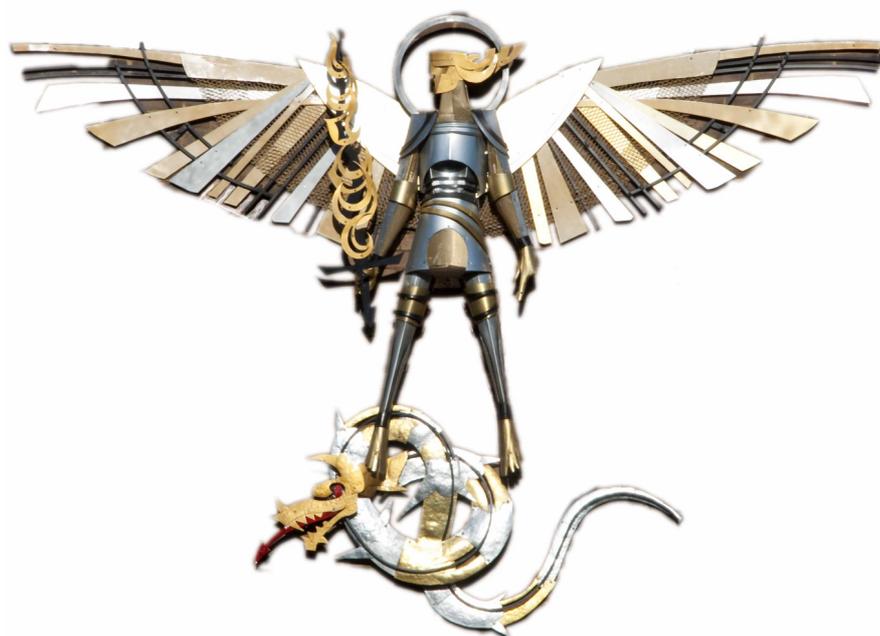


St Michael & All Angels London Fields

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



Open to God, open to all

Parish website: www.stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk

Parish landline: 020 7249 2627

E-mail: vicar@stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk

About St Michael & All Angels Church

St Michael & All Angels London Fields is the Church of England (Anglican) parish church for London Fields.¹

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

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

1 Do we qualify to be married at St Michael's?

Provided you are legally allowed to marry one another in a Church of England church,² you can do it at St Michael's if one or both of you:

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

You also qualify if your parents or grandparents were married at St Michael's, or if one of your parents lived in the parish, or worshipped at St Michael's, for at least 6 months during your lifetime. (NB You don't have to have been baptised or confirmed.)

If you aren't sure whether you qualify, the Vicar or another minister here ('the Minister') will be able to help you. They may need to ask you for further documents or information.

In addition, you will need to take the **preliminary steps** required by law (see Question 3) and pay the **fees** laid down by law (see Question 11).

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 will not necessarily prevent you from getting married at St Michael's. Before agreeing to remarry you, the Minister will need to meet you to talk about it.

3 What preliminary steps are needed?

If you are both **EEA nationals**⁴ and can produce 'specified evidence' that you are (usually current passports), the appropriate preliminary is having banns of marriage read at our main service on 3 Sundays before your wedding.⁵ As well as producing evidence of your nationality, you will need to fill out a form giving the information needed to read your banns and, later on, for the marriage register and your marriage certificate. You're warmly invited to come to hear your banns being read at our Sunday service, which starts at 10am and lasts just over an hour.

Please note: If you qualify to be married at St Michael's by banns but either or both of you *lives outside the parish*,⁶ you *must* (1) arrange for your banns also to be read, on 3 Sundays as

¹ To see a map of the parish, enter the church's postcode E8 3ER at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>.

² Under current legislation, single sex couples cannot legally be married in Church of England churches.

³ You can find out whether you do by entering your postcode at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>.

⁴ EEA nationals are British citizens and nationals of the following states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, 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 and Switzerland. Anyone else must be treated as a non-EEA national.

⁵ They don't have to be consecutive Sundays but usually are.

⁶ Again, you can find this out by entering the postcode at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>.

explained above, in the parish church(es) for where you live; (2) obtain a banns certificate signed by the incumbent or minister in charge of each church; and (3) produce the certificate to the Minister who is going to conduct your wedding here. **The law says that unless you do all these things, the Minister must not solemnize your marriage.** You will have to pay a separate fee for this to the other parish(es). We recommend you contact the other parish(es) as soon as possible to apply for your banns to be read there in time for you to produce your banns certificate(s) from the other parish(es) to the Minister *no later than the rehearsal*.

If either or both of you is a **non-EEA national**, the appropriate preliminary is usually to apply for Superintendent Registrar's Certificates to authorise the marriage.⁷ You will need to discuss this with the Minister as soon as possible.

4 What preparation will there be?

The Minister 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.

5 What will the order of service be, and will we need to get it printed?

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

If you would like a printed order of service, the Minister 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.

If you'd like to include hymns in your wedding service, you don't have to have a printed order of service if you choose ones 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, and it is your responsibility to ensure you have permission to use any copyrighted material. **If you are having an order of service printed, it must be ready by the rehearsal.**

6 What hymns and music can we have at our wedding?

You can have any music by arrangement with the Minister. They can help you choose which hymns and other music you would like. They can also put you in touch with an organist. Please tell them as soon as possible if you'd like that. Music on CD can be played at the service through our PA system.

7 What readings can we have at our wedding?

The Minister 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 Minister.

8 What about flowers?

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

⁷ In this situation you must apply for SRCs by giving notice of the proposed marriage together in person at Hackney Register Office (for more information, see <https://hackney.gov.uk/marriages-and-civil-ceremonies>). You must both have been resident for at least 7 days in a registration district in England or Wales before the day on which you give notice. When attending at the Register Office to give notice, you will both need to provide evidence of your name, date of birth, nationality and place of residence and may also be required to provide additional information, evidence or photographs. You may also need to provide details of the church where you intend to marry and of your entitlement to marry there (as to which, see 1 above). You should check with the Register Office what documents and other information you will need to bring with you.

9 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.

10 What about photos, recordings and confetti?

Subject to prior arrangement and agreement with us, you may have photographs or a video and/or audio recording made of your wedding by one professional photographer only (not family or guests). If you have a video and/or audio recording, you will have to pay a recording fee to the church and, if you have one, to the organist.

We cannot allow you to make an audio recording which includes material such as hymns, music or readings in which copyright subsists unless you obtain any necessary permissions from the copyright owner(s) and produce evidence to the Minister that you have done so.

Any camera or recording equipment must be placed so that it isn't intrusive or distracting and doesn't get in the way, it must stay in the same place throughout the service and no flash or artificial lighting may be used.

For family or guests who wish to take photos, the Minister will be happy to allow and take part in photos afterwards, inside and outside the church, including re-enacting parts of the ceremony.

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

11 What will it cost, and how do we pay?

Fees: These are set by law for (1) the publication of banns, if needed; (2) the wedding; and (3) your marriage certificate (not compulsory, but recommended).

The amounts vary from year to year. The Minister can give you the current figures. They are also shown on the Fees Table on the Noticeboard on the left side of the church entrance.

We ask you to pay all fees payable to St Michael's in full by bank transfer, cash or cheque made payable to **St Michael London Fields PCC**. **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 you will need to negotiate a price with them, but as a guide you can expect the cost to be about £100 (more if you want to record the service). It is your responsibility to negotiate with them, and pay them, directly.

12 Our Personal Data

If you decide to go ahead, we will need some personal information about you, including for the records we are required to keep permanently in our Marriage Registers. When you give us this, we will give you our Data Privacy Notice, which explains your rights about any personal data you give us, and how we will use it. You can also find it online at <http://www.stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Data-Privacy-Notice-St-Michael%E2%80%99s.pdf>.

We hope this leaflet is helpful. If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask the Vicar or another Minister after our Sunday service, phone us on 020 7249 2627 or e-mail vicar@stmichaelslondonfields.org.uk.