

## **St Andrew's Brympton – Initial enquiry about being married in this church.**

**Congratulations!** Planning your wedding is a special time and there is much you will be thinking about.

Being married in a church is so much more than simply a venue for your wedding. The story of your relationship as a couple may have begun fairly recently or years ago. Either way, getting married is a whole new beginning for you, your family and others in your life.

Unique and special things become part of your marriage, on the day itself and beyond:-

- A church wedding will add a spiritual dimension to your marriage. The ceremony includes God and looks to Him for help and guidance. God's blessing is the main attraction for many couples, whatever their beliefs.
- *"..From this day forward.."* After you are married you have a new legal status, possibly a new name and a new family unit. This changes the way others relate to you too, whether they are close to you or not.
- You can make amazing vows, or promises, in a church. *"..As long as you both shall live.."* The vows that you make in church with all your wedding guests present, acknowledge that life has its ups and downs, but that you lovingly commit wholly to each other, sharing all that you have and all that you are with the other, for the rest of your lives.

So marriage means that your choices will always include another person in partnership with you, through good times and tough times. But also, you invite the blessing and guidance of a loving God into your relationship too.

**Getting married at St Andrew's Brympton** might be possible for you, however there are several matters to consider first before you progress with any plans you might have.

St Andrew's is a parish church within the Church of England, and as such all weddings are subject to the Marriage Act of England and Wales which sets out the legal requisites for marriage defined by Parliament.

Whilst the church is located within the grounds of Brympton House it is not part of the estate or wedding venue, being completely separate and independent; as such, any couple wishing to be married in the church should firstly be aware that:

1. Being married in a parish church is not an automatic right in law. A lawful connection with the parish is to be established if the marriage is to take place following the publication of Banns of Marriage. This might mean active and regular attendance at the church is required for a period of more than six months before the ceremony.
2. An approach must firstly be made to the parish before dates can be set, to see if the church is available and if a priest will be available for preparations, for legal checks and to conduct the service.
3. Weddings cannot be conducted in a Church of England church before 8am or after 6pm and not on any major festival day (Christmas, Good Friday, Easter).
4. Checks are required to be made looking at nationality and residency before a date can be arranged.

To further your enquiry about being married at St Andrew's please fill in the details over the page and return them to the wedding co-ordinator at Brympton House. They will supply your details to the parish representative who will contact you about legal checks and possible dates.

Please remember, until the checks are complete and availability of church and priest are confirmed the wedding cannot be considered booked at St Andrew's.

Groom's Details	Bride's Details
Full Name	Full Name
Current Address and Postcode	Current Address and Postcode
Address since:	Address since:
Phone	Phone
Email	Email
Date of Birth	Date of Birth
Occupation	Occupation
Have you been married before? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, is previous spouse still living?      Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Have you been married before? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, is previous spouse still living?      Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever been in a civil partnership? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Have you ever been in a civil partnership? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you a British or Irish national? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Are you a British or Irish national? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you related, or are you connected by marriage? If so how?	

Signed	Dated
Full Name	
Signed	Dated
Full Name	

Proposed date of Wedding.....

## **A little more on the Legalities of being married in a Church of England church. Establishing a Qualifying Connection with the Parish to be married after the publication of Banns**

**You will have a connection if –**

**One of you:**

1. lives in the parish, OR
2. is on the church's electoral roll, OR
3. has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, OR
4. has habitually attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months, OR
5. was baptised in the parish, OR
6. was prepared for confirmation in the parish, OR

**One of your parents; at any time after they were born:**

7. has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months during your lifetime, OR
8. has at any time habitually attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months during your lifetime, OR

**One of your parents or grandparents:**

9. was married in the parish.

If none of these applies, a license to be married needs to be applied for through the Superintendent Registrar's Office. However, please note the granting of a license only makes it possible for you to be married in the parish; it does not mean you are able to be married on a particular day or time; this is subject to local availability of clergy and date.

## **The UK Immigration Act and implications for being married in England and Wales**

Amendments to the Immigration Act of 2014 mean that from July 2021 couples applying to be married in a church by Banns must first prove they are either a British or Irish Citizens and have a regular residence in England. This applies to both parties and proof is made by showing the original of one of the documents listed below. If either party is not a British or Irish national, they must first attend a registry office and apply for a 'registry office certificate'.

- a) Valid passport showing the person to be British or Irish national
  - b) Certificate of registration or naturalisation as a British Citizen granted by the Secretary of State with separate document of residence showing name to establish current use of name and surname
  - c) If the party was born in the UK before 1st January 1983, UK birth certificate with separate document of residence showing name to establish current use of name and surname
  - d) If born after 1st January 1983 but before 1st July 2006,
    - Full UK birth certificate showing parent's (or parents') details with separate document of residence showing name to establish current use of name and surname
    - Evidence of either of the parents' British citizenship or settled status at the time of the party's birth (e.g. a passport describing the relevant parent as a British citizen or indicating that he or she then had indefinite leave to enter or remain)
- AND**
- the parents' marriage certificate (if British citizenship is claimed through the party's father)

For evidence of a place of residence, one of the following documents for each party:

- i. Utility bill no more than three months old
- ii. Bank or building society statement or passbook no more than one month old
- iii. Council tax bill no more than twelve months old
- iv. Mortgage statement no more than twelve months old
- v. Current residential tenancy agreement
- vi. Valid driving licence in the name of the party applying.