

Rehearsal

These are arranged a few days before the wedding. We walk couples through the service, and talk about how it will run. It's helpful, but not essential to have others who are involved there. You don't have to learn any words – it's just to make sure everything feels OK and familiar on the day. It's also an opportunity to ask any final questions.

Photos & Videos

We're happy for photos in church. We just ask people to be sensitive and to avoid flash photography during the vows and prayers. If you have an official photographer, we'll brief them before the service. Videos require an additional fee (see separate fees table).

Confetti

We're happy for confetti, as long as it's not thrown just outside the Church door (it blows into church and makes a mess!). Please ask guests to get the bio-degradable sort. The plastic sparkly sort hangs around for a very long time, and isn't good for the environment.

Reception

Most people will have their reception booked already. If you are still looking for a venue, the War Memorial Hall may be a convenient and cost-effective option. For availability and prices, please contact Mrs Susan Gerrard on 01524 414884. Email:warmemorialhall@yahoo.co.uk

And Finally

There will be lots more to talk about, but we hope that gets you started. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

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Morecambe Parish Church Registered Charity no. 1154323
(Holy Trinity, Poulton-le-Sands with St Laurence, Morecambe)

Getting Married At Morecambe Parish Church



Information to help you with your preparation and planning for your big day.

There are lots of things you need to think about for a wedding day. This takes you through the basic things you need to know for planning a wedding at Morecambe Parish Church.

Can we get married at MPC?

You can be married at MPC if you can prove 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 *or*

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 *or*

That one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish

NB. If this is the second marriage for either partner, you must discuss this, and complete additional forms. Also, marriages of people who are divorced cannot be registered without the original (red stamp) Decree Absolute being seen by the person booking the marriage. Please also note the Church of England is not authorised by law to register the marriage of same-sex couples.

Banns

Banns (reading out in church that you intend to be married) are usually a legal requirement before marriage in the Church of England. These must be read at 3 consecutive main Sunday services during the 3 months before your wedding. You will be told your banns dates, and please try to be at church for them. We recommend you come to ensure that they have been read correctly.

If you both live in our parish, this only needs to be done in our services. If either of you live in other parish(es) then banns must be read there also. You must pay each church a fee for banns (not included in our fees) and we must have the certificate they give you. If you have any

problems, please get in touch. Go to <http://www.achurchnearyou.com> and enter your post-code. Your parish will be highlighted in red.

Music, bells and choir

Once the legal bits are done, you'll have some choices to make. Our choir or bell-ringers can be requested to be on duty for your service. The fees sheet says what this will cost. Please let us know asap, so we can check availability. Music for coming into church, music for the end as you leave, and hymns or worship songs also need to be chosen.

Order of service

We will need to agree a running order with you. There are a number of options available, so look at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org> (the Church of England wedding website). It has ideas for readings, hymns, music and more. You can even listen to samples to check the tunes! If you get stuck, we have some suggestions to help you. Most people have an order of service printed (although you don't have to – we can use the church hymn books). **N.B. please don't** go to print until you have shown a draft order to the minister taking your service. Mistakes can be embarrassing or expensive!

Flowers

If you wish to have special flowers in Church, you can either use a florist, or do it yourself, or the church has a team who can provide flowers for church weddings. Estimates are on the fees sheet. If there is another wedding on the same day, it may be possible to share costs, and we can pass your contact details on to the other couple if you would like to be in touch. It is helpful for our church flower team to know whether you intend to leave flowers at church or take them with you to your reception. If you don't wish to have any special floral arrangements, our Sunday church team can try and ensure the church flowers are in keeping with your colour scheme. For all queries about flowers, contact Mrs Valerie Blaylock on 01524 410706.