

Weddings in Hunstanton and Saxon Shore



HUNSTANTON
OLD HUNSTANTON
RINGSTEAD
HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA
THORNHAM
TITCHWELL
BRANCASTER
BURNHAM DEEPDALE

Welcome

Congratulations on your engagement to be married! We are always delighted to be asked to marry people in one of our eight beautiful churches and that you want your union witnessed and blessed by God. Many people have special memories of holidaying in this beautiful part of the country and ask us to marry them because our villages are special to them. Some of you are lucky enough to live here!

In order to marry in one of our churches you need what is called a 'qualifying connection'. Don't worry if you don't have one, you can build one by attending a Sunday service once a month for 6 months. We like to 'say yes'!

Legal Preliminaries

To start the ball rolling, please email Rev Kirsty who will ask you to complete a benefice form. Qualifying connections are explained on the back of the form but information can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/just-engaged/finding-church-your-wedding>

This information is used to write your Banns of Marriage and Wedding Document. Churches no longer issue wedding certificates on the day of your marriage; these need to be applied for by yourselves after your wedding from the King's Lynn Register Office.

Please email the form back to Rev Kirsty. Use **full names** for yourselves and parents, as this forms part of the legal preliminaries and it's important that all information is correct. Mistakes on the Marriage Document that you sign on your wedding day cost £90 to rectify with the register office! Before Banns can be read, the priest marrying you will also need to take copies and see the **original** documents of:

A passport

A birth certificate

A utility bill with your current name and address on

If you have been married before, they will also need to see a death certificate or decree absolute. The priest will prepare a Marriage Document for you to check (and double check!) at your wedding rehearsal. It is the priest's responsibility to send this off the to register office after your wedding.

Banns

These are read in **two** churches (three if you don't live together): the one in which you are marrying **and** the one where you live permanently. There is more information on this legal requirement here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/reading-banns>

To find out which is your local church, use the "A Church Near You" finder, then ring them to ask for you 'away banns' to be read. They will provide you with a Banns Certificate which you must show to the priest marrying you. The wedding **cannot** go ahead if this away Banns certificate has not been issued and seen by the priest conducting your wedding.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Your Banns will also be read in the church where you are marrying (or one of our other 7 churches with our Bishops permission). Banns are read three times and it's lovely if you can attend to hear your names being read out. Banns are valid for three months.

There are some occasions where couples are not married by Banns. This can be explained if applicable.

The Service (and all the lovely bits!)

Each priest leads wedding services in a different way. Whoever is marrying you will email you an order of service upon request and work with you to give you the service you've always dreamed of. Things to think about are:

Hymns – there are usually two or three and you can listen to popular ones here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/hymns-your-wedding#na>

Music - we can book an organist for you. Some people have string quartets and we've even had a ukulele group! Music is often played whilst you are signing the Marriage Document. Also think about entrance and exit music. There are suggestions here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/other-music-your-wedding>

Readings (usually two, one has to be from the bible)

Bible: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/bible-readings-your-wedding>

Additional: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/additional-readings>

Fees

There are standard fees for a Church of England wedding. Fees are to be paid three months before your wedding to the church treasurer. Please contact the Church Warden of the church where you are marrying to get the bank account details. Church warden details can be found on our website under the name of each church: www.saxonshorebenefice.co.uk

Statutory Fees

Publication of banns of marriage	£32
Certificate of banns issued if you marry elsewhere (away Banns)	£16
Marriage Service in Church	£480

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/parochial_fees_a4_22b_summary.pdf

Optional Extras

Organist	£80
	£160 (if you have a videographer)
Verger	£50
Heating	£50 (Oct-March)

Verger and organist money to be paid in cash. Please bring to your wedding rehearsal in two envelopes.

Other fees to be transferred to the bank account of the relevant church (or paid by cheque).

Flowers

Please ask your florist to contact the Church Warden to gain access to the church for setting up. There may be occasions where you will be required to take away all your flowers immediately after your service to fit in with our regular church services.

I think that's everything, but do telephone or email if you have any questions. As I say, we like to say 'yes' and it is always such a privilege to be involved with couples at this very special time.

Contact

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