

After the service

Some couples choose to offer refreshments to their guests in the church extension after the service and while photographs are being taken. If you would like to do this, please discuss it when booking your wedding as we need to ensure that a staff member can be present to allow access to, and lock up after, your caterers. Only non-alcoholic drinks may be served.

Future contact

The form you fill in asks for your future married address. We value this as it enables us to keep in touch with you. If you became members before marrying and you want to continue your membership, please ensure that you inform us of any changes of address and that the bride fills in a new form in her married name and cancels her maiden name membership.

Fees for 2020

Service (includes banns, heat, light and verger)	547.00
Organist (if required)	115.00
AV assistance (if required)	40.00
Bells (if requested and available)	120.00

Total (with bells, organist and AV): £822.00

Banns only (for marrying elsewhere) £45.00

We do not ask for a deposit. Full fees must be paid before the wedding. If paying by cash or cheque, please pay at or before the rehearsal. Cheques should be payable to 'PCC St John's Hartford'. You may pay by internet banking if you wish, to account number 52275551, sort code 05-06-34. Please ensure that the transaction has a note attached in the following form: "wedding ddmmy". The fees for 2021 will not be known before January that year.

Contact Details

Please contact us via Hartford Parish Office (mail: St John's Church Centre, School Lane, Hartford, Northwich Cheshire CW8 1NP; tel: 01606 872255; email: office@stjohnshartford.org).



Notes on your Wedding: AD2020

We are looking forward to your wedding here, and hope you will find these notes helpful. Please contact us if there is any way we can help you.

Church Attendance

We invite you to join our Sunday worship at St John's or Christ Church regularly before and after your wedding. We know you will receive a warm welcome. Our services are 8am, 10am, and 6.30pm at St John's and 10.30am and 4.30pm at Christ Church. There are Sunday Schools and crèche facilities at the 10am, 10.30am and 4.30pm services.

If you are joining the electoral roll in order to get married here, then you will need to attend regularly for a minimum of six months to qualify. If you would like a refresher course on what Christianity is all about, please ask us about *Christianity Explored* – a short series of meetings that will help you discover more about Jesus Christ and what it means to follow him today.

Banns of Marriage

Banns are an official notice that you intend to get married, giving people the chance to raise any legal objections. The clergy must read these out in church three times before your wedding day. Banns are read at the 10am service on the first three Sundays of the month prior to your wedding.

If either of you lives outside the parish you **must** arrange with the Church of England minister where you live for your banns to be read in that church as well, and then obtain a banns certificate for which a fee (currently £45) is payable to that church. This certificate must be brought to us before the wedding as we cannot legally marry you without it. The charge for reading the banns here is included in the fee to be paid on your wedding day.

If you are being married by Special or Common Licence, banns do not need to be read in any church.

Under normal circumstances you do not need to make any separate legal arrangements (for example, with a civil registrar) before marrying in the Church of England.

Marriage Preparation

The minister conducting your wedding will be in touch with you to help you prepare for your wedding and married life.

Nearer your wedding date, the minister will discuss the service with you in detail and will arrange a wedding rehearsal. However, at any time please contact our parish office if you would like to see a minister to discuss matters relating to your wedding. If you wish to involve outside clergy in your wedding, please contact the Vicar to ask permission well in advance.

Music and the Order of Service

If you would like hymns you need to choose two or three, as well as the other music. Do consult the minister about these, as he needs to agree them with you. You may use the church hymn books free of charge. If instead you prefer to have Order of Service cards printed this is your own responsibility, but you *must* check the wording of them with the Vicar before printing. Please ensure that sufficient are printed for any unexpected visitors to church as well as for your invited guests.

It is best to choose your music in consultation with the organist, who will be happy to help you choose the hymns and incidental music. We will let you know the name and phone number of your organist, so you can contact them.

Music is optional at weddings and you may choose to have none. Some couples wish to bring their own organist or other musicians. We are happy for you to do this but reserve the right to charge the organist's fee if you have live music played by any musicians.

Flowers

You are responsible for any flowers you may wish to have. There are a number of professional florists in the area. We ask wedding couples to consider leaving at least one of the larger flower displays for the church on Sunday. However, there are usually some flowers already in church, and if you wish to discuss the arrangement that is likely in church on the day of your wedding, please call Mrs Jenny Richards on 01606 76971. As soon as you know what you are doing with flowers, please let the Church Office know. This is important because there may be another wedding or church activity on the same day.

Bells

Most couples like to have the church bells rung for their service. If you wish we will include that in your booking, but because of a shortage of ringers we cannot guarantee that the bells will be available, especially in holiday periods. We will only charge for the bells if they are actually rung.

Confetti

We only allow biodegradable petal confetti to be thrown in the churchyard.

Ushers

You should choose between two and four ushers. They are responsible for welcoming guests, giving out hymn books or service sheets, keeping reserved seats free, showing people to their seats, and collecting books and sheets afterwards.

Arrival

The groom, best man, and ushers should arrive at church half an hour before the service is due to begin. The bride should arrive 10 minutes early, bearing in mind the time needed to take photographs before the service can begin. If the bride is significantly late and there is another wedding booked for later the same day, the minister may have to shorten or cancel the service.

Photographs and Videos

Any photographs may be taken before and after the service. You are encouraged to appoint an official photographer, preferably a professional. **Only** the photographer may take pictures during the service. Any such photographs must be without flash and from a fixed position. The photographer is welcome to come into the vestry after the registers have been signed to photograph a mock signing, before photographing the bride and groom as they are leaving down the centre of church.

If you wish a video to be made of your service, then the camera must remain static in the back part of the church throughout the service, and the video-photographer must not move about. After the service, he or she may come into the vestry to film the official signing of the registers.

Please see the sheet, 'Photographs and Videos at Weddings' and pass this to your photographer and/or video photographer.