



The United Benefice of Hunsdon with Widford and Wareside  
*Knowing Christ and Making Him Known*

Rector: Revd Mark Dunstan  
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### **How much will it cost us to marry in church?**

This is an important question. Sadly, the answer is a bit complicated!

The Church of England's dedicated weddings website, [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org), makes plain that you should be able to get married for under £550.

*"There is a required legal fee for marrying in a church. In 2023 it costs ... £539 if you marry in your home parish. This is set by the Church of England nationally and is the same for every church."*

The paragraph above covers most eventualities (for residents of the parish), but those who have no legal "qualifying connection" with the church in which they wish to marry may face a considerably higher bill for a "Special Licence." The Rector will tell you what is required for your wedding.

Overleaf is a breakdown of the fees that we charge in our benefice. There are three separate sections to the fees.

1. The statutory fees (in black) are set nationally and must be paid for any wedding. They contribute towards the cost of paying the Rector's living costs and the parish church's costs both for maintaining the church building and for the church's work. These are the "legal necessities."
2. The extras (in blue) are mainly connected with the other people who help to make your wedding day happen. You do not need to have these services, and if you choose not to have them, you don't have to pay for them. But without them, your wedding would lack a certain sparkle!
3. The final section (in green) is for any additional voluntary contribution. We're not in the business of making a profit out of you, but maintaining our beautiful building is a very expensive undertaking, and we receive no help from the government or any other source. We hope that you will be willing to support the on-going work of our church by making a contribution.

*If you would really struggle to pay even the statutory fees, please don't worry. We believe in marriage, so much so that we wouldn't want finance to put you off getting married. Please talk to us about the situation, and we will do what we can to help.*

### Table of Fees<sup>1</sup>

Statutory fees	Diocese	PCC (Church)	Other	Total
At marrying church				
Publication of Banns		£34.00		£34.00
Service	£229.00	£276.00		£505.00
				<b>£539.00</b>
At other churches (if one of the parties lives in another parish)				
Publication of Banns		£34.00		£34.00
Banns certificate		£17.00		£17.00
				<b>£51.00</b> (Paid to each church)
<b>Extras</b>				
Organist			£90.00	£90.00 <sup>2</sup> (Double if videoed)
Bells			£100.00	£100.00
Verger			£20.00	£20.00
Heating (especially Oct-Apr)		£60.00		£60.00
				<b>£270.00</b>
<b>Additional voluntary contribution</b>				
Church running costs	e.g.	£300.00		<b>£300.00</b>
<b>Grand Total Payable</b>				<b>£1160.00</b>

<sup>1</sup> These figures are correct for 2023. If you are planning to marry after 2023, you should expect the prices to be slightly higher.

<sup>2</sup> This depends on the organist available on your chosen date. Sometimes we must pay and charge more.