

*St Faith's Church  
Gaywood*



*Helping  
you to plan your wedding  
here at St Faith's Church*

## **YOUR WEDDING**

Thank you for choosing our church for your special day, we hope we can help to make it a day to remember. Planning a wedding is an exciting thing to do.

This booklet is based on a wedding in the Church of England. However since St Faith's is a joint Anglican/Methodist church it is also possible for a Methodist Minister to lead a wedding service in the church. The Methodist Minister would be very happy to meet with you to talk about this. The Anglican and Methodist marriage services are very similar, but there are some differences in the preliminaries to the wedding – see under the *Banns of Marriage* section. Most of the questions in this booklet are applicable to both Anglican (C of E) and Methodist weddings.

### **Frequently Asked Questions and First Steps**

Below are some frequently asked questions along with the answers. If there is something we have missed, please do not hesitate to ask us.

The first step to book a Wedding here at St. Faiths is to visit us in the Church Office (on Gayton Road on the path leading to the Church) and fill in the necessary paperwork.

We ask for a deposit of £100.00 to secure the date for you.

After this we will send you an invoice when we know what you require as extras. This can be paid off in instalments or if you wish in a lump sum at least one week before the wedding.

### **Am I entitled to be married in St Faith's Church?**

You are entitled to be married here at St Faith's if one or both of you live in the Parish, or where you can demonstrate a "significant qualifying connection" with our church. Significant qualifying connections can include:

You were baptised in our Parish, have lived in our Parish for the last six months.

Your parent has his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months during your lifetime.

The precise rules are complicated, so please check with us to be sure.

For a Methodist wedding you need to live in the Registration District of Norfolk.

### **How much will the wedding cost?**

There is a price list with details of all the fees which we will give you in the office when booking the wedding. This list is updated each year.

### **Can we get married if one / both of us have already been married?**

The Church of England and Methodist Church teach that marriage is for life. We also recognise that, sadly, some marriages do fail. Here at St. Faith's Church we are willing to conduct such a marriage subject to regulations which govern them. The Rector or Methodist Minister will talk with you about your past, your hopes for the future and your understanding of marriage before the decision is made.

### **Do we have to be baptised / christened to be married?**

Church law does not require you to be baptised or christened but you may wish to consider being baptised before your wedding and think about why a church wedding is so important to you.

### **Banns of Marriage**

Your banns are a legal requirement throughout the country for a Church of England wedding and must be read in your Parish Church three times prior to your wedding. These are to ensure there is no reason in law why you as a couple cannot be married. The final time is on the day. We encourage you to attend the services when your banns are read. Firstly to ensure we called them, secondly to hear them being read and announcing publicly your forthcoming wedding, and thirdly to listen to the prayers for you both. If you or your partner live outside the Church boundaries, you will need to get the banns read in your Church too: without this happening we cannot marry you.

If you have a Methodist marriage service then banns are not read in church, but you will need to visit the Register Office, not more than a year and not less than three weeks before the date of the wedding, to give notice of your intention to marry. A certificate is then collected from the Register Office and given to the Minister prior to the wedding.

## **Signing of the Registers**

When the bride and groom sign the registers two witnesses are required to sign the registers too. These can be of your choosing. Some choose their best man and chief bridesmaid, others opt for mothers of the couple - the choice is yours.

## **The Bells**

Bells at weddings are a lovely way to announce to the community that two people are being joined together in holy matrimony. We have six bells here at St. Faith's Church and a good band of ringers who will ring the bells before and after your wedding. There is an extra charge for this so please refer to the costs of a wedding.

## **Can we throw Confetti?**

Yes we do allow confetti here in our Church, preferably the biodegradable or biofriendly. We ask you to throw the confetti once you are outside the Church and as far away from the entrance as possible to ensure it does not enter the church.

## **What are the arrangements for flowers?**

Flowers enhance the church and are another way of personalising the ceremony. There are always flowers in the church, but you may wish to have some more with your colour scheme.

We advise you to check if there is another wedding on the day and if there are any possibilities that you can share the costs of the flowers.

We do not allow rose petals scattered down the aisle as this can cause a health and safety issue.

Initial enquiries should be first directed to Carol Dexter. See under contacts on the last text page of the leaflet.

## **Can we have a video / Photographer?**

Yes we do allow both a video / Photographer here in our church. There is a charge for video recording and a license needs to be obtained for videos to be recorded. It is advisable that the photographer speaks with the minister prior to the service to clarify where they can stand and what is permitted.

### **How long is the service?**

The service usually last 30 to 40 minutes depending on the number of hymns and readings.

### **Readings**

You may wish to choose your own readings and perhaps ask a family member or a friend to do a reading. However, the clergy are very happy to do this for you too. So when you meet with the minister taking your service do talk about this with them.

### **Hymns and music**

Usually there are two or three hymns of your choosing. However some couples prefer to listen to music of their choosing. You will also be asked to choose the music you wish to enter the Church with, and also to go out to. Some couples also choose some music for the congregation to listen to during the signing of the registers. At St. Faith's we also have a Choir who will enhance your singing and can perform an anthem during the signing of the registers.

**CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.....**

## *Contacts*

Church Office: 01553 774916  
office@stfaithsgaywoodlep.org.uk  
(It would be helpful if initial enquiries could be made through the office.)

Team Rector: The Revd Julie Boyd  
01553 770952

Methodist Minister: The Revd Andrew Maguire  
01553 828998

Contact for Flowers: Mrs Carol Dexter  
01553 774182