

Most Church of England marriages will not require a licence, but in some circumstances you might need to apply for one!

### Looking up into a church roof

Licences replace the need for having banns read out, which is the usual legal requirement before a wedding can take place.

You might need a licence if:

- One or both of you are British but live abroad.
- One or both of you live in the UK but your home is not in England or Wales.
- Your home address is likely to change during the time when banns would normally be read out.
- Your wedding date is too soon to allow enough time for banns to be read.

In these kinds of circumstances a Common Licence application may be recommended. [Read more about Common Licences.](#)

If you have no legal connection to the church where you would like your wedding to take place, and don't have time to create one before your wedding, there are two further licence options which may be suggested to you:

- [A Special Licence](#)
- [A Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule](#)

If either of you is not a national of the UK or Ireland and doesn't hold Settled or Pre-Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme, you will need to obtain a Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule to enable you to marry.

The granting of licences is not always guaranteed, so be sure to explore your options as far in advance as you can before your wedding.

## 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 bride holding her bouquet

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## **Special licences**

A wedding ring resting on an open Bible

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## **Common Licences**

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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**Source URL:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/just-engaged/do-we-need-marriage-licence>