

STOKE MINSTER

stokeminster.org

Your Wedding at Stoke Minster

www.stokeminster.org

www.yourchurchwedding.org

Stoke Minster is a Grade 2 listed building set in several acres of greenery. For 1,400 years couples have come to this historic and spiritual site to exchange their wedding vows. Its unique atmosphere ensures that yours is truly a special day.

THE VOWS

I, N, take you, N,
to be my wife/husband
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in
health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy
law.
In the presence of God
I make this vow.

THE BLESSING OF THE RINGS

Heavenly
Father, by
your blessing,
let these rings
be to N and N
a symbol of unending
love and faithfulness,
to remind them of the
vow and covenant
which they have made
this day through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



A wedding is one of life's great moments. St John tells us how Jesus shared in a wedding at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings, as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children.

For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses. On their wedding day the bride and bridegroom make their promises and receive God's blessing.

St Paul writes: *'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. ... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.'* 1 Corinthians 13.4-7

How much will it cost? 2019 prices

Basic wedding: £529

Suitable for small, no frills wedding. No music. Under 20 guests

Normal wedding £681

Includes music, organist, priest, verger, wedding certificate & banns at the Minster.

Optional Extras:

Bells on exit **£150** (£200 if wanted for both entrance and exit)

Choir **£120**. Fee for allowing filming **£50**.

Minster 01782 747785
office@stokeminster.org

Priests:

Canon Andrew Wickens
Rev Geoff Eze
Fr Bill Durose

Director of Music

Jonathan Hill
07708455607
minstermusic@gmail.com

Before the day

1. You must return to the church office three months before your wedding to ensure that the banns are read here.
2. If either of you lives outside this parish you will also need to arrange for your banns of marriage to be read in your local parish church.
3. If neither of you lives in the parish then you are required to have a qualifying connection with this church. The priest can give details.

After the wedding

You will have probably spend hours planning your wedding, but it is just one day and your marriage is meant to last for life!
The church offers preparation not just for the Big Day but for all your future days together, Make sure you talk with your partner about your expectations of marriage. However much you have in common, you are still two separate individuals with different backgrounds, experience, hopes and fears.
Don't forget to communicate with each other as the years pass.
Remember, that you were married in church. You may be uncertain about what you believe, but God is always there to help us!

Frequently asked questions.

Can I get married if I am not baptised?
Yes! But the priest may want to ask why you want a Christian marriage.

Can I get married if I am divorced?
Yes! The Church believes that marriage is a life long union. However, we also recognise that none of us is perfect and sadly some marriages fail. Before a date can be set the priest will want to have a frank and open discussion with you about your understanding of marriage and your hopes for the future.

Can I get married if I don't go to church.
Yes! We provide a Christian wedding but that is open to all who wish to receive it.

How do I book the date?
We are normally open on Monday evenings between 7.00 and 7.30 p.m. We will try to answer any questions and to take your booking, when you are ready. We normally ask for a £100 deposit at the time of booking.

MUSIC

Some suitable pieces.

Arrival of the Bride

Wagner: Bridal March from 'Lohengrin'

Charpentier: Prelude to the Te Deum

Jeremiah Clarke: Trumpet Tune
(The Prince of Denmark's March) (suitable for arrival & exit)

Purcell: Trumpet Voluntary (suitable for both arrival and exit)

On leaving the church

Mendelssohn: Wedding March from
"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Widor: Toccata from Organ Symphony no.5

Handel: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Handel: Hornpipe from "Water Music"

HYMNS

Some suitable suggestions:

Be still for the presence of the Lord
Come down O love divine
Give me joy in my heart
God in the planning
Guide me O thou great Redeemer
Lead us heavenly Father
Lord of all hopefulness
Love divine, all loves excelling
Morning has broken
Praise my soul the King of Heaven
The Lord's my shepherd



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