

**St Michael & All Angels London Fields**

**A GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED AT ST  
MICHAEL'S**



*Open to God, open to all*

Parish website: [www.stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk)

Parish landline: 020 7249 2627

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## About St Michael & All Angels Church

St Michael & All Angels London Fields is the Church of England (Anglican) parish church for London Fields, serving an area of Hackney stretching from Wilton Way in the North to the Regents Canal in the South, and Mare Street in the East to a zig-zag line in the West running along St Philip Road, Malvern Road, Middleton Road and Queensbridge Road.

St Michael is home to a community of Christians who seek to be *open to God, open to all*. One important way we try to do this is by welcoming couples who want to get married.

This leaflet addresses some frequently asked questions about marriage in church.

### 1 What do we need to do to qualify to be married at St Michael's?

Provided you are legally allowed to marry one another, you can do it at St Michael if one or both of you:

- (1) live in St Michael parish; *or*
- (2) are on St Michael electoral roll (you can be entered on this if you are over 16 and have been worshipping here regularly for at least 6 months); *or*
- (3) were baptised at St Michael; *or*
- (4) were confirmed after being prepared for confirmation here; *or*
- (5) lived in the parish, or worshipped at St Michael, for at least 6 months at any time in the past.

You also qualify if your parents or grandparents were married at St Michael, *or* if one of your parents lived in the parish, or worshipped at St Michael, for at least 6 months during your lifetime.

If you aren't sure whether you qualify, the Vicar will be able to help you. He may need to ask you for further documents or information.

In addition, you will need to pay the **fees** laid down by law (see Question 12) and, normally, have **banns** read (see Question 4).

### 2 What if one or both of us have been married before?

In this situation, if your former husband or wife is still alive, that is not a bar to getting married at St Michael. Before agreeing to remarry you, the Vicar will need to meet you to talk about it.

### 3 What if one or both of us aren't British citizens or nationals of a country that belongs to the European Economic Area (EEA)?<sup>1</sup>

Special issues arise in this situation, so again you will need to discuss it with a Vicar as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the United Kingdom, the following countries are members of the EEA: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

#### **4 Banns**

Usually, you have to have banns of marriage read at our main service on 3 Sundays before your wedding. The Vicar will ask you to fill out a form to provide the information we will need to read your banns and, later on, for the marriage register and your marriage certificate. You are very welcome to come along to hear your banns being read! The service starts at 10am and lasts just over an hour.

**Please note:** If either or both of you lives outside the parish, you must make sure your banns are read in the other parish(es) too. You must produce a banns certificate from the other parish(es) to the Vicar *no later than the rehearsal*. We suggest you contact the other parish(es) as soon as possible about applying for your banns to be read.

#### **5 What preparation will there be?**

The Vicar will need to meet you at least twice to get to know you, discuss the arrangements for your wedding and explore with you the meaning of the marriage service. The first meeting needs to be **about 3 months before your wedding**. There will also need to be a wedding rehearsal shortly before your wedding date.

#### **6 The order of service**

The Church of England has wedding services in modern and traditional language. You can choose whichever you prefer. The Vicar will go through the alternatives with you when you meet.

If you would like a printed order of service, the Vicar is happy to discuss what needs to go in it. We can also provide a template order of service for you to adapt, but it will be your responsibility to produce your own. You don't have to have a printed service sheet if you choose hymns from the hymn book we use at St Michael's (*Hymns Old and New*). If you choose any other hymns you will need to get the words printed. **If you are having an order of service printed, it must be ready by the rehearsal.**

#### **7 What hymns and music can we have at our wedding?**

You can have any music by arrangement with the Vicar. He can help in 3 ways:

- (1) He can help you choose which hymns and other music you would like.
- (2) If you like, we can help you arrange an organist and/or a quartet of professional singers. Please tell us as soon as possible if you'd like either of these.
- (3) Music on CD can be played at the service through our PA system.

#### **8 What readings can we have at our wedding?**

The Vicar will discuss this with you and can provide details of readings from the Bible which the church recommends for use at weddings. You are not restricted to these, though: you can choose another passage from the Bible and include non-Biblical texts, by arrangement with the Vicar.

## **9 What about flowers?**

Professional florists are welcome to decorate the church, but an appointment will need to be arranged for them to have access.

## **10 Can we have bells?**

There is a single church bell at St Michael's which can be rung either before the service, or afterwards, or both. No charge is made for this. It is not possible to have a peal of bells.

## **11 What about photos, recordings and confetti?**

We ask that no one takes photos during your wedding. The Vicar will be happy to allow and take part in photos afterwards, inside and outside the church, including re-enacting parts of the ceremony.

You can have a video and/or audio recording made of your wedding by prior arrangement. A recording fee will need to be paid to the church and, if you have them, to the organist and/or the quartet. The camera has to be in one place throughout the service so that it isn't intrusive or distracting and doesn't get in the way.

Confetti is not allowed, but alternatives such as rice may be possible by prior arrangement.

## **12 What will it cost, and how do we pay?**

The following fees are set by the Church of England (2011 rates):

- (1) £22 for the publication of banns
- (2) £265.50 for the wedding, including a marriage certificate.

Total **£287.50**. Please pay in full by cash or cheque made payable to **St Michael London Fields Parochial Church Council**. ***The deadline for payment is 3 months before the wedding.*** If you pay by cheque, the cheque must have cleared by that time.

**Cancellation:** If you change your mind and decide to cancel the wedding more than a week before the set date, we will refund your wedding fee less a cancellation charge of £75. If you cancel after that, no refund will be payable. Banns fees are not refundable.

**Extras:** If you would like an organist and/or a singing quartet you will need to negotiate a price with them, but as a guide you can expect the cost of the organist to be about £100 and the quartet around £200-250 (more if you want to record the service). It is your responsibility to negotiate with them, and pay them, directly.

**We hope this leaflet is helpful.**

**If you have any other questions, please either speak to the Vicar after our Sunday service, phone him on 020 7249 2627 or e-mail him on [vicar@stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk).**