**Getting Married at St Oswald’s Church, Winwick**

**St Oswald’s Church is currently closed because of the Coronavirus pandemic.**

**Please contact our Churchwarden (details below) for further information.**

We are so pleased that you are considering having a Church of England wedding. Marrying in church is a personal, meaningful and spiritual occasion and we are here to help you as much as we can.

Lots of people marry in their local parish church, but you might like to marry in a different church because it has special significance for you through family or other connections.

The Church of England has a brilliant website which you may find of help:

www.yourchurchwedding.org

**Who can have a Wedding Service at St Oswald’s?**

You can marry in St Oswald’s Church if you can show that one of you:

* lives in the parish now
* 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
* was 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 church

**Does being divorced make a difference?**

In certain circumstances the Church of England accepts that a divorced person may marry again in church and this has been the case since 2002. The first step is to make an enquiry with the Rector

who will speak with you confidentially about your past and hopes for the future and will be able to advise you.

**Same-sex marriage**

Although same-sex marriage legislation has changed, it remains the case that it is not legally possible for same-sex couples to marry in the Church of England.

**How to arrange a wedding at St Oswald’s Church**

Please contact the Churchwarden, Christine Melia, on 01925 633102 or email meliafamily@btinternet.com

**When can we be married?**

You can be married on any day of the week between the time of 8am and 6pm. However, some days will be better than others and the Minister will want to make sure that your service doesn’t clash with any other service taking place.

**How much does a Wedding Service cost?**

The Church Commissioners set the fees at the end of each year for the following year.

The fees can be found on the St Oswald’s Church website.

The fee needs to be paid one month before the wedding; if you would like to pay it in installments that is fine too.

**Banns of Marriage**

Your Banns need to be called at the church where the wedding is taking place and the parish church(es) where you live.

If you are getting married at St Oswald’s then the cost of calling the Banns is included in the fee; if you are getting married elsewhere but live in the parish of St Oswald then the cost is £40.00 and you will receive a certificate to give to the person who is officiating at your wedding.

**Music**

We have an organist who plays for weddings and there is a fee for this as shown on the fee list. We will also have the facility to use CD’s, USB, iPod etc.; all you will need to do is to allocate someone to be responsible for this.

There is usually music as the bride enters the church, during the signing of the marriage register and as the married couple leave the church. There can also be up to three hymns. If there is a friend, member of the family or a professional singer/band/quartet etc., who would like to play at some point, then that can enhance the service too.

You would need to discuss music with the Minister officiating at your Service and agree it together.

**Photographs and Videos**

We are happy for you to have the service photographed and recorded. The people appointed to do this for you just need to make themselves known to the Minister before the Service.

**The Rehearsal**

This would normally take place during the week before your wedding at a time to suit the Minister and yourselves. Only the bride and groom need to be present but it is fine to bring whoever you think would like to be there.

Churches are so much more than a wedding venue.

They offer friendship, prayer and support before and after a wedding.