



Getting married at St John's Hartford

Welcome

God invented marriage, and gave it as a gift to all mankind to enable the joining together of one man and one woman for life. We therefore welcome enquires about weddings! However, a church wedding is a legal as well as a Christian ceremony. In order to fulfil the legal requirements people must be married by Banns.

If one of you lives within our parish and neither of you has been married before and you are both UK or EEA citizens you can be married here by Banns. In certain other circumstances, you may still be able to be married here: please see the questions overleaf.

How do we apply?

Please contact the Vicar or the Church Office to make an initial enquiry. A date for your wedding cannot be confirmed until you have spoken to the Vicar.

This pack contains the following additional items to help you prepare for getting married at St John's:

Notes on your Wedding (blue sheet)

everything you need to know about planning your wedding here

Photos and Videos at Weddings (2 copies, cream sheet)

please give these to your photographer and/or video photographer

The Marriage Service (2 copies, green sheet)

the service we will use at your wedding

MBI Banns of Marriage Application Form (A4, white sheet)

please fill in and return (even if not marrying by banns)

two ways to live: the choice we all face

a brief outline of the Christian faith

Rev. Mike Smith, Vicar of Hartford

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Can we get married at St John's if ...

... we don't live in the parish, and have no links with St. John's?

Yes, if you attend church regularly for six months in order to qualify for membership of the Electoral Roll. You then marry by Banns.

... we don't live in the parish, but have links with St. John's?

Yes, if you have a "qualifying connection" you may marry here by Banns. The legally defined connections are that one of you:

- was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish;
- has ever lived in the parish for six months or more;
- has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more;
- has a parent or parents who lived in the parish for six months or more in your lifetime;
- has a parent or parents who regularly attended public worship here for six months or more in your lifetime;
- has a parent or grandparent who was married in the parish.

... we don't live in the parish or near enough to worship regularly, but have a link that isn't a "qualifying connection"?

It may be possible for you to be married by an **Archbishop's Special Licence**. You will need to demonstrate a 'genuine and long-standing connection with the church'. If the Vicar agrees to your being married this way, you will need to apply for the licence from The Faculty Office, whose details may be found at www.facultyoffice.org.uk.

... one of us is not a UK or EEA citizen?

If you would otherwise be entitled to marry in the parish but one of you is a citizen of a country which is not in the European Economic Area, it will still be possible for you to marry here but it is more complicated and we will need to meet with you to explain the process. It may also be worth checking with your own consular authorities that your marriage here will be recognised in your own country.

... one of us has been divorced?

If either of you has been married before and then divorced from a partner who is still living, then we cannot marry you at St John's. We understand that many people will find this hard and upsetting, and we will gladly meet with you to explain why we believe that Jesus' teaching makes this necessary. Each parish minister makes his or her own policy on this, so you will find parishes differ widely.