

***The Downs Benefice Parishes of  
Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt  
with Lainston, Wherwell***

**A Church wedding is perfect  
in so many ways**



**A special day deserves a special setting**

Has a day ever seemed more romantic and exciting? You imagine your wedding will be the day when all your dreams, plans and preparations come together in a wonderful occasion of celebration and enjoyment. And, of course, you hope it will be remembered with joy, laughter and delightful moments to treasure forever.

Your wedding vows and the heartfelt promises you make to each other are some of the most important words you and your partner will ever share. The pledges you make will undoubtedly help to sustain you through the triumphs and challenges of married life. Exchanging these precious vows in a marriage service before God brings profound spiritual integrity and intimacy to this special commitment between a husband and wife.



Couples describe that marrying in a church setting is a deeply emotional and memorable experience: the act of exchanging marriage vows in sacred space, and receiving the blessing of God gives their union special meaning and resonance. Talking with the Minister in preparation for the big day is a chance to reflect on the purpose of marriage, including the many gifts, blessings and advantages of married life. You are welcome to have a traditional or a modern service - the choice is yours to make!



A church wedding provides a peaceful setting and a sacred atmosphere. The five churches of the Downs Benefice reside gracefully in the beautiful Hampshire villages of Littleton, Sparsholt, Crawley, Chilbolton and Wherwell. They are all perfect venues for weddings both large and small, with seating capacities between 100 and 200. Their fine architecture, glorious stained glass windows and leafy, picturesque churchyards add a unique flavour of heritage and tradition and provide an attractive backdrop for your wedding photographs.







On a practical note, the churches' experienced teams provide friendly, helpful guidance and support as you make your plans and arrangements for your special day - from the calling of wedding banns, help with flowers, music, hymns and readings to arranging for the church bells to peal joyously, greeting the new husband and wife. You can be assured of a warm welcome for you and your partner, bridesmaids, ushers, family and guests. Our churchwardens and their helpers will do their best to ensure that your wedding day is unique and memorable for all the right reasons.



You may not have thought of marrying in the Church of England. Perhaps you have been married before and have children? You may be divorced, or perhaps you have not been attending church, or you may have a different faith? The Downs Benefice welcomes people from every walk of life and the Minister will be happy to discuss your personal circumstances or situation. For example, you may like to have your marriage blessed in church. Also, did you know that your children are warmly invited to participate in your wedding service to make it an extra special occasion for the whole family.



*'Be still and know that I am God.'* Psalm 46:10



***‘We hope your wedding day will be a celebration of  
great joy in the blessing of God’s love.’***

*Reverend Jax Machin, Rector*



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# ***Celebrate!***

*Love **friendship** sharing  
giving respect **affection** trust  
kindness **sacred vows**  
**blessings** **prayers** faith grace  
beauty music songs **dreams**  
**wishes** smiles **laughter** joy  
ribbons roses romance **petals**  
pearls **silk** lace heart soul  
hugs kisses loving kindness  
**soul mates** hope **harmony**  
**heaven** peace*

Church of England Weddings website: [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org)

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