



Getting married at St. Swithin's

The Parish of Dronfield with Holmesfield

We are so pleased that you want to be married at St. Swithin's and will do all we can to make the service as happy and meaningful as possible. You will be in our prayers as the day approaches.

In this leaflet we try to help with the practical questions you may be asking. A preliminary booking is made by completing the online form at www.dronfieldteamministry.org/services/weddings. We will then arrange to confirm the booking by attending a 'wedding surgery' at the Parish Office, 21 Church Street, Dronfield, S18 1QB. We will book an appointment with you on the first Wednesday of the month, 7 – 8.30pm. To contact the Office: Tel. 01246 412328 / Email.

office@dronfieldteamministry.org

IN ADVANCE – Getting ready!

A Service of Wedding Music and Readings

On one Sunday early in the new year there is a service at Dronfield Parish Church at 6.30pm, which will help you select hymns and readings for your wedding service. You will also hopefully be able to meet the minister taking the service.

Banns of Marriage

Most Church of England weddings take place after the calling of 'banns of marriage' (and this must be done in both churches if you live in

different parishes). If you live outside England or are not a UK citizen you may need a special license. At St. Swithin's we call banns at the morning service on the first three Sundays of the month before your wedding month. Couples often come to hear their banns being read out as part of the build-up to their big day.

If you do not live in this parish, you must make arrangements for the calling of banns in your own Church of England parish church. You should contact your local church[†] at least three months before the marriage. They will then call your banns and you must collect the certificate for which there is a fee payable to that church of £54 (2024). This certificate, when collected, should be sent or brought to the Parish Office at least two weeks before the marriage.

PLANNING THE SERVICE

Music and Bells

Please let us know well in advance your music choices and whether you will want an organist and bells. The Church of England has produced a website to help plan your ceremony, visit: www.yourchurchwedding.org. Appropriate recorded music of your choice and other musicians (e.g. string quartet, small band) are perfectly acceptable - we want to help you make the day as personal as possible.

Flowers

There are flowers in church most of the year except Advent and Lent. The purchasing and arranging of any additional flowers is your responsibility. Please let us know whether or not you are planning special flower arrangements for your wedding day by calling Mrs Williams on 07748 251423. This is to avoid any possible clash with other special services that take place in the church from time to time. Access to the church prior to the wedding can be arranged.

Rehearsal

Your minister will arrange a wedding rehearsal with you, normally during the week before the marriage. It is preferred that parents, bridesmaids and best man/men attend, but this is not essential if significant travelling is involved. The purpose of inviting these key people to the rehearsal is

so that they may all have the chance to familiarise themselves with the proceedings on the day.

Payment of Fees

The current figures for St. Swithin's are:

The cost of a Basic Wedding in 2025:-	£801*
(inc. banns, marriage preparation, clergy and church fees, utilities)	
Optional extras: Organist:-	£125
Choir (subject to availability):-	£160
Bells:-	£FREE**

Thus a wedding with all options in 2025 is:- £1,086

One month before the wedding you will be sent a full statement of the cost, (less the £100 deposit you paid on booking) and this must be paid two weeks before the wedding date. Cheques should be made out to 'Holmesfield PCC', or pay by BACS to:

Account name: Holmesfield PCC

Account No: 21770546 Sort code: 05-08-03.

ON THE DAY!

Please be punctual in arriving at the church, the bride should arrive no later than five minutes before the service is due to begin to allow the photographer time to get some good shots on arrival.

Confetti

Please recommend to your guests only biodegradable confetti and please ensure that no confetti is blown into the church!

Photography

This is an important part of your wedding ceremony but must not distract from the solemnity of the occasion. Photographers are welcome in any part of the church (including the vestry if you choose to sign the Marriage Document there). After the service photos may be taken outside in the churchyard or inside if wet.

Videos can also be made but bear in mind that the church has no responsibility under copyright law for any video recording taken on your behalf.

Marriage Certificate

After you have signed the Marriage Document during the service, the minister will send it off to the local registry office. You will need to contact them to arrange to collect a copy of your Marriage Certificate – this should be available after the registry has prepared it.

Other things to think about

- If you are going on holiday soon after the wedding you should arrange for your passport to be updated if your name is changing. This can be done up to three months beforehand.
- A printed Order of Service is useful if you're having hymns.
- You must have one Bible reading in the service but other readings are also welcome (could friends/family do a reading?).
- You need two witnesses, aged over 18, to sign the paperwork.
- The 'giving away' can be done by anyone, and is optional.

† Visit www.achurchnearyou.org to find out which parish you live in.

* The fees above, set by the Church of England and the local church, are revised upwards for inflation each year, and include the costs of utilities and a vergier.

** St. Swithin's Church has only one real bell! But we also have the facility for playing a recording of church bells (it sounds quite good!). These can be heard before each Sunday morning service.