



PARISH OF HIGH ONGAR WITH NORTON MANDEVILLE

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Notes for those to be married at St Mary's High Ongar, St James Marden Ash or All Saints Norton Mandeville

We look forward to preparing you for marriage and for your wedding day. These notes are intended to cover most of the common practical questions that couples ask, and detail the options/ choices which couples will need to make in preparing for their wedding within the Parish.

Legal Preliminaries

Once we have provisionally agreed to conduct your wedding at High Ongar, one of the following three legal procedures must then be followed:

(a) If either or both of you are resident in the Parish of High Ongar or on its Electoral Roll then the simplest, cheapest and most common arrangement is for you to be married after the calling of Banns. Banns will need to be called in the parish church(es) in which you are both residing and/ or in the church(es) on whose Electoral Roll(s) either or both of you are listed, not more than three months in advance of your wedding day. Banns Certificate(s) evidencing that Banns have appropriately been called in churches other than High Ongar must be seen by us in advance of the rehearsal.

(b) If neither of you lives in the parish, then you may still marry at a church within the parish under Banns if you have a 'qualifying connection' with the parish. A qualifying connection is any *one* of the following:

That one of you:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- was baptised in the parish concerned **or**
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish **or**
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months **or**

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months **or**

That one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish

If you are unable to provide documentary proof of your qualifying connection, then you will have to swear a statutory declaration with a solicitor who is likely to charge you a fee.

- (c) Even if one or both of you resides in the parish and/ or is on the High Ongar and/ or has a Qualifying Connection, there are some circumstances, eg where one of you is a foreign national, where Banns are not legally sufficient. In these circumstances, you will need to apply for a Common Licence, not more than three months in advance of your wedding day. In order to apply for a Common Licence, you will need to book a meeting either locally with The Revd Susan Cooper (Tel 01277 362173) or with the Diocesan Registrar, Mr B J Hood, (tel: 01245 259470). Both would ask you to complete a form and swear an affidavit, as well as paying a fee. Foreign nationals would need to take their passport or identity card to this meeting. You will then be sent/ issued with your Marriage Licence which must be seen by us in advance of the rehearsal.
- (d) Otherwise you will usually have to apply for a Special Licence from the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, not more than three months in advance of your wedding day. They will only usually grant such a licence if you have a strong and bona fide connection with the Church and/or Town. In order to obtain an application form for a Special Licence you need to contact:

The Faculty Office
1 The Sanctuary
Westminster
London
SW1P 3JT
Tel: 0207 222 5381

Marriage Preparation and Order of Service

Couples are usually offered a short course of 2 one-hour sessions of Marriage Preparation, which will cover 1) 'Bible Basics of marriage' and 2) 'Communication & Conflict'. During these sessions, the wedding service will also be explained any options discussed and agreed. Subsequent discussions/ decisions can be dealt with on the phone, via e-mail/ correspondence or at additional meeting(s) as necessary. The standard order is as follows:

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Entrance of the Bride | 7. Bible Reading(s) |
| 2. The Welcome | 8. Address |
| 3. Hymn 1 | 9. Hymn 3 |
| 4. The Marriage | 10. Signing of the registers |
| 5. Prayers and Blessing | 11. Bridal Procession |
| 6. Hymn 2 | |

Some aspects of the service cannot legally be altered, although others, eg the number of hymns, are flexible and subject to your choice. Should you require a printed Order of Service, which is preferable, it will be your responsibility to have this printed, but please provide us with a copy before the rehearsal. Alternatively, we can supply our standard hymn book, Mission Praise, for the congregation, although you will then be restricted in choosing hymns from this book.

Hymns

If you need advice in selecting appropriate hymns, we can provide a non-exhaustive list of potential options during marriage preparation.

Entrance and Exit Music

The traditional, well known ones are placed first in the suggestions below.

Bridal March (at the beginning):

Bridal March from Lohengrin – Wagner

Trumpet Voluntary – Purcell

Horn Pipe from the Water Music - Handel

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba – Handel

Wedding March (at the end):

Wedding March from Midsummer Night's Dream – Mendelssohn

Trumpet Voluntary – Purcell

Musicians

We can book an organist for your wedding. However, you may organise your own organist and any other musicians you would like to assist with the service, although please let us know what you have arranged.

Rings

You will need to decide and advise us whether you will be having one or two rings.

Wedding Vows

Traditionally, the husband vows “to love and to cherish” his wife, but the wife vows to “love, cherish and obey” her husband. However, you may choose for the bride ‘not to obey’ and we will discuss which version of the vows you wish to take as part of your marriage preparation.

Bride being ‘Given Away’

Similarly the traditional wedding service includes the Bride being ‘given away’ by her father to the Groom. However, you are free to choose for someone other than the Bride’s father to give her away, or not to have a ‘giving away’.

Bible Reading(s)

The service contains a Bible reading, although you may have more than one. The most common choice is 1 Corinthians 13 (“And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love.....”). Other wedding favourites include: Ephesians 5:21-33, Colossians 3:12-17, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 John 3:11-24 and 1 John 4:7-21. However, you may choose a reading from any part of the Bible and we will discuss this as part of marriage preparation.

Signing of the Registers, Marriage Certificate and Witnesses

At the end of the service, the bride and groom, the bridesmaids, best man and both sets of parents move over to where the wedding registers will be signed (the exact location will be explained at the rehearsal.) Two legal witnesses (who must be over 18) are required. Photographers usually take a ‘signing the registers’ shot at this point. Immediately after the signing of the registers, you will be

presented with your wedding certificate, which you will need to take with you if travelling abroad and the Bride's passport retains her Maiden Name. After these legal formalities, the wedding party processes up the isle to the chosen music. Again, the exact logistics of this will be explained at the rehearsal.

Bells

If you would like a team of bell ringers to ring before and/ or after your wedding you will need to book this with our Parish Administrator, Dawn Cosford (Tel 01277 366047).

Flowers

If you would like to have flowers in the church building, then please contact our Parish Administrator to discuss your requirements and arrange a time for your florist to have access to the building prior to the Wedding.

Rehearsal

We will need up to an hour for a rehearsal, usually the evening before the wedding. At this, we need the two of you (obviously!), the best man, the chief bridesmaid, and preferably the other bridesmaids, ushers and the bride's father or whoever is going to 'give away' the bride (if anyone).

Parking

Parking at all 3 churches is very limited. You are advised to investigate suitable arrangements depending on the number of guests you are inviting and advise them accordingly.

Confetti

Confetti must not be thrown in the church or the churchyard, but may be at the gates/ streets surrounding the churchyard.

Photography/ Videos

Apart from during the signing of the Registers, after the entrance of the bride, no flashes or other bright lights are to be used until the wedding party processes down the isle at the end. During the service, any photography without flashes/ lights must be unobtrusive and the operator(s) must not move around the church. All this is primarily so that you are not unduly disturbed on your special day!

Mobile Phones

All mobiles should be switched off for the duration of the service.

Fees

Please refer to the latest fees sheet.