

# FOSSE TRINITY Church weddings 1

We are delighted that you are considering getting married at a church in the Fosse Trinity Benefice. The cost is about £670 which covers a fixed package of the Priest, vergers, organist, banns and certificate. There is a heating surcharge of £30 if the wedding is not in the summer, and you will be invoiced in January when the Diocese has confirmed exact costs for the year.

**ATTENDANCE** If you live locally in the Fosse Trinity Benefice it would be lovely to see you at a few services before your wedding date. If you do **not** live nearby then you need to be considered a worshipping member of our congregation and there is an attendance requirement that you or a member of your family should attend services at least once a month for a minimum of six months prior to the date of your wedding. It is best to start early so that if you cannot attend every month it does not matter.

There is a service in one of the four Fosse Trinity churches every Sunday, and for further details log onto 'A church near you/ Fosse Trinity'. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month there is a service at East Pennard at 11am, and Ditcheat at 9.30am. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday is Pylle at 11am, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday is Alhampton at 9.30am. If you attend Alhampton Chapel please park at the Alhampton Inn. You will be given a small card on which to record your church attendances which needs to be signed by me (the organist) or the priest.

**WEDDING PREPARATION COURSE** You are required to attend a short day course led by an experienced counsellor and member of our church. There will be a choice of Sunday dates.

**BANNS** 'The Banns' sound mysterious but are just an announcement of your forthcoming wedding read in your wedding church three times during the three months before your wedding date. The dates will be on your wedding booking form.

If you do not live locally then it is a legal requirement that the Banns are also read in the Parish Church where you are actually living, so please go to your local Church of England church at least four months before your wedding, find the details of the vicar or priest on the notice board outside, and get in touch with him. Tell him you are getting married in Somerset, and also require the banns to be read in your local church. **If you list two addresses on the wedding booking form then you will need to have the banns read in churches at both the addresses.** That priest will then tell you the 3 dates on which they are being read in that church and give you a certificate when it is done. You then give that certificate to your wedding church because without proof that the Banns have been read you cannot be married.

If you think you will require a duplicate marriage certificate please ask me.

If one or both of you is divorced then a church marriage is at the discretion of the Priest who conducts the wedding ceremony.

**BELLS** Please let me know if you would like to book the ringers, and then the date and time will be forwarded to the ringers for confirmation. The bells at East Pennard cost £280 to be paid for at the wedding rehearsal. For Ditcheat and Pylle church bells I can pass your request to those church wardens.

**CHOIR** There is an excellent popular local choir and details of songs, cost and booking can be obtained from the choir director [di\\_croft@hotmail.com](mailto:di_croft@hotmail.com)

**FLOWERS** –You will find local florist Shirley very helpful - [www.shirleysdesigns.co.uk](http://www.shirleysdesigns.co.uk)

**IF ONE OF YOU LIVES ABROAD** If one of you lives outside of the EEA then you must first obtain a Superintendent Registrar's certificate in order to be married in the UK. To do this, please contact us via [www.eastpennardchurch.org](http://www.eastpennardchurch.org). Unless you live locally she will need proof that you have already completed your six months attendance requirement two months before your wedding date, and the Banns do not need to be read.

## A WEDDING BLESSING SERVICE

Sometimes due to difficulty in visiting Somerset to attend services, or if one of you is non British or divorced, a church wedding blessing service following a civil marriage is an option to be considered.

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During the months leading up to your wedding there are several things you need to do.

**Home church banns** Although your banns will be read in your wedding church, if you live somewhere else then you must also arrange for them to be read in the Parish (Church of England) church where you are living and send me the name of the church. If you have given me two addresses then the banns need to be read at both of them. I need the banns certificate(s) before your wedding can take place.

### Order of service

I will be emailing you a leaflet which contains an outline order of service to help you plan yours. The priest who is marrying you will arrange to meet with you to go through your order of service with you before you get it printed, and arrange the wedding rehearsal. Please let me know the day and time of it, **and bring any bell payment + your orders of service to the rehearsal.**

**Music** Please give me the details of the organ music you would like to enter and exit to, for the signing of the register, and up to three hymns. If you wish to supply some music of your own there is a PA socket connection for iPhone at East Pennard and Ditchheat but you will however require a CD player at Pylle church. If you plan to organise something different or extra then please discuss first. The organist will also act as Musical Director should you have extra musicians playing, and will also organise the bell ringers.

### Flowers

If you would like to decorate the church it is open during the day for access but it would be helpful to know when your florist is going to be there, and please inform your florist that no floristry tack, tape, pins or glue is permitted on **any** wood in the church. Also please respect the fact that we have working churches and there will be evidence of this. Confetti is welcome in the Churchyard, but nothing is to be strewn on the church floor please. **If possible it would be much appreciated if you could leave a flower arrangement in the church for the next service.**

### Bridesmaids, Ushers, photographer, etc.

**You will have gorgeous dresses organised but if they have bare backs it is respectful to cover them up whilst in the church with a shrug or similar please.** Please arrange for at least three friends to act as ushers in and outside the church to direct and seat your guests. At East Pennard you and your guests will be using the wide path to the left of the church, and the big South door - (opposite the one used for services). It is Benefice church policy to request that your **photographer** remain at the back of the church during the service until the signing of the register, and please discuss well in advance if you intend to **video** any of the service because this is at the discretion of the Priest and there are some restrictions. Finally would you mind if there is a collection as your guests exit? Our churches are very expensive to maintain and sometimes guests like to make a donation.