

STOKENHAM - SHERFORD - BEESANDS



YOUR CHURCH WEDDING



St. Michaels

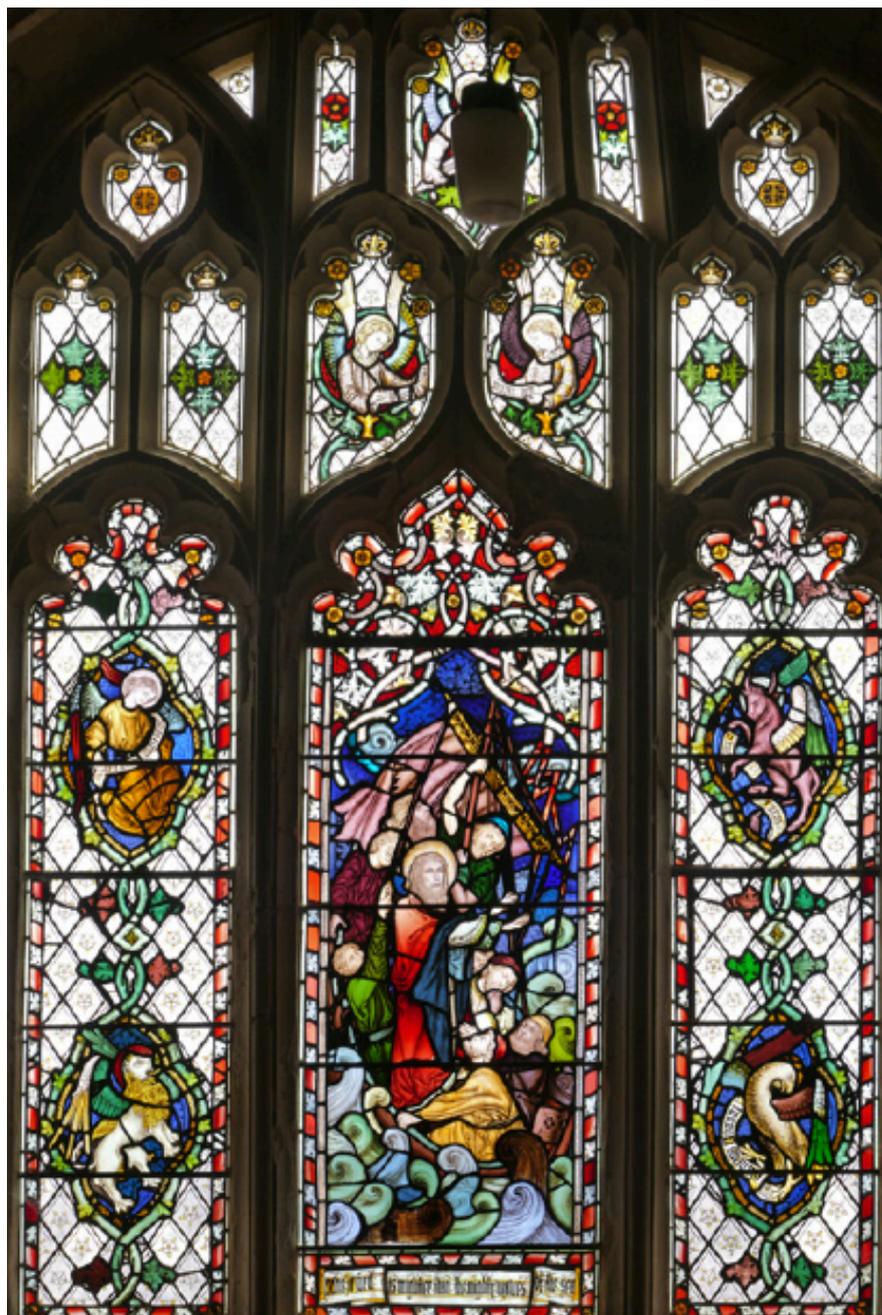


St. Martins



St. Andrews

THE PARISH OF STOKENHAM WITH SHERFORD & BEESANDS



You will find three distinctly different churches in the heart of different communities between Kingsbridge and Dartmouth along or close to the A379. Part of the Parish encompasses tranquil green rolling hills, and part of it is coastal.

PRIEST IN CHARGE:

Reverend Mark Neave

WELCOME

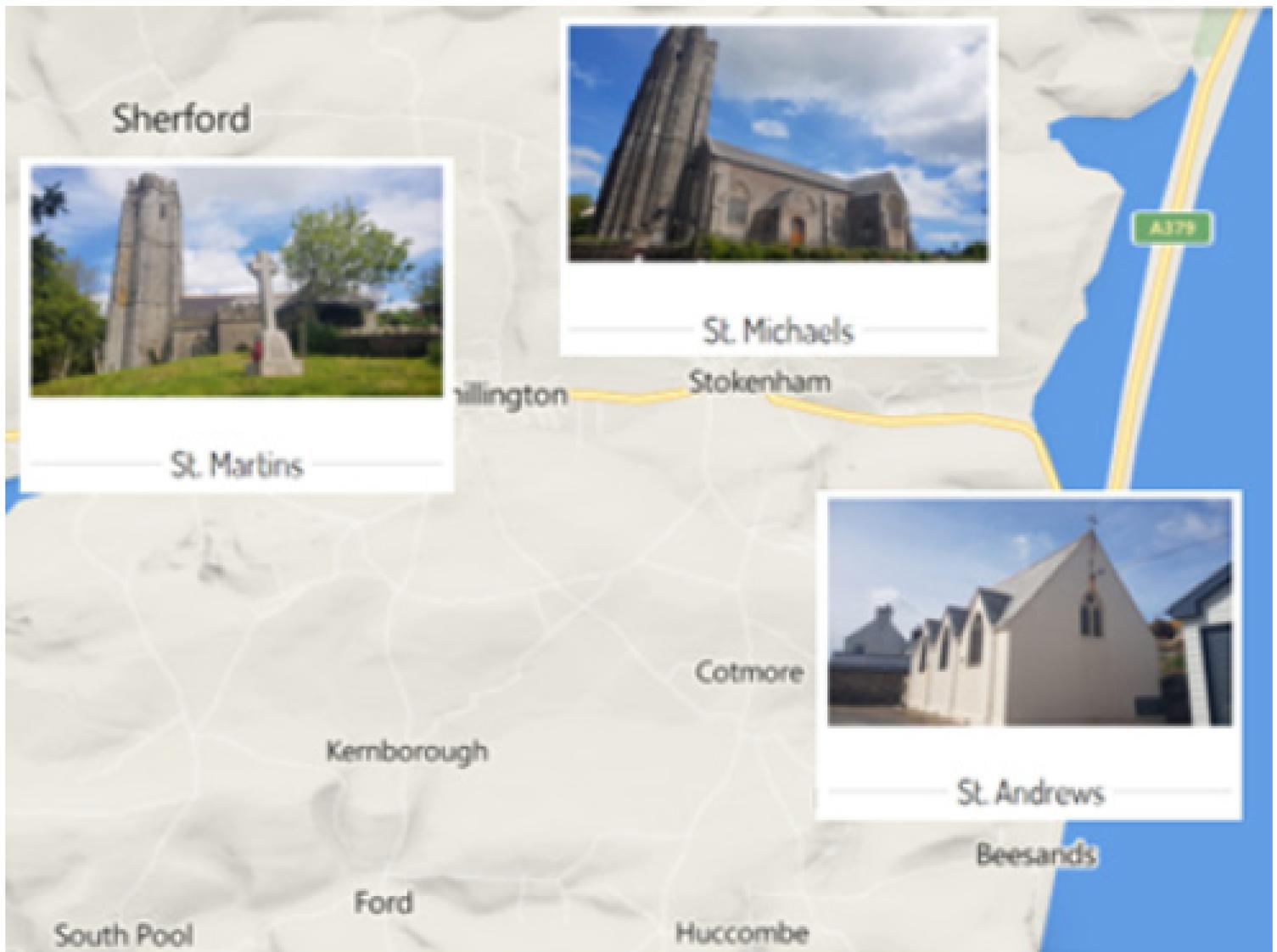
Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding!

We are delighted that you are thinking about getting married in our Parish. We look forward to sharing the celebration with you, and to supporting you in the future.

We take good preparation for marriage very seriously. Christians believe that your love for each other reflects something of God's love for each of us, and that love is God's greatest gift to us. We wish to celebrate with great joy the fact that you have found each other and wish to make this lifelong commitment.

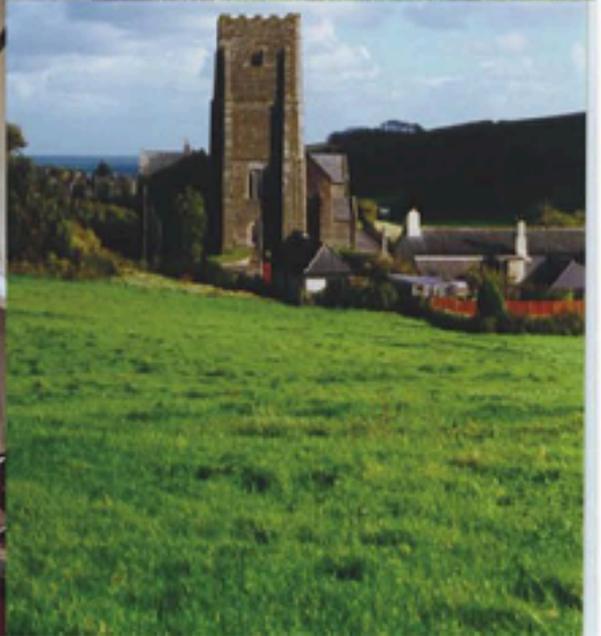
If you are not already a member of the church here, we hope you will consider becoming one. We look forward to working with you as you plan both your wedding day and the rest of your married life together – and support you not only in the short-term, but also in the medium and long-term.





ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, STOKENHAM

Medieval Parish church. The church has a small car park opposite the Church House Inn, which is enclosed by a post and rail fence. There is a donation box next to the gate and all funds raised go to the upkeep of the church. The nearest access from the car park is up the steps to the war memorial. There is step-free access to the church yard through the lych-gate to the north of the church. There are steps up to the church door and steps down from the porch.



ST MARTIN OF TOURS, SHERFORD

Medieval Parish church. Free parking is available at the village hall. There is step-free access into the church.



ST ANDREW'S, BEESANDS

Delightfully compact daughter church nestling beside the sea with a seating capacity of 46 people. Free parking is available in the village. There is level access into the church.



WEDDING PREPARATION

A wedding day lasts a few hours – but a marriage is a lifetime together. Alongside the preparations you will be making for your ‘big day’, you will be asked to attend a Wedding Preparation session with the priest in charge where the significance of Christian marriage is stressed and practical advice is given. This will also be an opportunity to meet and ensure we have recorded your details correctly and arrange for your Banns of Marriage to be called in church. As part of this meeting, you will receive advice and guidance and make decisions about the resources available to you, such as your choice of music, readings and prayers for your Wedding Service. Underpinning the advice given at these meetings are the convictions that a good marriage depends on the ability to communicate well, to exhibit flexibility, to be aware of strengths and potential weaknesses in your relationship, to have shared values and to address any differences and conflict effectively.

Most church weddings follow a similar planning pattern, which typically has seven simple steps. Your vicar will help and advise along the way:-

1. Find a church

Find your local church and the priest’s contact details. If you want to marry in a different church, read more to find out how that might be possible.

2. Call the Priest in Charge

Let your priest know your good news as soon as you can and the three of you can fix a time to discuss what happens next.

3. Space to think

Before your wedding, your vicar may invite you to an event to help prepare you for married life together. Many couples appreciate the time and space to think about the vows and the difference they will make.

4. Banns

Banns are announcements in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. On these occasions, everyone in your church will also be praying for you. It can be very special and moving, so do go along if you can.

5. Rehearsal

Near your wedding day, perhaps a day or two before, you will usually have the opportunity to rehearse the ceremony with those who are involved.

6. The Big Day

Your priest will do all he or she can to make the day a personal, meaningful and spiritual experience for you and your guests.

7. First anniversary and beyond



MARRIAGE ORDER OF SERVICE

The order of service is the programme of events for your marriage ceremony. Readings, hymns and other music may be chosen by the bride and groom in consultation with the priest in charge.

Below is a suggested template to help you plan. This is flexible to adapt to individual wishes and circumstances - although some parts are mandatory to satisfy the legal requirements for marriage.

- Entry of the Bride (music ...)
- Welcome and Introduction
- Opening hymn
- Preface and Declarations
- First reading (optional)
- Bible reading
- Short Address (by the priest)
- The Marriage
- Second hymn (optional)
- Second reading (optional)
- The signing of the Register
- Prayers, concluding with the Lord's Prayer
- Final hymn
- Blessing
- Departure of the Bride and Groom (music ...)



Music played before the Bride arrives is often left to the discretion of the organist. However, if you would like something special played, please discuss this with us.

Suggestions for processional and recessional:

- Bridal March from 'Lohengrin' by Wagner (In)
- Wedding March by Mendelssohn (Out)
- March from 'Scipio' by Handel (In or Out)
- Hornpipe from Water Music by Handel (In or Out)
- Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by Handel (In)
- Trumpet Voluntary by J Clarke (In or Out)
- Trumpet Tune by Henry Purcell (In or Out)
- Trumpet Tune by Charpentier (In or Out)
- A Trumpet Minuet by Alfred Hollins (Out)
- Toccata from Symphony No 5 by Widor (Out)
- Prelude in a Classic Style by Gordon Young (Out)

During the signing of the Marriage Document the organist may play something of his/her choice, or you may like to ask a singer or musician to play or to use a recording of a favourite piece.

Here are some suggestions of suitable hymns that you could use:

- Be thou my vision
- Bind us together, Lord
- Christ triumphant, ever reigning
- Come down, O love divine
- Jesus, stand among us at the meeting of our lives
- Lead us heavenly Father
- Let there be love shared among us
- Lord of all hopefulness
- Lord for the years
- Love divine, all love's excelling
- Make me a channel of your peace
- May the grace of Christ our Saviour
- O perfect love
- O praise ye the Lord
- Praise my soul, the King of heaven
- Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him
- Take my life, and let it be
- Tell out my soul
- The King of love my shepherd is
- The Lord is my shepherd
- To God be the glory
- You shall go out with joy

READINGS

As you are participating in a Christian marriage service, at least one of your readings should come from the Bible.



Here are some suggested Bible readings.

- Genesis 2: 18 – 25

This early story tells of our human need to share life with other people.

- Genesis 1: 26 – 28, 31

The story of how God created men and women and instituted marriage.

- John 2: 1 – 11

This is an account of how at a wedding, Jesus miraculously changed water into wine.

- 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13

This is about the nature of love....

- Song of Solomon 2: 10 – 13

This is about true love and choosing the right person.

- Mark 10: 6 – 9

Jesus reminds people of God's intention that every marriage should become an unbreakable bond.

- Romans 12: 1 – 2, 9 – 13

St Paul describes how love changes us and helps us in the practical things of daily life.

- Ephesians 5: 21 – 33

St Paul compares the marriage bond to the bond between Jesus and his followers, the Church.

- Matthew 7: 21 – 27

Jesus tells a story about the importance of building our lives on the right foundations.

- Colossians 3: 12 – 17

St Paul describes how important it is for Jesus to be at the centre of everything we do.

- John 15: 9 – 12

Jesus tells his disciples about love and the need for us to love one another.

- 1 John 4: 7 – 12

St John shows that God is love, and that because of God's love for us we too should love one another.

WEDDING COLLECTIONS

At church weddings it is usual to have a collection plate at the back of the church for the congregation to donate to the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful parish churches. There is also a contactless payment terminal at St Michael's and All Angels Church. As historic buildings, all of our churches require regular maintenance to keep them in good condition. For more information please see our website and social media pages.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Please speak to the Priest in charge about taking photographs in Church. Parts of the church are designated camera free for the privacy of guests, who do not wish to be photographed or filmed.

The photographer should be as unobtrusive as possible and not position themselves beyond or between the bride, groom and the Altar. It can be helpful if the photographer attends the wedding rehearsal, to discuss with the priest in charge what is allowed, and to work out the best places to position themselves.

The use of a video taken by family or a professional videographer is by prior agreement. This is arranged by you after discussion with the priest in charge.

FLOWERS

Flowers may be placed in most areas of the church but no flowers or other decorations are permitted on the altar or to be attached to the rood screen. Please contact the Parish Office before the ceremony. If you are using a florist they may contact the Parish Office directly.



AFTER YOUR WEDDING

We will send copy of the completed marriage document to Exeter Registration Office via Royal Mail Special Delivery. After a few weeks you will be able to order as many copies of your marriage certificate as you require on the devon.gov.uk website (there are fees payable).

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND DEDICATION (MARRIAGE BLESSING)

A husband and wife can have their marriage blessed in church, whether they were married in the UK or abroad. For couples who marry abroad, it can be a way of ensuring more family and friends can celebrate the marriage if they were unable to travel for the legal marriage.

The Church of England service is called a Service of Prayer and Dedication, which is often known as 'a blessing'.

It is a simple service acknowledging the commitment already made between husband and wife during the civil ceremony and asks for God's blessing and guidance in their new life together.

Because it is not a marriage service, banns are not required for the blessing service, there is no exchange of rings and there is no signing of the official marriage paperwork.

It can be designed to have a similar feel to a wedding with hymns, readings, flowers and even bells if you would like that, or it can be an intimate, low key service.

You can have a blessing in any church of your choice, so long as the church and the vicar are free on your preferred date.

Many couples have opted for this service where one or both of them is remarrying after divorce. If this is your situation, talk things through with your priest who can offer guidance on remarrying in church or having a blessing.

MARRIAGE AND THE LAW

QUALIFYING CONNECTION

In order to be married in any Parish Church in England you have, by law, to meet certain requirements – which have to do with your status as a baptised person, your resident status in the UK, your place of geographical residence and/or the place where you habitually worship. The Marriage Measure determines how you will be legally married.

The Church of England Marriage Measure 2008 (“the Measure”) extends the existing legal right to be married in a parish, using a Church of England marriage Service, to cases where one or both of the couple can establish a Qualifying Connection with the parish. The Qualifying Connection may be of any one of the seven types specified in the Measure. The Measure came fully into force on 1st October 2008.

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if that person:

- o was baptised in the parish. (This does not apply where the baptism formed part of a combined service of baptism or confirmation); or
- o had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or
- o has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- o has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- o a Parent of that person has at any time during that person’s lifetime: had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- o habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- o a Parent or Grandparent of that person was married in the parish. These legal preliminaries do not apply to a Marriage Blessing Service.

DOCUMENTS THAT YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE BEFORE YOUR MARRIAGE SERVICE

You must bring originals of the following documents to your appointment with the priest in charge:

- a valid passport (or UK birth certificate if you were born before 1 January 1983)
- proof of your home address
- proof of any name changes (for example, a copy of a deed poll)

To prove your address, bring one of the following:

- valid UK or Irish driving licence
- gas, water or electricity bill from the last 3 months
- bank or building society statement from the last month
- Council Tax bill from the last 12 months
- mortgage statement from the last 12 months
- current tenancy agreement
- letter from your landlord (dated within the last 7 days) confirming you live there and including your landlord's name, address and their signature

If your normal address is outside the UK, you'll need to give details of a UK contact address. For example, this could be your partner, friend or family member's address.

If you've been married or in a civil partnership before, you will also need to bring one of the following documents:

- a decree absolute or final order
- your former partner's death certificate

You need to bring proof of your divorce, annulment or dissolution if it was granted outside of the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man. You may have to pay a fee of £50 for the local register office to check your documents or £75 if the General Register Office needs to check them.

If you or your partner are from outside the UK

You'll also need to bring:

- a passport sized photo for each of you (even if only one of you is from outside the UK)
- proof of your current immigration status (for example, your visa)
- a translation of any documents that are not in English

If you're from the EU, EEA or have settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme. you will need to bring confirmation of either:

- your settled or pre-settled status - you'll need to bring a 'share code' which you can get from the 'view and prove your immigration status' service (the code will be valid for 30 days)
- an application to the EU Settlement Scheme you made on or before 30 June 2021, which you're waiting for a decision on - you'll need to bring your certificate of application

BANNS, REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATE AND SPECIAL LICENCE

The reading of Banns is traditionally the way notice of your marriage is given in church.

You must have your Banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. Please arrange this with the priest in charge.

If either of you live in another parish then your Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married. The Banns Certificate must then be sent to the Parish Office one month before your wedding date. Without this certificate the Priest is not legally able to marry you. You do not need to attend readings of the Banns though most people try to attend at least one service where their banns are being read. They will be read whether or not you are in attendance.

The information provided for the Banns application will be used to prepare the legal documents associated with your marriage. If any of this information changes before your wedding date, please let us know.

SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRARS MARRIAGE SCHEDULE (SRMS)

Some couples will need to apply for a Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule before their wedding instead of having banns. You will need an SRMS if: Either of you is not a national of the UK or Ireland and doesn't hold Settled or Pre-Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

You are a national of the above countries (or have Settled or Pre-settled Status), but wish to marry in a church with which you have no pre-existing legally-recognised connection, but are able to live in the parish for at least seven days in order to qualify to be married in the parish church.

The priest in charge of the church where you want to marry has discretion on whether or not to accept an SRMS. If you think that this route is necessary for you, and you haven't yet contacted a vicar about your wedding, you should do this first before applying for an SRMS.

You will need to make an appointment in advance to give Notice at a Register Office. Please make sure you do this in plenty of time.

Once issued, an SRMS permits you to be married in the church named on the SRMS at any time up to 12 months from the date on which you gave Notice. For more information: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/just-engaged/superintendent-registrars-marriage-schedule>

SPECIAL LICENCES

Special Licence represents exceptional permission given by the Archbishop of Canterbury to get married in a particular place. It is relatively rare to require one. If you want to marry in a church outside your own parish, and genuinely feel that you have a connection that is not covered by any of the legally-recognised connections, then you may be able to apply for a Special Licence.

Talk to the priest in charge who should be able to help you with the application. We want to help you find a way to marry in your preferred church, but Special Licences are not automatically granted.

POLICY ON MARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE

The Church of England teaches that marriage is for life. However, it also recognises that some marriages sadly do fail and, if this should happen, it seeks to be available to support all those involved.

The Church accepts that, in some circumstances, a divorced person may marry again in church during the lifetime of a former spouse. If you are thinking about asking to be married in church, and one or both of you have previously been married, you should discuss this with your local parish priest.

Some priests are willing to take such a marriage, others may not be prepared to do so, on grounds of conscience, and may not allow the use of their church either. The law of the land permits them this choice.

Here in the Start Bay group of churches, we are willing to consider the possibility of conducting a marriage where one or both of the parties have been married before; however, before agreeing to do this, I will want to have an honest conversation with the couple about the past, your hopes for the future and your understanding of marriage. This would consider a range of issues, such as:

- What does marriage mean to you?
- What have you learned from your previous marriage?
- Has there been healing of past hurts?
- If you have children, how do they fit in to your futures plans?
- When did your new relationship begin?
- Have either of you been divorced more than once?
- Why is a church wedding important to you?

If you are wanting to get married in one of our churches, and have been married before, please do come and talk to me about this, well before choosing a date for your wedding.

Alternatively, if you have already been married in a civil ceremony, or are planning a Civil Marriage, and would like a Marriage Blessing Service in church afterwards, please do get in touch with me to discuss this (please note that a Marriage Blessing Service in church is not currently available for same-sex couples, although this is currently under review).

Revd Mark Neave

Priest in Charge, Start Bay Mission Community.

FEES

Once the date for your wedding has been agreed you will receive an invoice for the deposit to secure the date. The deposit is refundable up to six months before the wedding day.

An itemised invoice of your wedding fees will be sent around six weeks prior to your wedding. We ask you to pay the fees at least one month before the wedding.

The parochial fees are set by the Church of England and are reviewed annually.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/clergy-resources/life-events-parochial-fees-and-guidance>

Other fees, such as heating and administration costs are set by the parochial church council or are decided by the volunteers who provide the service to cover expenses i.e. bell ringing, the choir

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHURCH WEDDING

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with us

The Old Exchange, Stokenham, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2SZ

Telephone: 01548 580 860

Email: office@ssbparish.co.uk

In case you have an urgent query outside of the office opening hours or if you have a sensitive issue, which you would like to speak to the priest in charge about directly please contact Reverend Mark Neave -

Telephone: 01548 721 306

Email: mark.neave@live.co.uk

YOUR CHURCH

WEDDING

