



*The Churches of*  
**STANTON-BY-DALE with**  
**DALE ABBEY & RISLEY**

## All you need to know about getting married in this benefice – 2026

Thank you for considering getting married in this Benefice – this leaflet contains much of the information you will need to plan your wedding. As well as reading this leaflet, please complete and return the Wedding Information Form, this will help us together to confirm the date and time of your wedding. If you have any questions – please do get in touch! We're happy to help!

### What should you do next?

#### Come along to church

We invite you to attend church regularly on Sundays before and after your marriage. By doing so, you will have a chance to get to know the minister taking your service (and vice versa), as well as having the chance to think through the significance of a Christian wedding service.

You can find out what's going on and what services are happening where at: [www.sdrchurches.org.uk](http://www.sdrchurches.org.uk). There are also lots of different groups that help to build friendships and give an opportunity to explore what the Christian faith is all about.

#### Complete the preparation

Marriage is a life-changing, joyful

commitment which needs thinking and working through. Our commitment as a church is to help enable your marriage to last a lifetime, so our expectation is you will want to prepare for it carefully and thoroughly.

We help people prepare for their marriage in two ways; **first** by helping couples explore together the dynamics of their relationship, and significance of their commitment, and **second** by carefully going through the service and its significance. To help you prepare for your wedding, you will be guided through a 3 or 4 session marriage preparation course. These are informal, friendly, and have been well received by couples preparing for marriage and are usually

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Rector: Phil Selby (phil.selby@sdrchurches.org.uk)  
Administrator: Elaine Warren (admin@sdrchurches.org.uk)

led by the Minister who will take your wedding service.

Also, as part of your marriage preparation, we will go through all the details of the service, and to finalise the legal and practical formalities, like music and hymns.

### Complete legal and practical arrangements

To marry in the local Parish Church, it is necessary to EITHER:

- i) **Have 'banns' read** in the relevant churches.
- ii) **To have a licence** permitting the marriage to take place in the designated church.

**Banns** are a public notice of your intention to marry. They are used in the following instances:

- 1) When one or both of a couple are **actually resident** (ie names on civic electoral roll) in the parish at the time of their first publication OR
- 2) When one or both of a couple are **on the current electoral roll** of that church (*which requires a person to have worshipped regularly at that church for at least 6 months*) OR
- 3) When there is a real, "**qualifying connection**" (*You will need to confirm you qualify with a minister; but qualifying connections are: if you were on Church electoral roll or baptised/confirmed at the Church or have evidence of residence in the Parish for over 6 months; or your parents were on electoral roll or resident, or parents or grandparents were married in the church!*)

Banns must be read out in the church where the wedding is to be held, and also in **every parish of residency** on three Sundays before the wedding. So, if you live outside our parish, you must arrange with the Church of England minister where you live for your banns to be read in that church, and then obtain a banns certificate for which a fee (£48) is payable to that church. You must ensure we have this certificate in advance of the wedding day (preferably a couple of weeks before);

**we cannot legally marry you without it.** We read banns in the main services starting six weeks before the wedding. Come along!

**Special Licence** – In limited circumstances, if you want to marry in a church outside your own parish but cannot satisfy any of the "qualifying connections" yet have another real and tangible connection with the church, you can apply for a Special Licence (usually between £325 and £400 depending on the type of licence). The Church of England wants to help you find a way to marry in your preferred church, but Special Licences are not automatically granted, so need to be planned at least a year in advance.

### What are the practical arrangements we need to make?

Once you have confirmed what optional extras you require: such as whether to have **Bells** or an **Organist** you must recognise you are committing people to be at your service (please note that we cannot always guarantee Bells during holiday periods or mid-week, but you are not charged if they are unavailable). **Once extras have been booked then they will be charged for.**

### Choose the Music and Contact the Organist

There are normally two hymns (*sometimes three*) to choose, as well as music at the beginning & end of the service and during the signing of the registers. Hymns must be Christian hymns from our hymn books. In exceptional cases, other choices may be considered – but you must consult the minister responsible for your service as soon as possible for approval.

The organist responsible for each wedding will be listed on your MB1 form held in the church office. They will gladly advise you on tunes for the hymns and on other music for the service. **We suggest you contact the organist personally at least 6 months before the wedding to ensure your music requirements**

**are fully met.** It is not essential to use an organist, we can arrange for digital recordings of music to be played – this needs to be discussed when you talk about the details of your service. (**Please note: final decisions regarding music lies with the Rector.**)

### Prepare the Order of Service

It is not necessary to print an order of service, you may use church hymn books free of charge. If you prefer to have Order of Service cards printed, this is your own responsibility, but you **must** have a proof copy checked with the minister **before** printing and ensure that sufficient are printed for any unexpected visitors to church as well as guests.

When preparing your wedding service, different options for the wording of the service will be explained, so check your preferences with the minister taking your service then.

The order outline for a service sheet is:

**Entrance**  
**Opening prayers**  
**Hymn**  
**The Marriage**  
**Bible Reading**  
**Address**  
**(Optional hymn)**  
**Prayers**  
**Hymn**  
**Signing of Register**  
**Processional.**

### Plan your flowers

There are flowers in church each Sunday (apart from Lent). You are welcome to have these at your wedding at no cost (but you will have no input into what they are). If you prefer to have special wedding flowers, you will need to make suitable arrangements and ensure that the office know well in advance to avoid confusion with church flowers. Flowers will need to stay in church for Sunday services.

### Arrange the rehearsal

This is usually for the couple, best man, bride's father and bridesmaids (*at least a chief one, if not all*), to walk through the service. You can fix this up with the minister conducting the service at the Preparation Session, but it is usually either a few days before (*if local*) or the day before (*where participants travel for the wedding*).

### Complete Payment

By the date of your rehearsal, you must pay the full amount of the cost of your wedding either by cheque or bank transfer. Please contact the church office 0115 944 0609 or email: [admin@sdrchurches.org.uk](mailto:admin@sdrchurches.org.uk) for payment details.

### How much will it cost?

Standard fees for all weddings in 2026 Church of England

(incl fees, banns and certificates) **£625**  
(£257 of which the church gives to the Diocese in legal fees)

Services charge and expenses:  
**£180** to **£220**

### Optional extras

Bells:

Risley and Dale **£50**

Stanton (6 bells) **£185** / (8 bells) **£250**

Organist: **£70** +

### What do we need to do on the day?

### What should I tell the photographer(s)?

– Any photographs may be taken before and after the service. You are encouraged to appoint an official photographer, preferably a professional. He or she only may take photographs (without flash) during the actual service, although during the entrance and exit everyone can join in. Only the official photographer will be invited to photograph a mock register signing.

## What if I am having a video?

Video recording is permitted, subject to certain conditions, so as to prevent distractions. During the service the camera operator must remain invisible and will be not allowed to roam the church during the service. Un-manned cameras may be permitted from other places in the church building by arrangement in advance. (For Copyright reasons, videoing the music may incur a small surcharge.)

Please ensure that your official photographer and/or video-photographer introduce themselves to the verger.

*Unauthorised people taking photographs or videos during the service may be asked to leave.*

## What do I tell the Ushers?

It is helpful to have roughly four ushers. They are responsible for welcoming guests, giving out service sheets, keeping reserved seats free, showing people to their seats, and collecting books and sheets afterwards. Tell them to advise guests about photography restrictions ("not during the service") and about confetti. *Please note that only 'real petal' confetti can be thrown in the boundary of the church grounds. Strictly NO artificial confetti.*

## When should we get there?

The groom, best man, and ushers should arrive at church 35–45 minutes before the service is due to begin. The bride should arrive ten minutes early, bearing in mind the time needed to take photographs before the service.

Remember that traffic can be very heavy on Fridays and Saturdays, so allow for this. *If the bride is not present by ten minutes after the booked starting time, we reserve the right to cancel, postpone or shorten the service, so as not to delay other weddings on that day or the organist or bell ringers attending later weddings.*

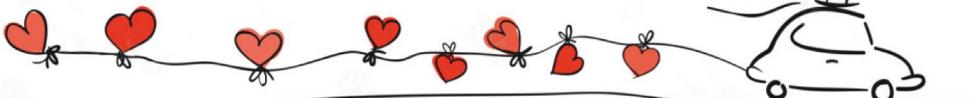
## Is there anything else?

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**You will not be issued with a marriage certificate by the presiding vicar or rector at your wedding. You will be asked to sign a marriage document in front of witnesses which the presiding vicar or rector will then take from you and post it to the local register office associated with the benefice in which you get married (for our benefice, the Erewash Registration Office in Ilkeston). It will be sent as soon after your wedding as possible (legally this has to be done within 21 days of the marriage for it to be registered). It is then your responsibility to contact the register office to pay for and collect your marriage certificate(s).**

The Marriage Information Form you fill in asks for your future married address. We value this as it enables us to keep in touch with you. We have occasional annual services especially for couples who have been married in the church, and we'd like to invite you when they happen.

Many couples return in the future asking us to baptise their children. *We are happy to do so, but we can only do this for parents who regularly worship in the church, as the baptism promises include this.* However, we offer a Thanksgiving service for welcoming children where a person is no longer an active church member or wishes to return to the church. We would love to see you regularly and for you to consider us your church!



We as a church family want to support you to make your day really special.  
We look forward to welcoming you!