

St Giles, Aintree



Planning your wedding

Your Wedding at St Giles' Aintree

www.stgilesaintree.org.uk

We are delighted that you are thinking of being married at St Giles!

We look forward to journeying with you up to, and beyond, your wedding together by providing both a venue for you to begin your lives together and a community seeking to practice faith, hope and love after the example of Jesus Christ. We have prepared these notes which you may find helpful!

Church Address:

St Giles' Church

Aintree Lane

Aintree

L10 8LE

Vicarage Address:

132 Aintree Lane

Aintree Lane

Aintree

L10 8LE

Contacts

Reverend Nathan Thorpe Vicar

Mobile (Mon-Fri, Sunday): 07795158792

Email: revnathanthorpe@gmail.com

Mr Andrew Mitchell Organist

Email: andrewmitch@live.co.uk

In person conversations after 10:30 am Sundays.

Banns

If one of you lives outside St. Giles' parish you must ensure that your banns are read at the Church of England Parish Church in which you live, by contacting the Vicar there. This must be done whether or not you are a member of the Church of England. The banns are read over three Sundays in the 3 months before the wedding and it is appropriate for you to attend to hear them read.

Please note banns can only be read within three months of the wedding. There is a fee to pay for this, and the certificate should be brought with you to the wedding rehearsal.

There is no need to go to the Registry Office – the Vicar or minister will contact them to give notice of a wedding.

Meeting with the Vicar

You will have a first meeting with the Vicar to discuss initial arrangements and the date. About four months before your wedding you should contact the Vicar to arrange a rehearsal date and to look at the service in detail.

Before this meeting you should have started to make decisions about the hymns and music you would like – for advice on the capability, space for musicians, or hymn and music choices, please contact our church organist, Mr Andrew Mitchell.

The Rehearsal

The week before your wedding, you will have a rehearsal with the Vicar or minister conducting your wedding. You should invite the best man, bridesmaids, witnesses to run through the service ready for the day.

The Wedding Service

The Groom, Best Man and Ushers should aim to be at the Church 30 minutes before the start of the service. The church will be opened at this time.

Music & Hymns

Please choose two or three hymns which are likely to be known by the congregation. We will need to know your choice of music and hymns at least three months before your wedding day. You should contact the organist to discuss music for entering and leaving the church.

Andrew has prepared several suggestions for your convenience.

If given sufficient notice, he is happy to play them for you hear after a Sunday service.

Readings

Please select at least one reading from the Bible.

Please see the suggestions further on for ideas. You may also like to choose a secular reading (this should be read first). It can be very effective to have a family member or friend to read. (They need to be confident to read in church. If they are nervous, please invite them to the rehearsal).

The Vicar is very happy to talk and suggest others that may fit with your journey and life together.

Order of Service

The order of service must be proof-read by the Vicar before printing. There are certain forms of words and legal elements in the wedding service that we need to ensure are present.

Once you have decided on music, hymns and readings please contact the Vicar by email with the details and then the order of service can be completed.

Witnesses

As well as the Bride and Groom the wedding document is signed by two witnesses who should be aged 18 or over.

Flowers

The fees you pay may include the flowers on the altar. Any additional flowers are your responsibility.

If you plan to have pew end arrangements they should be attached with ribbon or a special holder but no florist tape as this removes the varnish.

Please pass the Vicar's details to the florist, as they will need to arrange access to church for decorating. Please note that Rev Nathan is not available between 5:00-7:00 on weekdays & Saturday is generally his day off.

Photos

Your official photographer will need to speak to the Vicar before the ceremony. At no time can the photographer use a flash in church; due to the legal nature of the service & potential for distraction.

Videos and Recordings

A video of your wedding service is allowed after you have signed an agreement not to use the video commercially. The operator must not move during the service or use flashing lights. An additional fee may be payable to the organist for copyrighted music and music licenses.

Parking

Guests are asked to be careful when parking near the Church – to park safely and not to block gates. There is ample parking outside the church.

Confetti

Guests are asked to wait until you are out of the Church before showering you with confetti, and biodegradable confetti is encouraged and preferred!

Website

There are a number of wedding websites with suggestions for music and readings that you could choose but the one we would suggest is:

www.yourchurchwedding.org

Questions

There is no such thing as a daft question! So please call or email the clergy if there is anything at all that you are unsure about or you would like clarity about.

We have conducted weddings before and are here to guide you through the legalities and service so you can focus on beginning your lives together! If we don't know the answer to your question, we know people who will.

Local Venues

We are spoilt by several excellent local venues that can offer a space for your wedding reception. Please contact them directly to discuss availability and requirements.

St Giles' Centre

The St Giles' Centre provides a venue close at hand (immediately next to church) that is ideal for weddings on a budget.

The hall also has a small bar that is licensed to serve alcohol under the St Giles' social club license. It's maximum capacity is 120 people.

The hall, built in the 1960's, is a flexible room that is fitted with mirror balls and disco lights (and is used by local dance group Ballroom Blitz). It has access to an enclosed outdoor field for children's activities or inflatables.

Please contact our hall bookings manager, to check availability before booking your caterers and decorators. They can be reached through the email address: stgilesbookings@gmail.com

If you are worried about your first dance, please contact Jackie at Ballroom Blitz for help and advice. They are contactable on Facebook, or meet on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings in the St Giles' Centre.

Aintree Racecourse

Aintree racecourse is a fantastic wedding venue right on St Giles' doorstep. You can see the racecourse just over the canal immediately behind the church! It has state of the art facilities, capacity for up to 600 guests and parking for 1800 cars.

It has a dedicated team that can be contacted through on 0151 522 2922 or on their email address: northwestevents@thejockeyclub.co.uk

The Park Hotel

Situated 1.5 miles away from church, The Park Hotel provides, through a dedicated and experienced team an individual, intimate and relaxed environment. They can cater for intimate gatherings right up to 200 in their larger function suites. Rooms are also available to book for you or your guests.

To view or discuss availability and requirements, contact [0151 525 7555](tel:01515257555), or email: events@theparkliverpool.co.uk

Premier Inn

There is a Premier Inn that can provide accommodation for guests also a mile away from church.

Planning Your Service

The Church Service

Here at St Giles, the clergy are not just there to sort and conduct your service. We are also there to listen to you and your story, offer advice or assistance with any problems, and pray with you as you prepare for your lives together.

We do this through a range of worship and community events. Our church is a welcoming space, with dedicated children's area and accessible toilets. Children are very welcome, and in 2022, we became the first church in Sefton to become breast-feeding friendly. Our congregation enjoy meeting new people and there is always refreshments after our Sunday services so you can stay and chat if you can.

The clergy will guide you through the wedding process and it's legalities and will also assist with your orders of service. Before printing, they need to have seen a final proof copy.

We can incorporate promises, readings and poems written by couples, but the vows and formal promises must use the wording legally required by the Church of England.

Readings for your Wedding Day

The marriage service is an act of worship, and in particular a time to thank God for bringing you together as a couple, and to ask for a blessing on your marriage.

There are many popular and meaningful readings. Read some together and see if what they say seems important to you. Usually there are one or two readings.

Please select one reading from the Bible.

You may also like to choose a secular reading or poem (this should be read first).

Genesis 2: 18-24 - Our human need for companionship.

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13, 8: 6&7 - A love poem between two lovers.

Matthew 5: 1-10 - Jesus teaches how to live life that brings true happiness.

Matthew 7: 21, 24-37 – Choosing the proper foundation.

Matthew 19: 3-6 – Marriage is for life.

Mark 10: 6-12 - Jesus teaches about marriage.

John 2: 1-11 - What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception .

John 15: 9-12 – Jesus loves us and we should love one another.

Romans 12: 1, 2, 9-13 – We should love God and show that love.

1 Corinthians 13 - Love, actually!

Ephesians 3: 14-21 – Paul prays that we may know the love of God at the very foundation of our lives.

Ephesians 5: 21-33 - Committing to each other.

Philippians 4: 4-9 - Seeing the good side....

Colossians 3: 12-17 - Getting the perfect relationship.

1 John 4: 7-12 – God is love and we should love one another.

A good website to visit to check the words is: www.bible.oremus.org This is an American site and some words may be spelt differently.

The bible version we use in St Giles is the New Revised Standard Version, New International Version, or New Living Translation.

Music for your Wedding Day

There are usually 2 or 3 hymns during the wedding service. Try to find hymns that are familiar to those who will be present – and are easy to sing.

The following are popular choices:

Be thou my vision

Come down O love divine

Come to a wedding – tune is the same as Morning has broken

Father hear the prayer we offer

Give me joy in my heart
Guide me o thou great Redeemer
Let there be love shared among us
Love divine, all love excelling
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
Lord of all hopefulness
Make me a channel of your peace
One more step along the world I go
O perfect love, all human thought transcending
O, praise ye the Lord
Now thank we all our God
Praise my soul, the king of heaven
The king of love my shepherd is

We pledge to one another – tune is the same as I vow to thee my country.

Most hymns you will find on YouTube but it is good to discuss the tunes as they may differ to what you find. If you like the words but not the tune please talk to the organist.

The hymn book used is Hymns Old & New. You are very welcome to borrow a hymn book to look through, but please bring it back at the rehearsal.

Processional & Recessional Music

There is lots of excellent music that can be chosen as well as the traditional pieces. Please speak to our Organist if you would like advice. He can advise you on what will sound good on the organ.

St. Giles' Church, Aintree

Wedding Fees 2025

Our policy at St Giles' is that you will be asked to pay a £60 deposit to hold the date that you would like (once the availability has been confirmed). This is then deducted from the final amount.

The balance remaining will be invoiced to you approx. 1 month before your wedding date for payment. This must be paid by the rehearsal.

The fees for 2025 are as follows. These change slightly each year.

Marriage service £544.00 (required)

Publication of Banns £44.00 (required)

Banns Certificate: £19.00 (required)

Church Maintenance £ 15.00 (optional)

Verger £35.00 (optional)

Organist: £100

Bells £20.00 (optional)

A donation towards church funds to help us be here for other's happy days!

£

Please consider adding Gift-Aid or donating through our JustGiving page through our website.

Date of £60 deposit paid:

Thank you!

Balance £

Cheque ate payable to St Giles P.C.C. and posted to the Vicarage or

BACs payment to: (quoting your name) PCC Parish Church of St Giles, Aintree (07171072 & 53-70-21).

If you have any questions regarding finance please contact the Vicar or Treasurer at St Giles.

Church Service Times at St Giles'

Sundays:

8.30am Quiet Eucharist

10.30am Parish Eucharist – with hymns, a talk, children's provision & refreshments.

Wednesday:

10.00am Eucharist – followed by refreshments.

Friday:

10:00 Friday Prayers (in church & live-streamed)

Visit our web-site: www.stgilesaintree.org.uk

Any changes to the date of your wedding should be notified to the Vicar as soon as possible.

Please also let us know if any of your contact details change, or you need to postpone, for whatever reason. Thank you!