

## YOUR WEDDING BLESSING OR RENEWAL OF VOWS AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHEDFIELD

We're delighted that you hope to have your marriage blessed or to renew your wedding vows in the parish church of St John the Baptist, Shedfield.

We hope that this leaflet will answer some of the questions that you may have as you prepare for your special day.

It is important that you have a discussion about your wedding blessing with the vicar before the date of your service can be confirmed and before confirming dates with your reception venue.

### WHO CAN HAVE A WEDDING BLESSING OR RENEWAL OF VOWS AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHEDFIELD?

Many couples who have had a civil wedding decide that they would like to dedicate their marriage to God in church soon afterwards. Other couples wish to celebrate a significant wedding anniversary by renewing their vows in church whether or not they initially got married in church.

A husband and wife can have their marriage blessed in church, whether they got married in the UK or abroad. For couples who marry abroad it can be a way of ensuring more family and friends can celebrate the marriage if they were unable to travel to another country for the legal marriage.

The Church of England service is called a Service of Prayer and Dedication which is often known as a 'blessing'. It is a simple service that acknowledges the commitment already made between husband and wife during a civil ceremony and asks for God's blessing and guidance in your new life together. As it is not a marriage service banns are not required, there is no exchange of rings and no signing of the Register.

It can be designed to have a similar feel to a wedding with hymns, readings, flowers and even bells if you would like that, or it can be an intimate, low key service.

Unlike a wedding there is no requirement to have a 'qualifying connection' with the church and therefore you are able to have a blessing in any church of your choice with the agreement of the vicar.

Services of blessing usually last around 35 minutes which is slightly shorter than a wedding as there are no registers to be signed.

## AM I ELIGIBLE TO HAVE MY WEDDING BLESSED AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHEDFIELD?

You may wish to have your wedding blessed or to renew your vows St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield because you live in the parish or because it has special significance for you through family or other connections. Unlike a wedding there is no requirement to have a 'qualifying connection' with the church and therefore you are able to have a blessing in St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield with the agreement of the vicar.

Before your wedding can be blessed the minister conducting the blessing service must see your marriage certificate.

If one or both of you have been married before you may still be able to have a blessing in church but you will need to discuss this with the vicar.

Although same-sex marriage legislation has changed it is not legally possible for same-sex couples to marry or to have their marriage blessed in the Church of England at this time.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO HAVE A WEDDING BLESSING AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHEDFIELD?

There are no statutory fees for a wedding blessing as there would be for a marriage in the Church of England.

St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield charges a fee of £300 for a wedding blessing with an additional requested fabric donation (for maintenance of the church building) of £100.

The standard fee does not include extras which you may choose to have such as:

- a vergers who will ensure that the church is warm, clean and tidy for your wedding blessing and can help with handing out Orders of Service, assist with disability access and guide people to their seats.
- additional heating in the church. At St John the Baptist, Shedfield this is mandatory during the winter months and optional at other times.
- having an organist, choir or bell ringers.
- church flowers – these can either be arranged with our own flower arrangers or you may choose to provide your own flowers or use a professional florist.
- fees for using the church sound system to play recorded music or for videoing of the service.

See page 5 for a list of fees payable for these options at St John the Baptist, Shedfield.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Booking deposit:** A non-returnable deposit of **£100** is payable when you submit your Booking Form – *please check first with the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator that your preferred date is available.*

**Fees:** Fees are normally payable not later than one calendar month before the wedding blessing or renewal of vows. An invoice will be sent to you detailing costs at the time of your booking. *Please see the table of fees on page 5.*

## MUSIC FOR YOUR SERVICE

**Organist and Choir:** Both are arranged through the Life Events Co-ordinator. Please let us know in good time so that we can help with the arrangements for music at your service. *If you wish to bring your own musician/s or recorded music you must let us know.*

**Copyright:** Copyright law applies to all music ‘within copyright’ and must have the author and copyright owner noted after the hymn/song. Music covered by a CCLI licence may be printed in an order of service without further payment or permission – St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield’s CCLI number is 284409. Please see the Christian Music Publishers’ Association website for more information:

<http://www.cmpa-europe.org/weddings.htm>

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Orders of service (service booklets):** Your minister will discuss the order of service with you: please do not have the order of service printed before your minister has seen your final draft. Please contact the Parish Life Event Co-ordinator if you would like us to print your orders of service (*price by arrangement*).

**Video:** It’s essential to consult your minister before entering into any agreements about video filming. A video licence fee is payable (*see page 5*). In addition, a Performing Rights Society licence (PRS) is required. This may be obtained from [www.wvrl.co.uk](http://www.wvrl.co.uk).

**Photography:** **NO flash photography is allowed during the service.** Guests will be requested not to take photographs during the service – only the official photographer may do so (without flash). The parish protocol for the use of drone photography must be complied with (*available from the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator*).

**Flowers:** If you would like us to arrange your choice of flowers for your wedding blessing for a competitive rate, please speak to the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator at

least 6 weeks before the day of your service.

If you wish to provide your own flowers, or to use professional florists, you are most welcome to do so, but you are asked to inform the Parish Life-Events Co-ordinator, and to give her their name and telephone number so that she can arrange for the church to be open and water etc. to be available.

**And finally...** If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your minister or the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator.

## CONTACTS

Rector	Revd Jane Isaac	01329 835295	<a href="mailto:Revdjaneisaac@isaacanglican.co.uk">Revdjaneisaac@isaacanglican.co.uk</a>
Assistant Curate	Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple	01329 280905	<a href="mailto:revruthhs@gmail.com">revruthhs@gmail.com</a>
Associate Minister	Revd Juliet Montague	01489 895012	<a href="mailto:revdjuliet@gmail.com">revdjuliet@gmail.com</a>
Life Events Co-ordinator	Mrs Jane Goulson	01329 833 299	<a href="mailto:parishlifeevents@btinternet.com">parishlifeevents@btinternet.com</a>
CofE website	<a href="http://www.yourchurchwedding.org">http://www.yourchurchwedding.org</a>		

TABLE OF FEES FOR WEDDING BLESSINGS & REQUESTED DONATIONS  
FOR  
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHEDFIELD ~ 2021

**MARRIAGES**

<i>Basic fees</i>	
Service of Blessing	£300
Requested fabric donation (maintenance of the church building) *	£100

<i>Other fees, depending on your requirements</i>	
Verger	£45
Winter heating – 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct to 30 <sup>th</sup> April**	£50
Organist	£80
Choir	£100
Video permission	£80
Bells	£200
Use of church sound system for recorded sound	£25

\* We have a beautiful church and extensive ministry to the people of the local community and further afield. This donation is requested to help us to keep the church open and active in the years ahead. If you are a UK tax payer, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration for these amounts.

\*\* This item is mandatory in winter; optional at other times.

**NB** Fees are normally revised with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. Please check fees for the year in which you are getting married.

## BOOKING FORM

<b>Names:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Requested date and time of blessing</b>	
<b>Non-refundable deposit</b>	<b>£100. Contact the Life Events Co-ordinator for online banking details.</b>

**Please indicate which of the following you would like at your blessing:**

Organist	
Choir	
Bells	
Flowers	
Video permission	
Use of sound system	

Please return this form to the Parish Life Events Co-ordinator by email [parishlifeevents@btinternet.com](mailto:parishlifeevents@btinternet.com) or by hand/post to the Parish Office, St Nicholas Church, Roman Way, Tanfield Lane, Wickham PO17 5NN.

(Wedding blessings are co-ordinated for the Benefice of St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield and St Nicholas Church, Wickham by Mrs Jane Goulson).