

## **Weddings at St Leonards**

### **Our Services**

#### **Sundays**

9.00 am Holy Communion

A traditional service from the Book of Common Prayer

10.30 am Parish Communion

A service for all ages (2nd Sunday in each month

Parade Service for Uniformed Organisations)

# Congratulations!

We are very pleased you want to get married and are considering St. Leonard's Church for your wedding.

Marriage is a joyful occasion but something to be taken very seriously - it is a life-long commitment. As a Church, we value marriage as a rewarding and solid foundation for a relationship and family life.

Legally there are a number of issues around marriage

You can marry in a Church of England church if you can show:

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

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

That one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish

If you think you meet the criteria then contact the Vicar.

The next stage is completing an application form; this doesn't guarantee the wedding will take place.

If you don't meet this criteria, still get in touch, as we can explore if there are other options open to you. If you have been divorced then you will need to contact the Vicar directly.

# Getting married at St. Leonard's

It is important the wedding is planned and prepared for correctly. The Vicar will be happy to advise you about fees, requirements and practicalities of the wedding and will contact you to discuss your wedding and prepare you both. You will be asked to attend Church, especially when the banns are to be read. In addition we have highlighted some of the issues to consider as well as certain guidelines we set.

1. You will need to arrange whatever music and hymns you want, in due course, with the organist directly.
2. St. Leonard's doesn't have a music system we would guarantee to work for any other music you may wish to play .
3. Additional music has to be cleared with the Vicar first.
4. It may not be the Vicar of St. Leonard's who conducts the ceremony.
5. A rehearsal will be arranged and will usually take place in the week before the ceremony.
6. All fees are payable on the date of the rehearsal.
7. No photographs are to be taken during the ceremony (apart from the official photographer) – there are plenty of opportunities after the service for photographs to be taken by your guests.

If you are having a video of the wedding then you must ensure the person doing it has the correct licence enabling him/her to do so. The licence must be produced at the rehearsal, certainly before any recording takes place. If you are planning to include the words of hymns in your service sheet then copyright permission must be secured by yourselves. Copyright is a matter we take seriously as a Church.

[www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org) ... this is a useful website in helping you prepare for the wedding

As a Church we pray for you both as you prepare for the wedding and in your future lives together