



St Mary the Virgin
Goldsborough

KNARESBOROUGH
ANGLICAN
TEAM **LOVING** **LIVING** **LEARNING**
MINISTRY



St John the Baptist
Knaresborough

 **THE CHURCH**
OF ENGLAND
wedding
faith · hope · love 

Information for your
proposed wedding



St John the Baptist,
Brearton



St Paul & St
Margaret, Nidd



Holy Trinity
Knaresborough



Find us on
Facebook

Knaresborough Anglicans
Team Website – www.knaresboroughanglicans.org

We are delighted that you have chosen the Knaresborough Team for your proposed wedding.

We want to do all we can to make your day special, and it is important to us that you have a good experience of God, and his Church, through the services we conduct.

Each couple will have at least one meeting with the priest who will conduct their wedding. It's a chance to get to know one another better and to tailor the wedding to your wishes. Then, usually a day or two before the service, we will meet again with others involved in the service to have a rehearsal in church.

We hope you find the following information useful, and a good basis for discussion when you meet the priest who is conducting your wedding.

Getting married in one of the Knaresborough Anglican churches

The churches of the Knaresborough Team Ministry are popular for weddings. They are beautiful and with the help of many charitable donations well-maintained, set in an historic town and pretty villages, surrounded by spectacular countryside. Most of all, we like to think that the popularity is based on the warmth of our welcome - from our Administrator, Faye Wright, who is the first point of contact for couples, and from our clergy and congregations who take a real interest in those getting married, whether they are local, returning to their family, or afar.

To be legally married in the Knaresborough churches one of the couple needs to live in the parish, to worship in the parish, or to have a "qualifying connection". The qualifying connection may be a family connection to the parish - they may have grown up here or they or their parents may have been married here. To qualify by worship, we look to regular attendance for a period of at least six months, that needs to be completed 2 months before your banns are to be read.

Your church wishes you a lifetime of love that grows within God's protection. However, we recognise that some marriages do fail for all sorts of sad and painful reasons. With this in mind the Church of England in certain circumstances, accepts that a divorced person may be able to marry again in church (this has been the case since 2002).

If this pertains to you, then the first step is to make an enquiry with the Vicar of the church where you'd like to marry. Your Vicar will want to talk frankly about your past and hopes for the future and will then be able to advise you.

All the following is governed by English Law, so the clergy must ensure that they get it right! Marrying in a Church of England church means that the wedding is a legal and binding process so you will need to produce some form of ID, a Passport, or Birth Certificate, proof of address such as a Driving Licence or utility bill. If you have been previously married your Decree Absolute. These must be copied and returned with your Marriage application form. If your address changes before your banns are read, you must inform the church office with new proof of address. Failure to do so could mean that your ceremony cannot go ahead.

If one of you is not an UK/Irish national, please contact Faye as we will need additional information to support your application.

Some people like the idea of getting married in a church but think they are being hypocritical because they do not usually attend Sunday services. Please do not let this become a barrier for you; what is important to us is that you have a good experience of God through the services we conduct.

Each couple are also expected to attend a Marriage Preparation Day; this is compulsory and part of the qualifying process for all couples. Details of this are on the next page.

Marriage Preparation in the Knaresborough Anglican churches

We are delighted that you have chosen to get married in one of our churches. We hope you will have a good experience of God and of his Church in the marriage ceremony. We in the Knaresborough Team Ministry not only want your wedding day to be a day to remember but also hope that your marriage will be enriching and lifelong.

To this end we have asked the Revd Canon Francis Wainaina, a priest with many years of experience in his field, to facilitate marriage preparation for all our couples. Canon Francis will be conducting several preparation sessions for all couples being married in our churches. The Parish Team Office will get in touch with you to invite you to one of these sessions

Four weeks before the preparation session, Canon Francis will invite you to complete a inventory on-line before you meet with him via zoom. The inventory is to be completed individually, and then the results, which are confidential, form the basis of your subsequent discussion at the session.

This will be an opportunity for you as a couple to invest in your future and marriage. There will be no open forum: the facilitator will input and each couple will simply focus on their own relationship.

Some couples' feedback

“Overall, we both found it a really positive day and came away feeling the day had been for us, as a couple, very worthwhile. To have the opportunity to talk about key matters, away from home, and be able to fully focus just on ourselves without discussing things with a larger group was excellent and we felt the whole course was worthwhile for us.”

Pete and Judy April 2015

“We found it a very worthwhile day; time together to quietly reflect and talk - something really valuable and confirming.” Alan and Chrissy, Feb 2017

“We both had a wonderful day and really valued the opportunity to consider our relationship with some gentle guidance from Canon Francis. Thanks for all your organisation.” John and Beth, Feb 2017

“We found the day with Francis and Elaine invaluable. It's easy to think marriage will be easy or that you can deal with problems as they arise, but the course really showed us how each of us is thinking about important topics like money. By understanding how our partners see us and themselves we can (hopefully!) build a strong marriage. On top of that, Francis and Elaine are so warm and helpful, and an inspiration having been married so long themselves! We highly recommend the course to anyone getting married.” Oliver and Katrina February 2019

The total cost of the login/inventory and the session is £100 per couple.

At a date and time closer to your wedding, the priest who will officiate on the day of your wedding will meet you to better tailor the ceremony itself to your wishes.

We wish you every blessing for the future.

The Revd Garry Hinchcliffe & The Revd Lisa Holland
Knaresborough Team Ministry

Orders of Service

The Order of Service guides your guests through the service. You don't have to have one. We can just use hymn books, provided they have your chosen hymns in them - not all of ours do! However an Order of Service, which can be made quite easily on your own computer, is a pleasing memento of the day and can be personalised to your wedding. However, they do need to be clearly laid out and easy to use. Look at how the service and hymns are laid out in this document to give you an idea. In particular, please ensure that:

- You have agreed all the elements and their order with the priest conducting your wedding.
- You use a good sized and clear font for the hymns and the other parts where the congregation will join in.
- You provide enough copies for each guest to have one, with enough extras for the priest, organist, vergers, bellringers and choir (where relevant) to also have copies.
- The priest taking your service has seen and approved a draft before you print them. We can usually (but not always!) pick up typos and have a lot of experience on what will help (and what will hinder) the congregation.

Reading of Banns

Banns are the legal preliminary to a marriage in church and must be read three times both in the parish(es) where you live and the church where you will be married. We will take responsibility for ensuring your banns are read in the churches of the Knaresborough Team. You will need to ensure they are read where each of you lives if that is not in this parish.

In the Knaresborough Team, banns will usually be read in the church where the wedding is to take place, during the main morning service (10.30am at Holy Trinity and 10.30am at St John's, Knaresborough, 9am at Goldsborough) on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month. We will aim to read the banns two months before the wedding date.

If either or both of you live elsewhere, you need to arrange for your banns to be read at your local parish church. You will need to obtain a certificate from that church confirming that this has been done; there will be a fee for this that is payable to your local parish church, this is in addition to the fees paid here. We must be in receipt of this certificate prior to your ceremony or we will not be able to go ahead with your service.

To find your local parish church please look at the following website: www.achurchnearyou.com

Witnesses

The witnesses can be up to 6 people who (as well as bride and groom) sign the Marriage Document. The only rules about your witnesses are that they should be 'old enough to know what they are doing'.

Marriage Document

Changes to the Civil Partnerships, marriages and deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019 were implemented in May 2021. This will mean you will no longer receive your marriage certificate on your wedding day. You, your witnesses and the officiating Priest will sign a marriage document that will be lodged at the Registry Office within 14 days of your wedding. Your details will then be added to the central digital marriage register; it is at that point that your marriage certificate will be available to purchase from Harrogate Registrar from their website <https://northyorkshire.zipporah.co.uk/Registrars.Live/CertificateProcess> There is a fee payable to North Yorkshire Council for each certificate.

Hymns and Music for a Wedding

Please contact the organist to discuss your choice of hymns and music. They will be pleased to make further suggestions and to play music and hymns for you, to help you make your choice.

You must confirm your final choice of hymns, and the order in which they will be used, with the priest taking your service before printing service sheets.

It may be possible to play appropriate CDs during the service; however, you will need to discuss this and the choice of music with the minister taking your service. We recommend that the bride arrives to 'live' music, rather than a recording, since this gives greater flexibility and control.

We welcome other performers; choirs etc. but please check with the clergy before making a booking. Our organists are professionals, for whom wedding fees are a source of income, so we will ask you to pay the church organist fee, even if you then use another organist (with whom you will need to make separate financial arrangements).

Information about hymns and music can be found on the following websites, but please remember that not every organ is suitable for every piece of music.

www.pnms.co.uk/weddings or www.yourchurchwedding.org

Choosing Readings

You must include at least one Bible reading or you may wish to use two. You can also include an additional reading (prose or poetry) from another source. Please choose readings that means something to you as a couple.

You may wish to choose readers - relatives or close friends who will value the privilege and appreciate the readings you have chosen.

A selection of suitable readings may be found on www.yourchurchwedding.org website.

Photographs & Videos

We welcome photography and video recording, and we will provide guidelines for photographers, to ensure that your wedding service goes smoothly, without undue interruption or distraction, and in an attitude of respect for God, the church and yourselves. There is a copyright fee to be paid if you are using a Videographer to record your service.

It is important that your photographer speaks to the Vicar taking the service to find out which area of the church, and when photographs can take place. It is also important the photographer arrives in good time before the service to set up.

Confetti

We understand that you may wish to use confetti, but we ask you and your guests to be aware of the difficulties for our volunteers in cleaning up afterwards and the environmental and visual impact that it causes.

If you choose to use confetti, then use organic versions like dried rose petals or leaves. In our experience these are the most desirable options by couples and can be purchased online or via pet suppliers cheaper than the usual wedding suppliers.

Confetti cannons, confetti shooters or party poppers are not permitted.

Please only use biodegradable organic confetti.

Flowers for your Wedding

The following section is based upon the experience of our flower arrangers, who will be happy to advise further if asked.

- You are welcome to remove any arrangements that you have provided to take them to your reception. When removing arrangements, please ensure these are on your own or your florists stands. Please do not remove any of our stands, pedestals etc. However, the pedestal in St John's can be moved for your service to be replaced afterwards if required.
- Please ensure that all waste is removed from the church and grounds by the flower arrangers. We do not have the facilities to dispose of rubbish.
- At Festival times special conditions apply
 - During Lent (the six weeks before Easter) and Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) please arrange for all flowers to be removed from church immediately after your wedding service.
 - At Easter, Christmas and Harvest our own arrangements will be in place, you may not require any further flowers; please check with the church.
- Under no circumstances must anything be nailed or pinned to any surface in the church.
- If using arrangements on pew ends, please remember that you will need space to walk down the aisle. Florist's ribbon alone usually works best here.
- Please contact our flower contacts who will be pleased to offer advice and agree your plans. Your florist will need to make arrangements to access the church if it is usually locked. Please also let us know if you will be leaving an arrangement in church after your wedding.

At St Mary's most of the year there will be an arrangement behind the Altar, please leave this in place unless you have planned to supply an arrangement.

If you choose to add your own arrangements at St Mary's, we suggest you might consider from the following:

- a pedestal below the pulpit
- Two side windowsills
- Pew-ends (using ribbon to attach)
- a small decoration at the base of the font
- Arrangements placed inside the porch but **not** on the external stone entrance arch.

Bells

There are bells which can be rung at weddings at St John the Baptist, Knaresborough and at St Mary the Virgin, Goldsborough (not at Holy Trinity, Nidd or Brearton).

The Bell ringers aim to ring for about 15 minutes after the end of the service. They plan to be at church for about 25 minutes and the time they arrive is based upon our knowledge of the likely length of the service. There is a fee for this service and you must apply on the application form if you are requiring the bells.

Being fashionably late for your Wedding

It is expected and important that your wedding ceremony begins on time. If it is delayed by 15 minutes, then we reserve the right to shorten the service accordingly. If it is delayed by 30 minutes then the Organist, Bellringers & Choir will be sent home, and the Clergy reserves the right to cancel the service. **All payments will be retained.**

Unavailable dates within the Church Calendar

Due to the church calendar, we are unable to hold marriage ceremonies the week before or after Easter or the week before Christmas until the week after New Year.

Charges for your Church Wedding

Parish of Knaresborough Wedding Fees 2026/27 (there will be a yearly increase)

At the time of booking each couple will receive a unique identification number. Please use this number when paying by BACS.	Amount £	TOTAL TO PAY
Local Church wedding planning & booking tariff (non-refundable)	575	
Marriage Preparation Day	100	
CHURCH MONIES DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING		675
Diocesan Statutory Fee (there will be an increase on 01/01/27)	257	
Church of England Marriage Service Statutory Fee (there will be an increase on 01/01/27)	348	
Verger's Fee	55	
STATUTORY CHURCH MONIES PAYABLE TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING DATE		660
Basic wedding cost £1,335		
EXTRAS - TO BE PAID WITH STATUTORY CHURCH MONIES 2 MONTHS PRIOR TO CEREMONY		
Organist (please note if you bring your own organist, you will still be required to pay the resident organist)	115	
Professional Video Recording Permit (Payable to the Organist)	90	
Choir - St John's, Knaresborough	180	
Choir - St Mary's, Knaresborough	130	
Bells - St John's, Knaresborough	190	
Bells - St Mary's, Knaresborough	130	
<p>All amounts must be paid upon receipt of invoice. All invoices to be paid by BACS - the bank details for the relevant church will be shown on your invoice.</p> <p>DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION CODE.</p>		
Maximum amount payable for a wedding at St John's, Knaresborough		1,910
Maximum amount payable for a wedding at St Mary's, Goldsborough		1,800
Maximum amount payable for a wedding at Holy Trinity, Knaresborough		1,540
Maximum amount payable for a wedding at St John's, Brearton		1,540
Maximum amount payable for a wedding at St Paul and St Margaret, Nidd		1,540

The Marriage Service - Its Content and Shape



The Preparation

Arrival of the Bride

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Hymn (*Print full words*)

The Preface (*Christian Understanding of Marriage*) The Declarations

A Message for Your Wedding

(The Ministry of the Word)

Bible Reading (s)

Another reading you have chosen (*if you wish*)

A hymn (*if you want more than two*) (*Print full words here*)

The Marriage

The Vows - of love and faithfulness

Giving of the ring(s)

Declaration of the Marriage

Blessing of the Marriage

The Legal Formalities

Signing of the Marriage Documents

Either here or at the end of the service

Prayers

We ask for God's love and blessing on your life together

The Lord's Prayer

The Dismissal

Hymn

Final Blessing

For full details of the service and resources that will assist you from now until well after 'The Day' please look at www.yourchurchwedding.org or Google "Church of England Marriage Service"