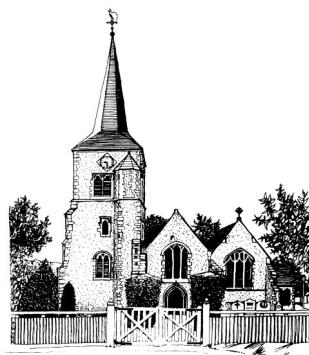




**Preparing for your**

*Wedding Day*

**2026**



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
*wedding*  
faith • hope • love



## INITIAL ENQUIRY FOR MARRIAGE

### Marriage in the parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I am delighted that you are seeking to be married at St Nicholas'. As with all legal ceremonies, there are a number of important preliminaries that must be completed before your wedding can take place.

### Qualifying Connection

To be married in a Church of England church a **Qualifying Connection** is required (see next page). Obviously, if one or both of you live within the parish, then you are legally entitled to get married at St Nicholas'. If both of you live outside the parish (please note that Chislehurst is made up of three DIFFERENT parishes, so 'living in Chislehurst' doesn't necessarily mean the Parish of St Nicholas), then at least one of you will need to qualify by fulfilling at least one of the other Qualifying Connection categories, ii to vii. We will need to discuss this with you before a wedding date can be provisionally booked.

### Maintenance Works at the Church

Please be aware that whilst we shall always try to keep St Nicholas looking as attractive as possible throughout the year, from time to time it is necessary to carry out repairs to our historic church. To accommodate increasing or changing demands we also undertake projects that, like repairs, require scaffolding, fencing and other building work items that must stay in place throughout all our services. Very occasionally we shall need to close the church even though a wedding may have been booked. On these occasions the law provides that we use a neighbouring church so that the wedding may proceed.

Please note that while we do our best to avoid scheduling other services on your wedding day, St Nicholas is a busy church with many regular activities. This means there may occasionally be another service or event taking place on the same day, though this is rare.

In the meantime, I should be grateful if you would complete and return to me the Marriage Enquiry form indicating you have read and understand its contents. Please retain a copy for your own records.

I very much look forward to hearing from you in due course to arrange a meeting to complete your marriage application paperwork.

With Blessings

**The Rev'd Rachel Curley**

---

**bringingPeople&Godtogether**

**The Parish Office The Village Hall Church Lane Chislehurst BR7 5PE**  
**0204 6184195**  
**revrachelcurley@outlook.com**

# MARRIAGE ENQUIRY FORM INITIAL PAPERWORK

Please complete and return a copy of this form to  
The Rev'd Rachel Curley, The Parish Office, The Parish Office,  
The Village Hall Church Lane Chislehurst BR7 5PE



We, the undersigned, have received and understood the information about **Qualifying Connection** and **Maintenance Works** at the Church, overleaf and as set out below.

## QUALIFYING CONNECTION:

I / we wish to rely on the following connection with the parish by virtue of **one or more** of the following:

*Please tick which ever applies in your case (you may tick more than one category)*

### That one of you:

- i) has at any time **lived in the parish\*** for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- ii) was baptised at St Nicholas Parish Church **or**
- iii) was prepared for confirmation in the parish of St Nicholas **or**
- iv) has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church of St Nicholas for a period of at least 6 months **or**

### That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- v) has **lived in the parish\*** for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- vi) has regularly gone to normal church services in St Nicholas church for a period of at least 6 months **or**

### That one of your parents or grandparents:

- vii) was married in the parish of St Nicholas

OR

- We have been granted a special license
- One of us is on the Electoral Roll of St Nicholas church (this is not the same as the Register of Electors)

**Name (please PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (at time of marriage)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

If your address is likely to change up to (and including) the date of your wedding, you must inform us

**Tel No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name (please PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (at time of marriage)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

If your address is likely to change up to (and including) the date of your wedding, you must inform us

**Tel No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ideal Date and time of Service?** \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Please note that 'living in Chislehurst' might not necessarily mean you live within the Parish of St Nicholas. Chislehurst is made up of THREE DISTINCT parishes. To check which parish you or your parents live(d) in, please visit <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search/>**

# Hymns and Music for a Wedding

## General Guidelines

You will have an opportunity to discuss the music for your service when you meet with Revd Rachel. We ask that hymns be live and not recorded. If a soloist is to sing alongside our organist, a rehearsal with the organist will be necessary.

You must confirm your final choice of hymns, and the order in which they will be used, with Revd Rachel **before printing the Order of Service.**

It may be possible to play appropriate recorded music during the service. However you will need to discuss this and the choice of music with Revd Rachel and you will need someone suitable on the day who can attend your rehearsal to do this.

We welcome other performers, choirs etc. but please check with Revd Rachel before making a booking. Our organists are professionals, for whom wedding fees are a source of income, so we will ask you to pay the church organist fee, even if you then use another organist (with whom you will need to make separate financial arrangements).

## Choosing Readings

You must include at least one Bible reading as part of your wedding service. Rev'd Rachel is happy to help you choose a suitable passage if needed. You may also include an additional reading such as a piece of prose or poetry from another source, if you wish.

We encourage you to choose readings that are meaningful to you as a couple. Anyone you choose can read them during the service, or Rev'd Rachel will gladly read on your behalf. Please ensure that whoever is reading brings their own printed copy with them on the day.

## The Lord's Prayer

You may choose either version

### 'Modern' Language

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

### 'Traditional' Language

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Witnesses

Your witnesses are the two people who, along with the bride, groom, and minister, will sign the Marriage Document. They must be over 18 years old and able to understand the English language. Asking someone to be a witness is a meaningful way to involve them in your special day.

## Order of service

Once you have met with Rev'd Rachel and made the necessary choices for your wedding, she will work with you on the layout of the service. A draft **Order of Service** will then be emailed to you, which you can use to organise your own printing. Please note that while an order of service is not required, you **will need to provide one if you are including hymns**, so that your guests can follow and take part in the singing.

You will need to ensure that the **correct hymn words** are printed and that the **correct version of the Lord's Prayer** is used. It is important that Rev'd Rachel sees a **final draft before printing**, to make sure that everything follows the order she will be using on the day.

We ask that you **bring the printed copies to the wedding rehearsal**, where they will be used to run through the service and then safely stored in church ready for the big day.

**The church's copyright licence number must be printed on your order of service if you reproduce words of hymns, along with the name of the author of the hymn or worship song: CCLI: 1069630**

## Practicalities & Preliminaries

### Reading of Banns

Most people who marry in church are married after **Banns of Marriage** have been published. They are a **verbal** and **public notice** of your intention to marry and provide an opportunity for any legal objection to be raised. However, in some circumstances a Licence is to be preferred to Banns.

Banns are the legal preliminary to a marriage in church and **must** be read both in the parish(es) where you live AND the church where you will be married. We will take responsibility for ensuring your banns are read in the church where you are to be married. **You will need to ensure they are read where each of you live if that is not in this parish.** Please note that Banns of Marriage

are only valid for three months from the date of the final reading. If your wedding date changes or is postponed beyond that period, the Banns will need to be read again. We recommend planning your Banns readings to fall within the three months leading up to your wedding day. This is a legal requirement. Banns will usually be read at St Nicks during the main morning service on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month. We will aim to read the banns 2 months before the wedding date.

If either or both of you are living elsewhere, having arranged for your Banns to be read at your local parish church you will need to obtain a Banns Certificate from that church (or churches) confirming that this has been done. There will be a fee for this that is payable to your local parish church, this is in addition to the fees paid here. The easiest way to find your local parish church is to use the website [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

### Legalities

#### PLEASE NOTE

As a result of changes to Marriage Law, the church is no longer able to issue you with a Marriage Certificate on the day of your wedding. Within 21 days of your ceremony, we will make sure the Marriage

Document / Marriage Schedule that you signed on the day will be sent to Bromley Register Office.

They will then register your marriage within 7 days of receiving the document. Your marriage certificate can then be ordered online by visiting:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/Marriagecertificateform>

It will be issued within 15 days of your order. If you order your certificate before the documentation has been received at the register office, your certificate will be issued within 15 days of the marriage being registered. There is charge for Marriage Certificates, payable at the time of ordering your certificate online. You can order as many copies as you require.

## Fees

Fees for a Marriage Service in the Church of England are set nationally.

The Church of England receives no help from the Government to maintain its churches. The income we receive from fees ensures that our beautiful buildings are kept in good order for weddings and other special occasions, both now and for future generations.

Fees for 2026 have been set as follows:

Statutory National Fees	£
Reading of Banns ( <i>public notice of your intention to marry</i> )	39
Marriage Service	566
Locally Set Fees	
Organist and use of organ (optional)	220
Musician performing rights fee (if video recording)	110
Verger- who will prepare the Church, assist the Clergy and your Ushers and help tidy up afterwards	45
Choir (optional)	200
Bell Ringers and use of Bells (optional)	200
Extra rehearsal for any musical additions (optional)	30
Optional Extras	
Church Heating (Sept to April only)	70
Flowers (optional)	POA

Once a date has been set for your wedding, a non-refundable deposit of £500 will be required.

Please make cheque payable to: **St Nicholas, Chislehurst**

Or pay directly to CAF Bank Ltd

Account: St Nicholas Chislehurst PCC  
Sort Code: 40-52-40  
Account No: 00020386

When using internet banking please use as reference:  
**Wedding - SURNAME**

**Your wedding must be paid for in full prior to the wedding rehearsal.**

## Flowers for your Wedding

If there is more than one wedding on the day you are getting married there will need to be some agreement with the other couple(s) about the kind of display that goes into the church. Please be aware that the church may already have some flowers in place, particularly near the time of Christian festivals.

### General Flower Guidelines

There is no **need** to do anything - the beauty of the building will be further enhanced on your wedding day by your guests and the bridal party. Less can be more.

You are welcome to remove any arrangements that you have provided to take them to your reception. When removing arrangements, please ensure these are on your own or your florist's stands. Please do not remove any church flower stands, pedestals etc.

Please ensure that all waste is removed from the church and grounds by the flower arrangers including boxes.

At Festival times special conditions apply:

- During Lent (the 6 weeks before Easter) and Advent (the 4 weeks before Christmas) please arrange for all flowers to be removed from church immediately after your wedding service.
- At Easter, Christmas and Harvest our own arrangements are likely to be in place and no further flowers may be needed

Under no circumstances must anything be **nailed or pinned or glued** to any surface in the church.

If using arrangements on pew ends, please remember that you will need space to walk down the aisle. Florist's ribbon alone usually works best here.

The church is usually open from around 9am to 5pm each day. We kindly ask that your florist works within these times. If access is needed outside of these hours, please ensure they contact us in advance and we will try to make suitable arrangements.

## Church Bells

If you would like the bells to be rung – six (usually) bells will be rung for 20 minutes after the service - please speak to the minister conducting your service who will check the availability of the bell ringers.

## Maintenance Works at the Church

Please be aware that whilst we shall always try to keep St Nicholas looking as attractive as possible for your wedding, from time to time it is necessary to carry out repairs to the church. Also, to accommodate increasing or changing demands we undertake projects that, like repairs, require scaffolding, fencing and other building work items that have to stay in place throughout all our services.

## Photographs & Videos

You will probably want a visual record of your special day. We welcome photography and video recording providing the following guidelines are adhered to. They are provided to help ensure that your wedding service goes smoothly, without undue interruption or distraction, and in an attitude of respect for God, the church and yourselves. At all times the decision of the Minister taking the service is final and to be respected.

If you wish to make a video recording of your wedding you will need to agree this with us in advance. You will also need a Wedding Video Recording Licence. Your videographer may have one of these in place for the whole year, but **it is your duty to ensure this is so** otherwise you may be in breach of copyright. If you need to buy a licence it can be purchased through [www.ccli.co.uk](http://www.ccli.co.uk).

We reserve the right to withhold consent if a licence has not been obtained, as this protects copyright/ royalty issues for composers and publishers.

**Only** your designated photographer/videographer is permitted to take photographs during the service. These guidelines must be followed:

- No flash photography in church during the service.
- Please remain stationary during the spoken parts of the service.
- The Marriage Document and Register will be signed without photography. We will then immediately recreate the moment for your designated photographer, but please keep this brief: your guests are waiting for you!
- As the newly-weds leave down the aisle the photographer is welcome to do as you and he or she wish.

## Confetti

**Please do not use metallic confetti.**

**ONLY** bio-degradable confetti is welcomed, and **preferably dried petals (eg Rose petals or lavender)**

## Getting in touch

**The Rev'd Rachel Curley (Rector)**

Tel 07814750500

revrachelcurley@outlook.com

### PRAYER

Blessed are you,  
O Lord our God,  
for you have created  
joy and gladness,  
pleasure and delight,  
love, peace and fellowship.  
Pour out the abundance  
of your blessing  
upon this couple  
in their new life together.  
Let their love for each other  
be a seal upon their hearts  
and a crown upon their heads.