

The Parish Church of St. Andrew Corbridge

# Celebrating your Wedding in Church



## **Celebrating your Wedding in Church.**

For centuries, couples have come to Church to celebrate their marriage. The Church service is a beautiful and time-honoured ceremony, where words, music, bells, architecture and prayer provide a dignified, richly symbolic and traditional beginning of a new life together. And most importantly, the priest blesses your marriage in God's name; this is the Church's unique privilege, as God pours upon you all the riches of his love and grace both on your Wedding Day and in all the years to come. There is nothing quite like a Christian marriage celebrated in God's house.

Here at St. Andrew's, we work very closely with all couples in planning this central part of the big day. Our clergy meet with each couple over a series of meetings to plan every aspect of the service, to explain its meaning and exquisite symbolism, and to talk together about how we can build strong and lasting marriages. Our organists are delighted to meet and discuss music, both hymns and songs and the all-important marches for the Bride's entrance and the concluding Wedding March. Our flower arrangers are happy to advise and assist with the choice of flowers, and we build bonds of friendship which, for some couples, means that children are in due course baptised and family life is celebrated.

## Getting Married in the Parish of Corbridge – Qualifications

Couples enquiring about Marriage in the Parish of Corbridge have to establish their right to do so. This applies to **St Andrew's Church, Corbridge** and **St Oswald's Church, Halton**.

*Please note that St James' Church, Newton, is closed for regular worship by a Pastoral Measure Scheme and has ceased to be licensed for marriages. Applications for marriage there have to be by application for a Special Licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury and such a licence will only be granted if there is a longstanding connection with that Church. The application for a Special Licence needs to be made through the Vicar of Corbridge and not any third party.*

Where one or both of the couple have been divorced and their former spouse(s) are still alive, they will need to discuss this with the Vicar to ensure that they fulfil the House of Bishops' Guidelines for remarriage in Church. Only those who fulfil the criteria may apply for marriage. This would be a confidential private pastoral discussion.

The right to marry involves the following criteria:

- **residents** (bride or groom or both) of the Parish of Corbridge have the right to marry in Church
- those on the **Electoral Roll** of the Parish of Corbridge have the right to marry in Church
- those with a **Qualifying Connection** have the right to marry in Church.

The meaning of 'Qualifying Connection':

- **baptism** in the parish
- entry of **confirmation** in the confirmation register of the parish (wherever confirmation was administered so long as presentation was from Corbridge)
- has **previously lived** in the Parish of Corbridge for at least **six months**
- has **worshipped habitually** at St Andrew's or St Oswald's for at least **six months**
- a **parent** of the bride or groom (including adoptive parents and guardians) has, during the applicant's life-time, lived in the parish for at least **six months**
- a **parent** of the bride or groom (including adoptive parents and guardians) has, during the applicant's lifetime, habitually worshipped at St Andrew's or St Oswald's for at least **six months**
- a **parent or grandparent** (including adoptive parents, guardians) was **married** in this parish
- a previous equivalent connection to St James', Newton, would count as qualification for marriage at St Andrew's or St Oswald's.

**If none of the above applies to either prospective Bride or Groom, you can create a Qualifying Connection by attending worship at St Andrew's regularly for a period of 6 months prior to the reading of Banns of Marriage. Many couples choose to do this and enjoy being part of the worshipping life of the Church. If you would like to do this, the Clergy will talk it through with you.**

We are very happy to meet with any couple who are interested in being married at Corbridge and will do our very best to advise and guide you through the process.

Marriage is normally by Banns.

Banns of Marriage are called on three Sundays prior to the Marriage in:

- St Andrew's, Corbridge (as the Parish Church where the marriage will take place)
- when one or both of the couple live outside of the Parish of Corbridge, the Parish(es) of their **usual** place of residence.

This relates to what address the couple put on the application form. If the address (for those who live in the same place) or addresses (when the two parties live in different addresses) are not in Corbridge Parish, Banns must be called in the Parish Church or Churches to which those addresses relate, in addition to reading the Banns at Corbridge.

Where a couple genuinely have more than one 'home' (i.e they live in more than one property or they have their own room in the parental home in which they reside for periods of time e.g. students, or those living away temporarily), the reading of Banns relates to the address they enter on the application for marriage form.

When Banns of Marriage are read in Churches other than Corbridge, the couple must obtain a Banns certificate from each Church in which Banns have been read and present it/them to the Officiating Minister in advance of the ceremony.

# How much does a Church of England Wedding cost?

The fees for a Church Wedding compare very favourably with many Civil Ceremony venues where there is the additional cost of a Civil Registrar.

In 2025, the Church of England fees are as follows:

Marriage Service fee (as set by law)	£ 544.00
Banns read in St. Andrew's	£ 37.00
<b>Basic fee</b>	<b>£ 581.00</b>

At St. Andrew's, Corbridge, there are various **additional costs**

Professional organist	£150.00
Verger (essential)	£ 30.00

During colder months, if we need heating £ 80.00

If you wish to book the Church choir:

The organist's fee increases to	£200.00
Choir fee	£150.00

If you wish to have the service videoed £30.00 but the cost of organist's fee and choir fee are doubled.

We always have flowers in Church (except during Advent and Lent) but if you wish to purchase additional flowers this can be arranged with our arrangers or local florists.

If Banns of Marriage are read at a Church other than the Church in which the Wedding takes place, the Banns fee is £37.00 and the Certificate of Banns is £19.00.

## Some quotations from the Marriage Service.

God of wonder and of joy,  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of wonder and joy.  
Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love.

I, N., take you, N., to be my wife / I, N., take you, N., to be  
my husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer;  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
with my body I honour you  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts,  
and a crown upon their heads.  
Bless them in their work and in their companionship,  
awake and asleep,  
in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death.

## **To find out more**

If you would like to explore getting married in Church,  
either in St. Andrew's email:

Canon David Kennedy, Vicar of Corbridge, at

[dkennedycorbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:dkennedycorbridge@btinternet.com)

May God bless you in all your relationships and through  
the gift of Marriage.