA
023 9273 1282 / 023 9282 3300

St John the Baptist, Purbrook

London Road
Purbrook
Waterlooville
PO7 5RS
023 9226 6170

Holy Spirit, Southsea

Fawcett Road
Southsea
PO4 0DY
023 9282 9038

St Clare, Warren Park

St Clare's Avenue
Warren Park
Havant
023 9245 1762

St George, Waterlooville

St. George's Walk
Waterlooville
PO7 7TX
023 9226 2145

St Alban, West Leigh

Bartons Road

West Leigh

Havant

PO9 5TE

023 9247 3541

St Peter & St Paul, Wymering

Medina Road

Cosham

Portsmouth

PO6 3NH

023 9237 6307