

If you choose to marry in church, it will be a day that is personal and special for you, but that need not mean you spend a fortune.

A close-up of a couple holding hands

There is no doubt that the choices you make about your wedding day can make a huge impact on the total cost. Part of the cost will be for the legal fees, and everyone pays this. There are also optional extras which you can choose or decline, according to your budget.

Compulsory costs

There is a required legal fee for marrying in a church. In **2022*** it costs Â£560 if you marry away from where you live and Â£512 if you marry in your home parish.

This is set by the Church of England nationally and is the same for every church.

This basic legal fee includes the cost of the vicar, the church, calling your banns, a banns certificate, lighting and all administration. (After your wedding, when it has been registered at the relevant register office, you will also pay the register office Â£11 for your marriage certificate â the certificate is no longer issued by churches).

This required fee has ancient origins and ensures your church can maintain essential services like weddings, christenings, funerals and all kinds of other ministries for you and your community.

Optional extras

The statutory wedding fee doesn't include extras you may choose or decline, such as:-

- The support of a vergers, who ensures the church is warm, clean and tidy for your wedding and can help with handing out Orders of Service and hymn books etc. They can assist with disability access if needed by your guests and guide people to find their seats, toilets or crÃche if there is one. They can be indispensable in larger churches, freeing up the vicar to give their full attention to you and the wedding service.
- Additional heating in the church. The vicar will let you know if this applies to your wedding.
- Having an organist, choir or bell-ringers â these extra staff will all need to be booked in advance. Sometimes, the church may ask for a deposit to secure these bookings.
- Bear in mind that if your wedding is filmed, musicians like the organist can request an increase in their fee to take into account professional performing rights (read more). Check with the church what the local arrangements are.
- Church flowers â some churches have a local flower arranger who can help you with the flower displays in church.
- Extra copies of the marriage certificate.

You do not have to have any of these extras, but many couples are keen to have at least some. If you choose them, they will cost extra. The costs for each will be at your church's local rate.

Affording the costs

Talk to your vicar early on about what the total cost of your wedding is likely to be. It is good practice for the church to provide you with an itemised quote before your wedding so that you can see exactly what you will be paying for.

Once the final church bill has been agreed, some couples are still keen to offer a donation to the church. Donations may help to cover things like administration and the upkeep of the building. While these gifts are very kind, you needn't feel under any obligation.

If you're struggling to afford your wedding costs, or finding yourself in financial difficulties, it is worth mentioning this to your vicar as they might be able to suggest ways to help. If you need to borrow to pay for your wedding, why not consider using a local credit union? Credit unions offer affordable and responsible credit, and some will even offer special deals on loans for weddings. [You can find a credit union near you by following this link.](#)

*The figure for marrying in **2022** breaks down as follows for couples marrying in their own parish:

- the fee set by law payable to the church: Â£480
- having your banns read at the home church: Â£32

Total for marrying in your home parish (providing you both live there) in 2022: **Â£512**

If a couple marry in **2022** away from where they live, the cost breaks down like this:-

- the fee set by law payable to the marrying church: Â£480
- having your banns read in the marrying church Â£32
- having your banns read at your home church: Â£32
- the banns certificate from your home church: Â£16

Total for marrying outside your parish in 2022: **Â£560**

Also in this section

A vicar preparing the legal paperwork in the vestry

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Legal requirements

A church with a square tower surrounded by blossom trees

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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

Image not found or type unknown

Mixed faith marriages

Wedding rings in presentation boxes

Image not found or type unknown

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

Image not found or type unknown

Booking a church

A vicar laughing with a wedding couple

Image not found or type unknown

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

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

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/just-engaged/cost-church-weddings>