

Weddings in St Aldhelm's Parish

2025



Welcome to the Parish of St Aldhelm's

We are delighted that you are interested in marrying in this very special part of the world.

St Aldhelm's Parish consists of four churches- St George's in Langton Matravers, St James' in Kingston, St Nicholas of Myra in Worth Matravers, and St Aldhelm's Chapel in Worth Matravers.

We are part of the wider St Aldhelm's Benefice which includes a further three churches- St Edwards in Corfe Castle, St Peter's in Church Knowle and St Nicholas of Myra in Kimmeridge.

We will do all we can to ensure your wedding day is a very happy one and that your marriage begins on the firmest foundations.

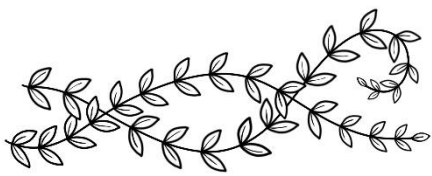
We hope that this pack will help you think through what a marriage in church is all about, and to give you all of the information and guidance you will need.

You will both meet the minister taking the service on a few occasions prior to the wedding, so please do use this pack as an introductory guide to ask any questions you may have.

INSIDE THIS PACK

- An introduction to our churches
- Useful information about our churches, including flowers, bells, organs and parking
- The costs of church weddings – compulsory fees and optional extras
- Legal Requirements for a church wedding ~ qualifying connections and Banns
- Choosing Music for your wedding.
- Choosing Hymns and Readings for your wedding





St George's Church Langton Matravers



St George's is a stunning 19th Century Village church, with attractive stained windows and a picturesque entrance porch.

The present building is at least the third, and maybe the fourth church on this site.

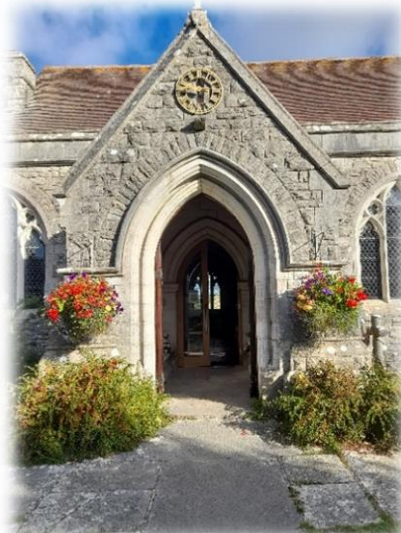
The west tower dates from c.1320, and on its east wall (the interior back wall of the church) evidence can be seen of the churches of c.1290 and 1829

Built from local stone - Purbeck Portland Limestone, Studland Ironstone and Purbeck Marble – it was completed in 1876, with the famous Purbeck Marble being seen in 28 columns, mostly in the chancel.

This bright, sunny and inviting church will make a fabulous place for your wedding. With the porch, prayer garden and grounds providing an excellent backdrop for your photographs.



Sadly, the church does not have bells that can be rung for your special day, but it does have a wonderful organ – dating back to 1915 - which will provide a fabulous musical accompaniment to your special day if you so wish.



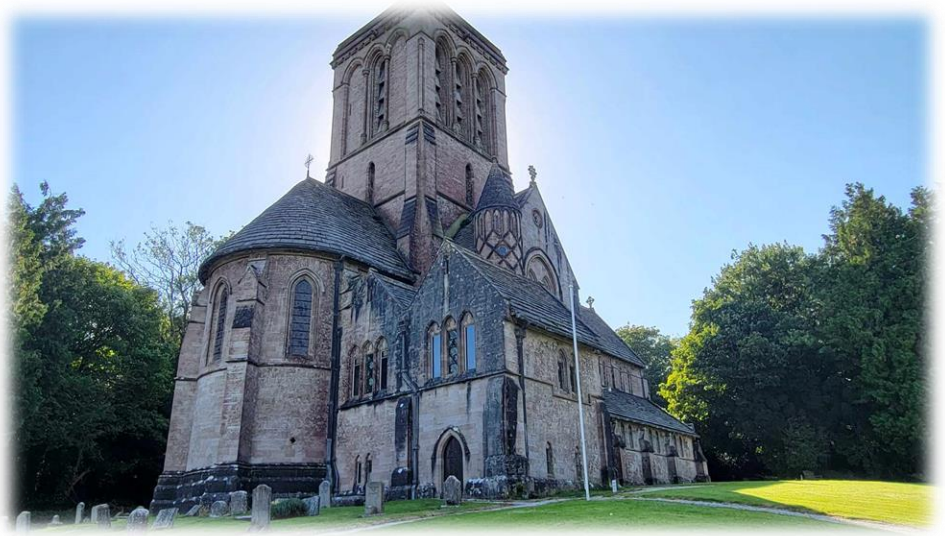
The church will seat approximately 120 guests, and there are toilet facilities in the church.

Parking is limited to surrounding residential streets, so we do ask that people be respectful of our neighbours.





St James' Church Kingston



Often described as a Jewel in the Isle of Purbeck, or the Cathedral of Purbeck, St James' Church stands majestically above the village of Kingston, and overlooks Corfe Castle in the valley below.

It was built during the 1870's and used as a private chapel until 1921 when the church and graveyard were conveyed to the Church Commissioners and consecrated for the use of the village.

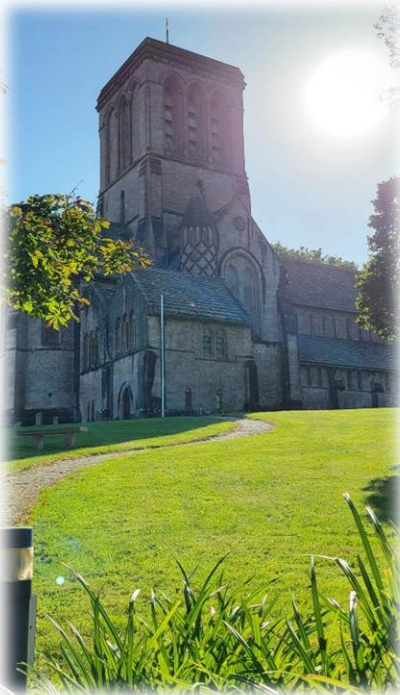


The wonderful, listed organ, installed in 1880, has been refurbished and can provide a fabulous musical backdrop for your wedding.



St James' Tower has a total of ten bells, that are reputed to be the best in Dorset, these can be rung at your wedding for a traditional feel.

Parking is available approx. 100yds past the church, and a toilet is accessible from outside the church. The church can seat approx. 140 guests.





St Aldhelm's Chapel

Worth Matravers



This picturesque, isolated chapel, dedicated to St Aldhelm the first Bishop of Sherborne, stands on cliffs 108m above sea level on St Aldhelm's Head near the village of Worth Matravers.

Very few facts about its early history are known, although legends and rumours abound, the first mention of it occurs in the reign of Henry III (1216 - 1272)

The beautiful, vaulted 12th century roof, and the rustic charm of the chapel make it a unique place to hold your wedding.



The chapel is quite small, with the maximum number of guest capacity at 70, but only 50 of those can be seated.



Due to the distance from the car park, it is advisable to ferry guests to and from the chapel. Local coach company Linkrider can do this for you for a modest cost.

There is no heating or electric at the chapel, so generally couples are advised to book their weddings in the warmer months usually between April and October.

There are no toilet facilities at the chapel.





St Nicholas' Church

Worth Matravers



St Nicholas of Myra, was built around AD1100 and is one of the oldest churches in Dorset.

Little has changed since that time and most of what you see today is that of the original church.

It was extensively restored in 1869, and more recently the organ has been refurbished and new under-pew heating installed. This past couple of years it has had a new roof and other associated works carried out.



This picturesque church is the perfect place for a smaller, more intimate wedding, which has seating for 90 guests.



With the bell tower holding 6 bells that can be rung for your special day.



Parking is difficult in the village, however there is a large public car park on the Kingston Road at the entrance to the village.



There are no toilet facilities at the church, however it may be possible to use those at the village hall.

Fees for a Wedding and a Marriage Blessing 2025

Standard Fees (Set nationally by the Church of England, and will rise yearly)

The Marriage Service or Blessing of a Marriage following a registry office marriage	£544.00
Reading of Banns on three Sundays *	£37.00
Total for marrying in your home parish	£581.00
*Please note: Banns are not required when a Licence has been issued or for a Blessing of a Marriage. **Additional marriage certificates issued at a later date £15.00 each	
Reading of Banns on three Sundays in your parish church if marrying away from home parish	£37.00
Banns Certificate from your home parish	£19.00
Total	£56.00

Table of Charges & Optional Fees for All Churches

The vergers fee, and if applicable, the facility fee for video, heating and organ and bells will be included in your wedding invoice which is payable **21 days** before your wedding.

	St George's Langton	St Nicholas Worth	St James Kingston	St Aldhelm's Chapel
Vergers	£75.00	£75.00	£75.00	£75.00
Optional Fees				
Bells	No bells	£160.00	£200.00	No bells
Organist	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00
Facility fee for video	£30.00	£30.00	£30.00	£30.00
Heating (Winter)	£40.00	£40.00	£60.00	No heating

Additional information for our Churches

Flowers for your service

Many couples like to have special flower arrangements for their service. Please contact the flower organisers listed below for your church to find out about access to the church and to inform them of your arrangements and whether you need to use the church pedestals. As we always have flowers in church we would appreciate that you make sure that some flower arrangements are left in the church after your wedding service.

If you do not wish to organise special flower arrangements, you are welcome to use the arrangement provided by the church flower organisers. We would welcome a donation to our flower fund.

Contact numbers for Flower Organisers

Liz Hoad - St Nicholas Worth 01929 439380

Sarah Bibra - St George's Langton Matravers sarahbibra@gmail.com

Doreen Farr - St James's Kingston 01929 480837

Bells at our churches

There are 6 bells at St Nicholas' Church, Worth Matravers and 10 bells at St James' Church Kingston but no bells at St George's Langton Matravers or St. Aldhelm's Chapel.

If you wish bells to be rung please contact Liz Hoad on 01929 439380 for St Nicholas' Church and Mike Pitman on 01929 463589 for St James' Church as soon as possible to ensure they have sufficient time to assemble a team of ringers.

Verger (compulsory)

A verger prepares the church for the ceremony, helps ushers and advises guests. At St. Aldhelm's Chapel the verger's fee includes the cost of transport and lighting of candles as the chapel does not have any electricity.

Organist & Music

There is an organ at all our churches except St. Aldhelm's Chapel where there is no electricity. Please contact organist, Roderick Raley on 01929 426463 or Richard Earl on 01929 475822, to discuss your music choices.

At St James' Church, Felicity Smith might be available to play the violin to accompany the organ, her contact details are 01929 427765.

If you would like a choir for your service you may contact Richard Earl from Langton on 01929 475822.

At St. Aldhelm's Chapel there is no organ or keyboard and couples need to provide their own music and speakers and someone to control them. All equipment must be battery operated as there is no electricity.

Orders of service that use printed words of more modern hymns need to quote the **CCLI number** for these churches, which is **925562**.

Videoring your wedding

There are legal considerations when filming a public event like a wedding. This is because filming affects copyright and other performing rights of musicians. If you are recording an organist or choir performing, they may be entitled to an additional fee of £100. There is a video license fee of £30.00 if you wish to video the service. Please liaise with the vicar who is taking the service on about the use of a video camera.

Confetti at our churches

Please provide bio-degradable confetti and ask your guests to do the same. Confetti needs to be thrown outside the church and away from the main doors and paths.

Car Parking and Toilet Facilities for our churches

Car parking in the villages is very challenging as the roads are narrow and often already congested by resident's cars. We respectfully ask you to remind your guests to bear this in mind when they are attending your wedding service, and to ensure that they do not block a resident's driveways or cause a hazard to the many farm vehicles using the village roads.

In **Langton** there is a small car park behind the church which may be useful for people who are involved in your service. Other than that parking is on the main street and the residential side roads. There is a toilet in the church.

In **Kingston** there is a car park about 100 yards up the hill past the church on the left hand side which church guests could use. A few cars can park on the roadside with the church building to your left after the cottages. There is a toilet which can be accessed from outside the church building walking past the tower and turning right.

In **Worth Matravers** there is parking available for users of the church in the Recreation Field. This is subject to favourable weather conditions. This will be clearly signposted through the village and we politely request that you make your guests aware of this facility when sending out invitations. There is also a large public car park available close to the Square and Compass pub where there are toilets. There is also usually access to the village hall opposite the church for a toilet.

Please note the maximum number of guests in the church is 100.

For weddings at **St. Aldhelm's** you will need to organise for your guests to be ferried to the chapel. There is a car park at Renscombe at the start of the track. This is the pick-up for coaches or a mini bus. We usually allow about 15 minutes to drive out to the chapel but this is dependent on the track conditions. Link Rider Coaches, www.linkridercoaches.co.uk on 01929 477344, are usually very helpful. **There are no toilet facilities at St. Aldhelm's Chapel.**

Please note the maximum number of guests for the church is 70 and only 50 can be seated.

We are most grateful for your help with parking as we wish to maintain the best relationship possible with the village residents.



Getting Married in Church – Legal Requirements

The Church of England want to encourage couples to marry in churches where they have a family connection but do not necessarily reside. These are called qualifying connections.

There are various ways in which you can qualify, as set down by law.

Qualifying Connections:

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, or
- was baptised (christened) in the parish concerned, or
- is confirmed and your confirmation was entered in the register of confirmations for a church or chapel in the parish (this will usually be the case if you were prepared for confirmation in the parish), or
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

or

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

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, or
- has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

or

That one of your parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish
-

Also, if you move house, you are immediately connected to the church there. That means you can marry in the church of your new parish.

If you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, you could create one, simply by attending your chosen church's usual services at least once a month, ideally for six consecutive months.

Talk to the Vicar at your chosen church well in advance to discuss the options open to you.



Marrying by Banns

Banns are an announcement during a church service, usually over three successive Sundays, of your intention to get married. They are designed to give you the chance to think over your choice, and to give the opportunity for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.

Banns are an ancient legal tradition and have been read out every week in churches across the land for millions of couples, over many centuries.

After your forthcoming marriage is announced, the congregation may be invited to pray for you both. It can be quite special and moving to hear this, so do go along if you can. As well as being a legal requirement, your banns readings are special public occasions when people in church hear of your intention to marry. It's an exciting and happy time, so you're welcome to invite your family and friends to hear your banns too, if you'd like.

What happens?

It is a legal requirement that your Banns of Marriage are read in the parish church where you reside and also where you are getting married if these are different.

If both of you live in the parish where you are getting married, then only one set of Banns needs to be read and a Banns certificate is not required.

If only one of you lives in the parish and your partner lives in another parish, you can still get married here, but your Banns have to be called both here and in the parish where your partner lives. You will need to complete a Banns Application Form for your local parish church, and ask for a banns certificate. It is your responsibility to make sure that your banns are called in the parish where you live. We will need a copy of the Banns certificate from your local church, which you can get from the priest of that parish. This needs to be given to us a fortnight before your wedding. If you do not provide a Banns certificate from your local parish your wedding cannot go ahead.

If neither of you live in the parish, your Banns will need to be read both here and in the parish and where you both live. You will need to complete a Banns Application form for your local parish church, and ask for a Banns certificate. It is your responsibility to ensure your Banns are read in the parish where you live. We will need a copy of the Banns certificate from your local church, which you can get from the priest of that parish. This needs to be given to us a fortnight before your wedding. If you do not provide a Banns certificate from your local parish your wedding cannot go ahead.

You can find out which parish you live in by going to www.achurchnearyou.com.

Other circumstances

If there is not enough notice given for the banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or if one or both of you are British but do not live in England (or Wales), the Common Licence procedure needs to be used rather than banns.

If one or both of you is a national of a country which is outside the European Economic Area, you will require a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to marry, rather than have banns read.

Music at Your Wedding

Music sets the scene and you need to choose music for the arrival of the bride and the procession out of the church as well as for the signing of the registers.

There are usually two or three hymns sung during a wedding service. The first is sung near to the beginning and helps everyone to feel that they are together in this place for a special purpose. The last hymn comes right before the final blessing, and reflects a mood of celebration and joy. When choosing hymns it is worth remembering that your guests need to sing along, so some couples add YouTube links for their hymns to the wedding invitation so people can familiarise themselves with the tune.

The Church of England website www.yourchurchwedding.org has a section on Hymns for your wedding and Other Music for your Wedding where you can listen to audio files to get some ideas. We have also listed some popular hymns below.

Jerusalem

O Worship the King

Morning Has Broken

Come To A Wedding

Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

The Lord's My Shepherd

O Praise Ye The Lord!

Give Me Joy In My Heart

God In The Planning And Purpose Of Life

All Things Bright And Beautiful

At Cana's Wedding Long Ago

That Human Life Might Richer Be

Lord And Lover Of Creation

Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

We Pledge To One Another

The Grace Of Life Is Theirs

Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord

Amazing Grace

One More Step Along The World I Go

Lord Of The Dance

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

For The Beauty Of The Earth

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

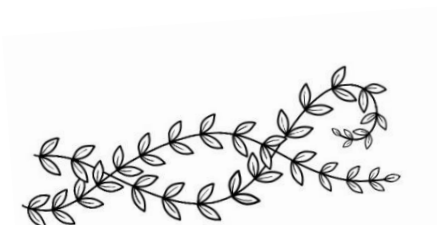
Lord Of All Hopefulness

The King Of Love My Shepherd Is

As Man And Woman We Were Made

Tell out my Soul

Lead us Heavenly Father



Popular Bible Readings for Weddings

All weddings in the Church of England include one or more readings from the Bible. Here are some more popular suggestions you might like to consider -

- Love, actually! The number 1 most popular reading for weddings is (1 Corinthians Chapter 13)
- God creates women and men to look after the earth (Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 26-28)
- A love poem between two lovers (Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, verses 10-13; Chapter 8, verses 6&7)
- Jesus teaches how to live a life that brings true happiness (Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 1-10)
- Jesus teaches about marriage, and welcomes children (Mark, Chapter 10, verses 6-9 and 13-16)
- What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception (John, Chapter 2, verses 1 - 11)
- Committing to each other (Ephesians Chapter 5, verses 21-33)
- Seeing the good side... (Philippians Chapter 4, verses 4 - 9)
- Getting the perfect relationship (Colossians Chapter 3, verses 12 - 17)
- Being a good lover! (1 John Chapter 4 verses 7 - 12)

Below are some of the more commonly used readings in full -

1 Corinthians 13 v 1-13 or v 1-8,13

The Gift of Love

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (Copyright: NRSV)

Colossians 3 v 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which

binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Copyright: NRSV)

1 John 4 v 7-12

God Is Love

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. (Copyright: NRSV)

Ephesians 5 v 21-33

The Christian Household

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body.

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband. (Copyright: NRSV)

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

(Copyright: NRSV)

Song of Solomon 2 v 10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. (Copyright: NRSV)

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of one's house,
it would be utterly scorned.

(Copyright: NRSV)





Contact Us



We do hope that you found this booklet useful. If you would like to discuss booking your wedding at one of the four beautiful churches in the Parish of St Aldhelm, or if you have any questions at all, then please do get in touch with our administrator for further information and guidance.

Email: admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org

Phone: 01929 427822

