

Getting Married in Church

Thank you for enquiring about a wedding at St Augustine's Church, Broxbourne or St Laurence's Church, Wormley.



The choice of arrangements for your wedding ceremony is very important indeed, and we would like to help you as much as we can. We hope you find the following information useful.

Are you entitled to be married in Broxbourne or Wormley Parish Church?

Where do you live ?

St Augustine's Parish Church, Broxbourne, and the Parish Church of St Laurence, Wormley are part of the Church of England, and currently, by church law, you have a right to be married in this parish if at least one of you fulfils one of the following 3 criteria:-

- 1)** You reside on a permanent basis within the Parish of Broxbourne with Wormley. Our boundaries extend as far as Cock Lane to the north and Herts Regional College to the south. Please note that Canada Fields is *not* in our parish. (A simple sketch map is available to guide you if you are not sure of the boundaries.)

OR

- 2)** You can verify with the minister a 'Qualifying Connection' with the parish church if one of the following applies:-

Qualifying Connections:-

- one of you was baptized or prepared for confirmation in the parish
- one of you has ever lived in the parish for 6 months or more
- one of you has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for 6 months or more
- one of your parents has lived in the parish for 6 months or more in their child's lifetime
- one of your parents has regularly attended public worship here for 6 months or more in their child's lifetime
- your parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

OR

- 3)** If you do not have a qualifying connection as in points 1 & 2, but are prepared to worship here regularly for at least 6 months and are baptized, you may apply to go onto the church membership roll here. Wedding arrangements can then be confirmed.

Have you been married before?

If you are a widow or widower, or if you have not been married before, your wedding will be arranged in the traditional way. You will be formally asked about this when applying.

However, if you *have* been married before and your previous partner is still alive, you would be required to have a series of meetings with the minister to discuss being married in church before a decision is made. Ministers follow Church of England guidelines from the House of Bishops and the final decision as to whether a church wedding would be possible or not is made by the Priest-in-Charge of the parish.

If not possible, we do offer to arrange a **Service of Thanksgiving after a Civil Marriage** instead, which still includes hymns, prayers, organ music, and bell-ringing. A special order of service, which is authorized by the Church of England for such occasions, is also printed by the Church. It is however, different from the Marriage Service in form and in content. The clergy will be glad to discuss these differences with you.

Please Note

The legal age for marriage in this country is at present **16 years**.

Fees for 2011

Wedding fees are reviewed annually according to Church of England guidelines and church running costs. Please be aware that the fees will increase if you wish to get married in the following year.

Current Fees

- **Marriage at St Augustine's, Broxbourne - £807**
- **Marriage at St Laurence, Wormley - £717**

These fees include marriage preparation, the calling of Banns in this parish, the attendance of clergy, verger, organist, choir, church flowers, the marriage certificate, printed orders of service if desired & bell-ringers at St Augustine's.

When we cannot provide a choir or bells, the charges are reduced by the appropriate amount. Also, if any of the above are not required, the fees will be reduced accordingly.

Once you have had your first meeting with the minister, and have agreed upon a date for the wedding, you will be asked to **confirm the booking, by paying a deposit of £100** within one

month of the booking date.

50% of this is non-returnable in the event of a cancellation up to 3 months prior to the wedding, and 100% thereafter.

The balance of fees is then payable at least one month before the wedding. All these and other details are discussed at a preliminary meeting with a church minister.

What do you do next?

If you are ready to proceed, please contact the Parish Office on **Tel. 01992 44117** to arrange to come in with some ID to complete the necessary booking forms. This should take approximately half an hour.

Please do not book your wedding reception before speaking to the minister and checking that all is in order for a church wedding and the church is available for your desired date.

We look forward to meeting you.

See our website for more info:

www.broxbournewithwormley.org.uk