

## Punctuality

Tradition says that a Bride should be a little late for her wedding. Whilst five minutes is acceptable, please note that excessive lateness brings stress both to the groom and the guests.

A late start (more than ten minutes) may result in non-legal parts of the ceremony (music, photographs etc) being deleted in order to make up for lost time.

It is your responsibility to ensure you arrive in time for all preliminaries (photos of the bride getting out of the car, photo with bridesmaids etc) to have been completed *before the time set for the service to begin*. Be aware too that organist, choir and bellringers are only booked for 45 minutes and may have other commitments which will mean they need to leave.

## Parking

We keep the car parks at Newton and Saint David's clear for the cars of the bridesmaids and bride only. There is parking in Newton behind the Ancient Briton. There is very limited parking at All Saints and it is generally better to ask your guests to park in Victoria Avenue and walk back to the church.

## If you, as a couple, already have children

If the father's name is not on the birth certificate and your children were born in England or Wales you are legally required to re-register their births. The website [www.tinyurl.com/re-registering](http://www.tinyurl.com/re-registering) has the details on this.

## Deposit and Fees

From January 2017 we will charge a deposit of £100 for a wedding; this is deducted from the balance of the fees. We ask for this to be paid at the second interview. No date is held until the deposit is paid.

Cheques should, please, be made payable to 'The Parish of Newton Nottage, Porthcawl' or you can pay in cash. *In the event of your wedding being cancelled, please notify the Rector in writing. Half the deposit will then be returned to you. Failure to notify in writing means the entire deposit will be forfeited.*

## Balance of the Fees

We ask you to bring this, together with your Banns certificate, to the rehearsal. Please pay in cash - this means we can pay all the participants on the day. We normally rehearse on the eve of the wedding - experience proves this has a calming effect!

## Data Protection

Please note that the details that are entered in the marriage register are in the public domain. The parish will keep your electronic records in perpetuity unless you request to have it removed.

## And finally....

Planning and preparing for a wedding involves a great deal of thought and hard work and we want to assist in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to call if you require any help.

If you require any other information or have any questions please phone the parish office on 01656 786899

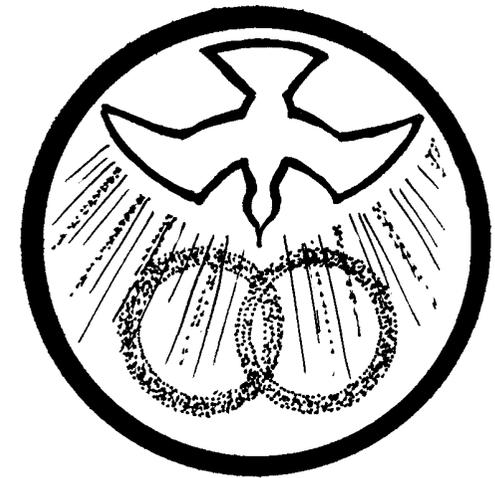
[www.parihofporthcawl.org](http://www.parihofporthcawl.org)

Email: [office@parihofporthcawl.org](mailto:office@parihofporthcawl.org)

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THE PARISH OF  
NEWTON NOTTAGE  
PORTHCAWL

# HOLY MATRIMONY



*A Guide  
to Marriage  
in the  
Parish of Porthcawl.*

## What is Marriage?

*Marriage is the beginning of a partnership where two people come together and vow to remain faithful to each other as long as they both live.*

It is a Sacrament, a way in which God touches and blesses our lives.

### The legal stuff

Marriage is also a legal act, where the Priest acts as Registrar. In Wales the procedure follows the Marriage (Wales) Act 2010 which sets out what preliminaries are needed. So to marry in the parish of Porthcawl you need

to live in Porthcawl,

*or*

be a regular worshipper in the parish and to have your name entered on the church electoral roll,

*or*

have a '**qualifying connection**'. A 'qualifying connection' is that you were baptised or confirmed in the parish, that you or a parent formerly lived for at least six months in the parish, that you or a parent formerly habitually attended worship in the parish for at least six months or that a parent or grandparent had been married in the parish.

If you do not live in the parish or have no other qualifying connection you may establish one by attending at least once a month for a minimum of six consecutive months. You cannot 'take it in turns' nor is a break in attendance permitted. We will issue an attendance sheet which you will have to have countersigned by the priest who takes the service. *It is only when this qualifying connection has been established that the wedding can be considered fully booked.* This again a matter of law.

*Before each wedding we have be assured of your identity, so we will need to see the birth certificate and/or passport of both applicants at the second interview.*

## Banns

Before a wedding can take place we have to make sure there are no legal objections. This is done by calling Banns – three public announcements of your forthcoming marriage during the main public service on a Sunday in the church where you are to be married. If you live in another parish they have to be called there as well.

*It is your responsibility to make this happen* by getting in touch with the appropriate parish priest. They will issue a certificate (for which there is a fee) and this has to be seen by the priest taking your service at the rehearsal. No certificate: no wedding. This is again a legal requirement.

## The Service

The Parish supplies a booklet with the content of the service, which cannot be altered (law again!) There are two readings and you may nominate readers if you wish.

Any other readings or poems to be used during the signing of the registers need to be seen and agreed with us first.

## Music

We ask you to choose three hymns, because in Porthcawl we sign the registers in church immediately the vows are exchanged and the second hymn covers this. The Organist will be happy to discuss your hymns and the music for coming in and going out with you.

We are very happy to discuss other options, including CDs and other musicians: this needs to be done well beforehand.

## Organ, Choir and Bells

Apart from the use of the church and the presence of the priest and a vergier there are optional extras at a wedding (at extra cost). These are the use of the organ and an organist, the church choir and, at Newton, the bells .

If there is to be any kind of music in the service an organist is essential. Each church has its own organist who will normally meet with couples after the Sunday morning service. If you wish to supply your own organist that is possible, though the fee to the regular organist will still have to be paid.

Most of our bellringers work and so are usually only available at the weekends and while we seldom have to disappoint requests for choir and bells we cannot guarantee them. Any fees for this will then be remitted.

## Photography and Video

Getting married is a life-changing and life-enhancing moment and, as the service says, is to be taken responsibly and reverently. To help ensure this *please ask your guests not to take photographs during the service.* A photograph may taken of the entry of the bride and exit of the happy couple and after the signing of the registers. *Video recording is not allowed either by camera or by phone.* You are very welcome to come back into the church for photographs afterwards.

## Flowers

If you commission flower arrangements please let us know when access is needed.

## Confetti

Please ask your guests to throw confetti only once you are outside the church grounds. Biodegradable is, obviously, better. Rice stings!