

Marriage at St Nicolas Parish Church *Information*

We are blessed at St Nicolas in being able to marry so many people. We welcome all enquiries at every stage of preparation. Please ask!

**Every act of worship in St Nicolas is unique –
a time and a place in which we hear and receive God’s promises.**

This is true at weddings just as on Sundays and at every other service. Trust us to ensure that every wedding is rich in promise and serenity – and that all will know how deep and life-long is God’s love and promise for all who are married here.

**Every service in St Nicolas is also part of the 900 year old story
of God’s love in and for the people of Kings Norton.**

In our ancient building, we want everyone to know that the same story continues – for all. We are a living community, open to all and trusting in God’s loving promises. This is why we encourage everyone being married here to share in the wider life of the church – not as a duty, but as people like us, wanting more of the love which is God’s gift for life. We do ask you to visit the parish website on www.kingsnorton.org.uk to discover more of our whole life as a church.

We have much experience in what can help every wedding to be the day that every bride and groom wants and needs – and also of what may be unhelpful. Please ask!

With our prayers and good wishes in all that you hope for.

*Revd Larry Wright
Team Rector of Kings Norton*

Questions most frequently asked

Can I be married in St Nicolas Church?

If you can answer 'Yes' to the following questions, then you can automatically be married in St Nicolas Church:

- Are you both Relevant Nationals? That is are you both either:
 - British Citizens
 - Irish Citizens
 - Persons with leave granted under EUSS
 - Persons with pending application for leave under EUSS – where the application was made prior to 30 June 2021
- Are you both over 18 years old?
- Does one or both of you live in the parish?
- Are you both single, with no previous marriages that have been dissolved?

If you both live outside the parish of Kings Norton, the law requires you to “qualify” for marriage here:

Either by

1. Qualifying Connection

Connections that qualify are for either the bride or the groom to have:

- been baptised in the parish
- been confirmed and the confirmation has been entered in a church register book belonging to the parish, having been prepared for confirmation in the parish
- at any time had their usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months

- at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months
- one of bride or groom's parents has at any time during the person's lifetime had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months or has habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months
- Either the bride or groom's parents or grandparents were married in the parish

You will need to be able to prove one of these connections with written evidence.

Or by

2. Regular attendance at Sunday Worship in the Parish for 6 months

To do this, if you both live outside the parish, one or both of you must attend worship at one of the parish's churches regularly for at least six months before the banns can be called. This means that you will need to begin attending worship at least **nine** months before the date on which you would like to be married. The law requires that we have documentary proof that you are attending regularly. The Marriage Clerks will explain how you will provide this, and give you an attendance diary to complete.

Anyone wanting to be married has to prove that they are legally free to marry. Marriage by Banns is the usual way of proving this, but in some cases, marriage by Licence may be required. We will advise you.

Marriage by Banns

This means that, by law, banns (notice of marriage) must be "called" in

the parish in which you are to be married for three consecutive weeks in the three months before the wedding date. Anyone who knows any reason in law why you may not be married is asked to declare it. Your banns will be called in St Nicolas' during the 10.30 am service on three Sundays during the 3 months prior to the date of your wedding.

1. If you both live in the parish of Kings Norton, you do not need to arrange for banns to be called elsewhere.

2. If one or both of you live in other parishes, you need to arrange for banns to be called in these other parishes as well. This is a legal requirement. The marriage administrator will advise you on the right time to arrange this. There is a fee for this which changes on a yearly basis. After your banns have been read for the third time, the parish priest(s) will complete a banns certificate, which you will need to collect and bring to your wedding rehearsal.

It is also sometimes possible to arrange a marriage by Licence, the most common ones being,

Marriage by Common (Bishop's) or Superintendent Registrar's Licence

This is what happens if:

- A wedding has to be arranged without there being time for the banns to be called or has to be re-arranged at short notice
- For good reason a couple do not wish their names to be read out in public
- One or both of the couple is not a Relevant National
- You are currently living abroad

NB. If we advise you that you will need to be married by Licence, we will tell you what you need to do next.

Documents Required as Proof of Nationality

Valid (current) UK Passport **OR** Proof of EUSS (you will need to provide a 6 digit 'share code')

If you can produce the above, this is all that is required.

If not, see 3 - 5

3. Certificate of Registration/Certificate of Naturalisation as a British Citizen from the Secretary of State **OR**

4. If born before 01/01/1983: a UK birth certificate

OR

5. If born between 01/01/1983 and 30/06/2006:

a full UK birth certificate (i.e. a birth certificate that shows parents' full names) **AND**

proof that one parent was a British National or proof that they had indefinite leave to remain in the UK at the time of the person's birth (*e.g.*

British passport which was valid at the time of the birth or parent's UK birth certificate from before 01/01/1983. If in doubt please contact

Diocesan Registry for advice)

AND

(if relying on the father as the British National) the parents' marriage certificate

Proof of current use of name & address

(one from the list below)

Utility bill (from last 6 months)

Bank or Building Society statement (from last month)

Council tax bill (from last 12 months)

Mortgage statement (from last 12 months)

Current Residential Tenancy Agreement: or

Valid full UK Driving Licence or provisional Driving Licence

Proof of Change of Name

(if relevant)

If either of you has changed your name from that shown on any of the documentation, then you must provide evidence of the change of name (e.g. deed poll, previous marriage certificate, decree absolute)

Our Parish Office contact details are here:

The Parish Office, 81 The Green, Kings Norton

Birmingham, B38 8RU

Tel No: 0121 458 3289

Email: weddings@kingsnorton.org.uk

Website: www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Our website has a whole section dedicated to weddings.

What next?

You will need to make an appointment with the Wedding Administrator, who can be reached at weddings@kingsnorton.org.uk