



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

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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, makes plain that you should be able to get married for under £500.¹

“There is a required legal fee for marrying in a church. If you marry outside your own parish, it is £497 in 2017 and £456 if you marry in your home parish (providing you both live there). 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) **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!

¹ By way of comparison, the standard charge for a civil marriage (including legal notices and certificates) on a Saturday in a Hertfordshire register office this year is £508, and £563 for a venue.

3. The final section (in red) contains additional voluntary contributions. We're not in the business of making a profit out of you, but keeping our beautiful building going 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. The church also incurs expenditure on materials and catering for the Marriage Matters+ day, so a contribution to these costs is also welcomed.

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 Fees²

| Statutory fees | Diocese | PCC (Church) | Other | Total |
|--|---------|-----------------|---------|---|
| Publication of Banns | | £28.00 | | £28.00 |
| Banns certificate ³ | | £13.00 | | £13.00 |
| | | | | £41.00 (Paid to home church) |
| Banns at marrying church | | £28.00 | | £28.00 |
| Service | £193.00 | £231.00 | | £424.00 |
| Marriage certificate | £4.00 | | | £4.00 (Extras £10 each) |
| | | | | £497.00 ⁴ |
| Extras | | | | |
| Organist | | | £30.00 | £30.00 ⁵ (Double if videoed) |
| Bells | | | £100.00 | £100.00 |
| Verger | | | £20.00 | £20.00 |
| Heating (especially Oct-Apr) | | £50.00 | | £50.00 |
| | | | | £200.00 |
| Additional voluntary contribution | | | | |
| Church running costs | e.g. | £275.00 | | £275.00 |
| "Marriage Matters" day | e.g. | £25.00 | | £25.00 |
| | | | | £300.00 |
| Grand Total | | | | £997.00 |

² These figures are correct for 2017. If you are planning to marry after 2017, you should expect the prices to be slightly higher.

³ Not necessary if both partners live in the parish in which the wedding is to take place.

⁴ This calculation (£497.00) assumes one of the partners lives in the parish in which the wedding is to take place. If this is not the case, the banns must be called in both parishes of residence (an extra £41).

⁵ This depends on the organist available on your chosen date. Sometimes we must pay and charge more.