

Your Wedding



The Parish of Burchetts Green

St Mary the Virgin, Hurley

St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green

St James the Less, Stubbings



For your Notes

Welcome to the Parish of Burchetts Green.

Within our Parish of Burchetts Green we have three church buildings:

St Mary the Virgin, in Hurley
St John the Evangelist, in Littlewick Green
St James the Less, in Stubbings

If you wish to be married in one of our churches the first step is to contact the parish administrator at the Parish Office (01628 820077) who will discuss a date with you, having first established that you are eligible to be married in this Parish.

Eligibility to be married in our churches

Legally there is not a completely free choice as to which Church of England Parish you can get married in. If you are seeking a Christian marriage and one of you lives within the parish boundaries or has a 'Qualifying Connection' with the Parish, you are eligible to be married in one of our churches.¹ You have a 'Qualifying Connection' if either of you can show one of the following connections with the Parish:

that one of you:

- was baptised in the parish or
- was confirmed (by a C of E service) and the confirmation is entered in a our confirmation registers or
- has had a usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months or
- has habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months or

that one of your parents:

- has had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months during your lifetime or
- has habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months during your lifetime or

that one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish by a Church of England service

¹. If either of you have been divorced you will need to meet the Bihop's Guidelines regarding the remarriage of divorcees – please contact the Parish Office for details.

If you are relying on a 'Qualifying Connection' we will send you a form that sets out the evidence required if appropriate.

If one of you is a foreign national, or if you are living overseas, there is new legislation which came into force in March 2015 which will require a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to be obtained before you can be married in our churches; please contact the vicar for details.

Wedding Preparation Days

Before your wedding we will invite you to attend one of our 'Wedding Preparation Days' (normally on a Saturday, c9.30am-3.00pm but times may vary slightly) at which we will discuss various aspects of a church wedding (the reading of banns, the Order of Service etc.). The church believes it is very important that those who want to get married take time to consider deeply the steps being taken in committing each other to a life-long relationship. The 'Wedding Preparation Day' will touch on some of the issues and provides an opportunity for couples to explore ideas about ways in which relationships develop, and think about the Christian view of marriage and the marriage service itself.

On your Wedding Preparation Day you will meet the member of the clergy team who will be officiating at your wedding.

At your 'Wedding Preparation Day' we will cover many aspects of your wedding in church. We set out below some things you need to be aware of and may like to start thinking about in the meantime.

Banns of Marriage and the vital away banns

Unless you are being married by Common or Special Licence, or a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate, your banns must be read in our Parish at a principal service on three Sundays before your wedding. After reading your banns we will pray for you and your forthcoming wedding. We will inform you of the services at which we intend to read your banns. You do not have to attend, but we recommend you do so at least once.

Unless you both live in our Parish you will need to arrange for your banns to be read in the parish(es) in which you live. These are known as your '**away banns.**' It is your responsibility to approach your parish(es) to arrange your away banns; they will need plenty of

notice. Please make sure that you give the name of our Parish as the 'Parish of Burchetts Green' as well as the church you are being married in. Please be sure that you attend the church at least once to hear your away banns read. Once your away banns have been read three times the parish will issue an 'away banns certificate'. Please be sure to collect your certificate from the other church(es). Whoever is officiating at your wedding will need to see this certificate before your marriage and WILL NOT marry you without seeing it, as it is a legal requirement. Once you have obtained it please send it to the Parish Office.

If you are being married by Common or Special Licence, or Superintendent Registrar's Certificate then you do not need to have your banns read either in our Parish or elsewhere.

Flowers

If there is more than one wedding in the same church on the same day then you will need to liaise with the other party about flowers and colour schemes. Even if you are using a florist please contact our flower organisers. They need to know if you are leaving any flowers in church after your service. They may be able to organise flowers for you and they will also be able to advise you about the church building. The Stubbings flower organiser, Joanna Butterwick is a professional florist and would be delighted to discuss your floral requirements with you and give you a quotation.

Hurley	Fiona Fieldhouse	01628 824336
Stubbings	Joanna Butterwick	01628 621726
Littlewick Green	Yvonne Tomlins	01628 822862

Please be aware that all our churches are protected buildings. Please do not allow your florist to damage the fabric in any way, including attaching fixings to the walls. At Hurley and Stubbings there are existing fixings allowing flowers to be displayed around the arches over the entrance doors. Please use these and do not add to them in any way. After the service flowers around the arch must be removed.

Bells

Stubbings and Littlewick Green have only one bell which can be rung by the vergers as you leave the church if requested. Hurley has a peal of six bells which can be rung using an electronic control pad - you can request that a peal be rung as you leave the church.

Confetti

Please ensure your guests do not throw confetti inside our churches. Confetti may be used outside the churches if it is biodegradable.

Guests

All three of our churches have a similar seating capacity. Up to 100 guests can be accommodated with ease, up to 120 is possible without guests having to stand. If you are expecting more than 100 please let us know. You are welcome to invite children to attend your wedding service but please be aware that as well as being a celebration, the service also includes profound promises and all the congregation, including children, are asked to respect this fact.

Parking

Parking for your guests is not normally a problem at Stubbings. At Hurley, if you are using one of the reception venues in Hurley they will normally provide your guests with parking, otherwise parking in Hurley at the weekend can be difficult. The village car park by the church often fills up early at the weekends and parking along the High Street is restricted. Traffic wardens regard Hurley as a great revenue earner! Please warn your guests of this and advise them to arrive in good time as they may have to park some distance from the church. At Littlewick parking is not allowed on the grass verge alongside the access road leading up to the church and your guests should park in the village.

Photographs and Video

We will discuss this with you on the Wedding Preparation Day.

Music and Hymns

At the Wedding Preparation Day we will discuss music options with you. Our organists may be willing to meet you and play some of the more commonly used music to help you make your choice. Popular choices of music include:

Processional

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	Handel
Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
Hornpipe in F from the Water Music	Handel
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary	J Clarke
Finale from the Water Music	Handel
Wedding March (from A Midsummer Night's Dream)	Mendelssohn

Signing of the Registers

Adagio	Albinoni
Air from the Water Music	Handel
Brother James' Air	Macbeth Bain
Jesu, joy of man's desiring	Bach

Please note that the popular 'Widor's Toccata' cannot be played on any of our church organs. Music recorded on a CD or on an ipod or equivalent with a sound output socket can be played over the church sound system if you prefer. Essentially the choice is yours but please ensure that the words of any songs you chose to have played express sentiments suitable for a wedding! **Please note that before finalising your choices you need to discuss music and hymns with the Minister.**

Listed below are some popular hymns you might consider (the words of these are on a document that will be provided on the Wedding Preparation Day) but you can choose other appropriate hymns.

All things bright and beautiful	Lord of the dance
Amazing grace	Love divine all loves excelling
Bind us together, Lord	Make me a channel of your peace
The Lord's my Shepherd (Crimond)	Morning has broken
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	Now thank we all our God
Give me Joy in my heart	O Jesus I have promised
Guide me, O thou great redeemer	
Jerusalem	
Lead us Heavenly Father lead us	
Lord of all hopefulness	

Scripture Readings

Your wedding service must include at least one reading from the Bible. The readings may be read by a family member or friend or by the officiating minister. For weddings the church normally uses the 'New Revised Standard Version' (NRSV) translation; you may use any version you like but if you prefer a different version please let your officiating minister have the full text. The full text of the following readings using NRSV is provided on your Wedding Preparation Day. If you wish to use a different Bible translation or have chosen a passage not on our list please let the minister conducting your service have the text.

Genesis 1.26-28	Colossians 3.12-17
Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6,7	1 John 3.18-end
Jeremiah 31.31-3	1 John 4.7-12
Ecclesiastes 4. 9-12	Matthew 5.1-10
Tobit 8.4-8	Matthew 7.21,24-end
Romans 7.1,2,9-18	Mark 10.6-9,13-16
Romans 8.31-35,37-39	John 2.1-11
Romans 12.1,2,9-13	John 15.1-8
Romans 15.1-3,5-7,13	John 15.9-17
1 Corinthians 13	Psalms 67
Ephesians 3.14-end	Psalms 121
Ephesians 4.1-6	Psalms 127
Ephesians 5.21-end	Psalms 128
Philippians 4.4-9	

Non- biblical readings

You may like to include one or two other readings or poems which reflect your relationship. These need to be agreed with the minister officiating at your wedding, please send them the text. Some commonly chosen poems/readings will be provided.

Order of Service

At the Wedding Preparation Day you will be given a schedule of the headings you need for your Order of Service. Once you have chosen exactly what you want to include you are asked to liaise with your Officiating Minister by email or otherwise **before** printing. Copyright acknowledgement of the service content must be printed on your Order of Service.

Wedding Rehearsal

Your rehearsal will probably take place on the Thursday before your wedding. Your Officiating Minister will agree a date and time with you. Those who should, if possible, be there in addition to yourselves are:

The Bridal Party (bridesmaids, page boys etc.)

Best Man

Father of the Bride (or whoever is processing with the bride)

Please bring a copy of your printed Order of Service and any recorded music to be played at the service to the rehearsal. Please be aware that although, if required, the church heating will be put on for your wedding, the church may be cool for the rehearsal.

Fees

About a month before your wedding the Parish Office will send you notification of your wedding fees, depending on your requirements. Fees may be paid by cheque to the Parish Office to arrive at least 10 days before your wedding. The fees at the time of publication are:

*Statutory Fees	
- Publication of Banns	£31
- Marriage Service	£463
Verger's Fee	£40
**Organist's Fee	£95
*** if videoed	+£125
P.C.C. contribution	£70

*Statutory Fees include a copy of your marriage certificate.

** Please note a fee is payable to our organist even if you wish to employ an alternative organist. The organist may charge an additional fee if your music requirements are more demanding than normal and require additional practice or rehearsal.

*** Please note:

All videos will contravene the copyright laws unless you obtain a licence. If you are using a video (professional or amateur, including family and friends) you must hold a copyright licence and the Minister must see it before the wedding. Licences start from around £15.

Visit: <https://prsformusic.com/licences/releasing-music-products/limited-manufacture> for further information and to make an application.

Contacts

Parish Administrator:
The Parish Office
The Soltau Centre
Henley Road, Stubbings
SL6 6QW
01628 820077
bgparish@btconnect.com

Our website contains additional information on weddings
www.burchettsgreenparish.org