

A Special Licence represents exceptional permission given by the Archbishop of Canterbury to get married in a particular place. It is relatively rare to require one.

 A bride holding her bouquet

If you want to marry in a church outside your own parish, and genuinely feel that you have a connection that is not covered by any of the [legally-recognised connections](#), then you may be able to apply for a Special Licence.

Another typical example of a case to apply for a Special Licence is if you'd like to marry in the chapel of a school or college where you used to attend. Because they're not parish churches, a Special Licence is required to make weddings legally possible there.

Talk to the vicar who should be able to help you with the application, which is sent to:

### [Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

1 The Sanctuary,

Westminster

London

SW1P 3JT

Tel: 0207 2225381

The fee for this will be around Â£325.

We want to help you find a way to marry in your preferred church but Special Licences are not automatically granted. Be sure to plan well in advance of your wedding to expand your options.

## **Also in this section**

 A vicar preparing the legal paperwork in the vestry

### [Legal requirements](#)

 A church with a square tower surrounded by blossom trees

### [Finding a church](#)



## Why marry in church?

A bride and groom smiling at the front of church

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## Can I marry in church?

Some confetti lying in the grass

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## Mixed faith marriages

Wedding rings in presentation boxes

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## Your wedding and Covid-19

Bride and groom signing the register with their son on his dad's knee

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## Your children are welcome

Wedding flowers with guests, the couple and the bridesmaids out of focus in the background

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## When can I marry in church?



## Information for same sex couples

The interior of a church with the couple making their wedding vows

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## More than a wedding venue

simple flowers in jam jars on the ends of pews

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## Booking a church

A vicar laughing with a wedding couple

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## Meeting the vicar

A bride and groom being blessed by a vicar

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## **Seven steps to a heavenly wedding**

Inside a church. A church window with a lit candelabra in front of it

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## **Marriage after divorce**

A white wedding car stopped by a lychgate

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## If you live abroad

A wedding invitation with pink heart confetti on it

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## Information for foreign nationals

A wedding ring resting on an open Bible

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## Common Licences

Looking up into a church roof

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## Do we need a marriage licence?

Some church flowers in focus in wider shot of church

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## Superintendent Registrars Marriage Schedule

A close-up of a couple holding hands

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## The cost of church weddings

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