

St Blasius Old Parish Church  
Shanklin

Your Wedding



## Our Wedding

*Congratulations on your forthcoming Wedding. This leaflet gives you information which we hope you will find helpful.*

### Charges

*The following is a list of the charges involved:*

<i>Publication of Banns</i>	<i>£22.00</i>
<i>Marriage Service</i>	<i>£262.00</i>
<i>Marriage Certificate at Registration</i>	<i>£3.50</i>
	<i><u>£287.50</u></i>

*Other charges:*

<i>Organist</i>	<i>£75.00</i>
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*If you would like the church building to be heated for your wedding there will be a charge of £25.00 for providing this service.*

*Flowers - see overleaf*

*Fees will be collected by the Priest-in-charge at the time of the wedding rehearsal. Payment for all Statutory Fees should be made by way of a cheque payable to "St. Blasius PCC". This cheque should also include the costs for heating the church if so requested. Payment for any other services (such as for the organist and/or choir) should also be made to the Priest-in-charge at the wedding rehearsal in cash so that it can be passed on directly to those providing the services.*

*Above charges are subject to change.*

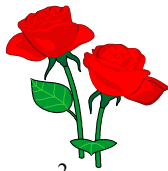
## Wedding Flowers

*There are several options for you to consider:*

- 1. Throughout the year, except in Lent, there are always floral displays on the altar, side-table and near to the pulpit. These are arranged by volunteers and, without exception, look lovely. You are welcome to use these flowers as decoration for your wedding service but you would not, however, have a choice in either the colour or type of flower used. Should you choose this option, we would welcome any donation to the church you feel is appropriate.*
- 2. You could employ your own florist.*
- 3. We could buy and arrange your flowers. There would be a minimum charge of £75 and the final total would depend on the type of flowers chosen and the number needed. The form and timing of the payment for any flowers we buy and arrange for you should be co-ordinated with the flower-arranging volunteer.*
- 4. You and your family may wish to arrange the flowers yourselves.*

*In all cases, the flowers on the altar, side-table and by the pulpit must remain for the Sunday services and cannot be taken away.*

*When you have decided on your option, please contact  
Margaret Giller  
on (01983) 861157 to finalise the arrangements.*



## **Your Wedding**

Traditionally, the bride and groom enter the church separately - the groom first with the best man, and the bride at the time set for the start of the service, on the arm of her father or another relative or friend (it does not need to be a man). However, the bride may enter alone if she wishes, or the couple may enter together.

The minister will welcome the congregation. Your family and friends have an important role to play as witnesses and supporters of your marriage.

The minister will read an introduction explaining what Christians believe about marriage. He or she will also ask, as the law requires, if anyone knows any reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.

### ***Declarations***

You will be asked to promise before God, your friends and your families, that you will love, comfort, honour and protect your partner and be faithful to them as long as you both shall live.

The minister will also ask the congregation to declare that they will support and uphold your marriage.

### ***Readings and talk or sermon***

It is usual to have one or more readings (one of which should be from the Bible) and the minister will generally give a talk or sermon.

### ***Vows***

Turning to each other, the bride and groom take each other's right hand and make vows.

## *Rings*

The couple then exchange a ring or rings as a 'sign of their marriage' and a reminder of the vows.

## *Proclamation*

The minister will then declare that you are now husband and wife. The minister does not 'marry you'; you marry each other. The minister just directs you in this and then tells everyone that you have done it properly.

## *Prayers*

In the prayers God's blessing and help is asked for you. There may be a prayer for the gift of children, but every couple will have their own feelings about this, so it's best to discuss the details with your minister. You may wish to help choose the prayers or to write your own.

## *Signing of the register*

After you have exchanged your vows, the bride, groom and two witnesses must sign the register. This is a legal requirement and the minister will give you a copy of the marriage certificate.

## **A wedding is one day - a marriage is a lifetime**

You have probably already spent many hours planning your wedding. There are so many things to think about - the dress, the cake, whom to invite, the honeymoon. All of these are important, but the wedding is just one day, while marriage should last for the rest of your lives.

Alongside the wedding preparations it is also important to spend time as a couple talking through your expectations of marriage. However much you think you have in common, you are still two separate individuals with different backgrounds, personalities, experiences, hopes and fears. The minister who is taking your service will probably want to spend some time with you talking through these issues.

Churches sometimes offer marriage preparation, perhaps as part of a group with other couples. This gives you an opportunity to think through possible areas of difficulty and how you will handle them as a couple.

### **Topics might include:**

- Communication
- Money
- Coping with conflict
- Relationships
- In-laws and family issues
- Children

We hope that you have a wonderful wedding day and that it will mark the beginning of a long and very happy marriage.



## Church of England Marriage Measure launched on 1st October 2008

Thousands of couples dreaming of a church wedding now have more churches to choose from, following the introduction of the Church of England Marriage Measure on October 1st.

The new Measure means the Church of England's network of 16,000 churches - ancient or modern, intimate or grand, simple or spectacular - can offer a wider wedding welcome than at any time in the Church's history.

The changes mean an engaged couple are welcome to be married in church in a parish if just one of these applies:

- one of them was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish;
- one of them has ever lived in the parish for six months or more;
- one of them has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more;
- one of their parents has lived in the parish for six months or more in their child's lifetime;
- one of their parents has regularly attended public worship there for six months or more in their child's lifetime;
- their parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

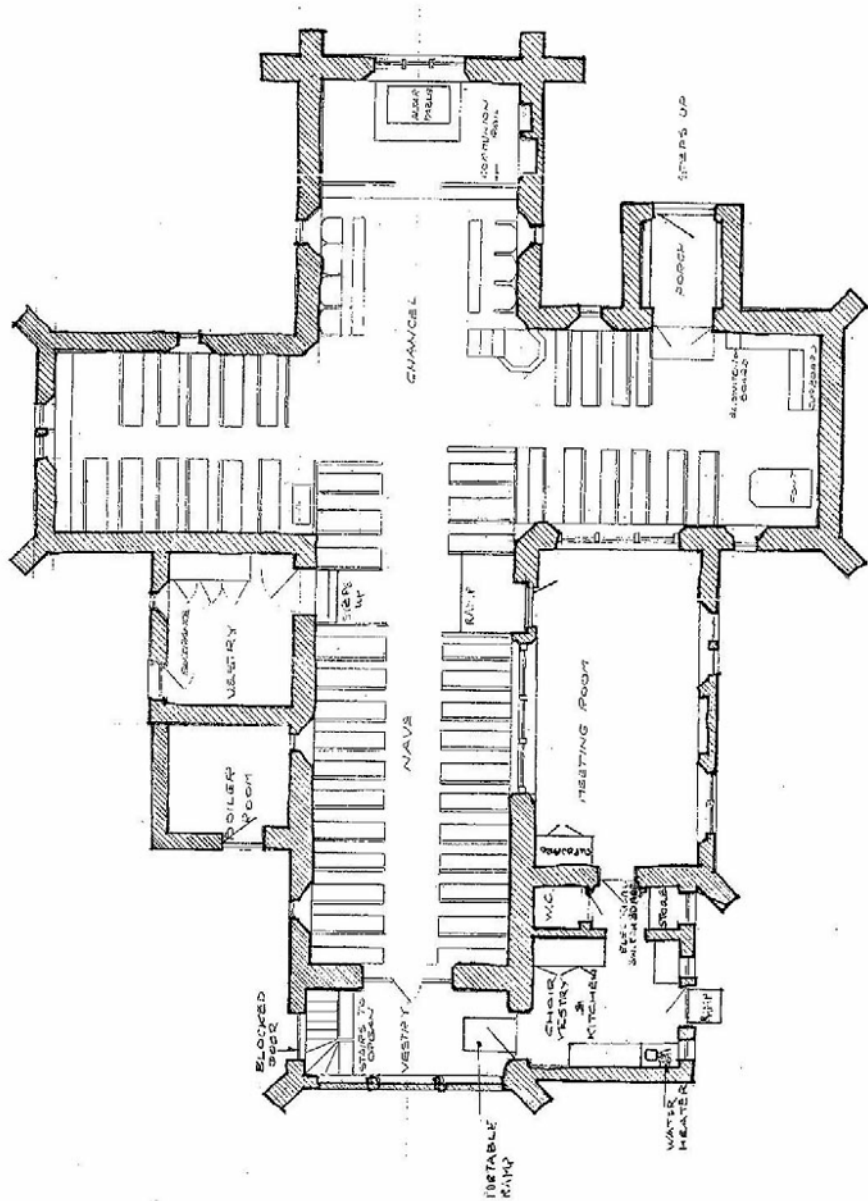
*(All of these refer to Church of England services)*

Previous law established a right for a couple to marry in the Church of England in the Parish Church where one or both of them lived, whether they were baptised or not, and whether they were churchgoers or not. To marry in any other parish required a special licence or six months of regular attendance followed by entry on the local church electoral roll.

But new laws, initiated by the Church of England and approved by Parliament, add to this right of residency, making it just as easy for couples to marry in a church where they have a family or other special connection, even if they don't live there.

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## Contacts

### **Priest-in-Charge:**

The Revd Victor Standing (01983) 862264  
St Blasius Rectory,  
Rectory Road, Shanklin, PO37 6NX  
[enquiries@st-blasius-church.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-blasius-church.org.uk)

### **Churchwardens:**

Mr Ray Dyke (01983) 865947  
Mr Eric Walsh (01983) 863332

### **Vergers:**

Mr Douglas Kelly (01983) 868834

### **Organist:**

Mr Lawrence Bate (01983) 567994

### **Flowers:**

Mrs Margaret Giller (01983) 861157

### **Website:**

[st-blasius-church.org.uk](http://st-blasius-church.org.uk)

## A prayer for those who worship in this church

*O God, make the door of this house wide enough  
to receive all who need human love and fellowship;  
narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.*

*Make its threshold smooth enough to be no  
stumbling-block to children,  
nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough  
to turn back the tempter's power.*

*God make the door of this house the gateway to  
Thine eternal Kingdom.*



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