



Your wedding at St Michael & All Angels' Church, Galleywood

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.
(1 John 4.16)

Marriage

A wedding is one of life's big moments! It is full of joy and celebration, and is also a time of solemn commitment, as a man and a woman pledge the rest of their lives to each other, in good times and in bad.

A marriage in Church is very special. It reminds us that marriage is a gift from God, given in creation, and it is one of the ways that the love and grace of God are known in the world. During the service, prayers are said for the couple, and we ask that God will richly bless their marriage.

A wedding service at St Michael's will contain the traditional vows, and the giving and receiving of rings. It will contain one or more readings from the Bible, to help us to reflect on God's love and grace as shown to us in Jesus Christ. It will also contain music, hymns and readings chosen by the couple. We always aim to make a wedding service as personal to each couple as we can.

St Michael's is a very beautiful place to get married, with a beautiful building and our peaceful grounds which always look great in photographs. We also offer a marriage preparation course, free of charge, which takes place on a Saturday in May each year.

Can I get married here?

You might be aware that there are laws about where people are allowed to get married.

Those who live in the parish of Galleywood have a legal right to get married at St Michael's. You can also get married here if you have a genuine historical or family connection with the Church or the parish. Those who don't qualify, but who live reasonably close by, can establish what's called a 'qualifying connection' by attending worship services at St Michael's regularly for six months. The full list of qualifying connections can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/just-engaged/finding-church-your-wedding>

(It is strongly recommended that you book your wedding ceremony before booking your reception.)

What if I have been divorced?

Despite our best intentions, sadly some marriages do end in divorce. At St Michael's, we recognise that God forgives us for the sins of the past and gives us another chance of happiness. We are happy to marry those who have been divorced as long as the vicar is satisfied that the proposed marriage is more likely to be successful than the failed marriage(s), and that enough time has passed for a measure of healing to have occurred from the hurts of the past. Please speak to the vicar for more details.

What does it cost?

For weddings taking place in 2025, the basic cost is **£631**. This is made up as follows:

	£
Statutory fees (fees we have to charge by law)	
The marriage service	544
The reading of banns	37
Fees set by the PCC	
Verger (who helps the vicar run the service)	50
Basic cost of a church wedding	631
In addition	
Bells	200
Organist	80
(this fee doubles for services which are videoed or live-streamed)	
Heating:	
Summer (June, July, Aug)	Nil
Early Autumn (Sept)	30
Late Autumn (Oct, Nov)	40
Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)	60
Early Spring (Mar, Apr)	40
Late Spring (May)	30

The reading of banns

The reading of banns means that your intention to marry is read out on three Sundays in Church at the main service of worship, to ask if anyone knows any reason in law why you may not marry. It's an old-fashioned way of doing things, but it is still something we are required to do by law. You need to have your banns read at St Michael's and at your local parish Church (if you live outside the parish of Galleywood). You will need to contact that Church and ask the vicar there to read your banns (the statutory cost for this in 2023 is £56). When that is done, they will give you a certificate to give to the vicar of St Michael's before your big day.

Can we take photos?

Yes. The vicar will show your official photographer the best angles, and they are free to take photos throughout the service. We do ask that your guests don't take photos during the service (except for the entrance of the bride, and the exit as husband and wife), so we don't spoil any big moments.

Can we take video or live-stream the service?

Yes. If you would like to video the service, we need a special copyright licence in order to video professionally recorded music (i.e., pop songs or classical music, etc., from CDs or the internet). It is your responsibility to get

this licence. There is a small cost for this, depending on the number of copies and how much music will appear in the video. You need a joint MCPS-PPL licence from this website:

<https://www.prsformusic.com/licences/releasing-music-products/limited-manufacture>

You will receive a certificate from this website, which you will need to pass to the vicar of St Michael's before your big day.

We can live-stream your service on our Facebook page, but due to copyright reasons we are not allowed to broadcast professionally recorded music at all.

Can we throw confetti?

Yes. But please ask your guests to only throw natural petal confetti, and definitely no plastic. Also, we throw confetti at the gate of the Church to avoid too much confetti being left on graves. Your photographer and vicar will arrange a good confetti photo for you.

How do I get my marriage certificate?

The law has changed in recent years. In the past you received your marriage certificate in the marriage service in Church. Now, to order your marriage certificate, you need to go onto this page a few days after your wedding has taken place: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/births-ceremonies-deaths> and then click on "Order a marriage certificate after a religious wedding" (the cost is £11).

To book your wedding or to ask any questions about any of this...

...please contact the vicar of St Michael's, Revd David Cattle, on vicar@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk or 01245 956953.