

Planning your Wedding at Trinity United Reformed Church

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'Can we get married at this church?'

Trinity is a registered venue for the legal solemnization of marriages, and *we welcome enquiries from couples who are thinking about getting married in the church*. Our minister will meet with you to explore with you not only your plans for the day, but also the nature of your marriage commitment to one another – and the distinctive character of a marriage in church – so that we can ensure together that Trinity is the right place for your wedding.

'What if I've been married before?'

A previous marriage and divorce will not in itself rule out getting married at Trinity. The Christian faith teaches us that whatever might have gone wrong for us, there is always the opportunity for redemption and a fresh start.

'What if we're a same-sex couple?'

Trinity's registration as a legal marriage venue now includes same-sex marriages, and *we welcome marriage enquiries from couples of the same sex*. All the information in this document applies equally to opposite-sex and same-sex couples.

'What else do I need to know?'

As well as the church arrangements, you will need to make arrangements with the local Registrar to obtain the necessary certificates of authority for marriage. See overleaf for information about this.

The normal fee for a wedding at Trinity is £275; this covers hire of the church, provision of an organist or other musician, and professional services of the minister both on the day and during the preparation and planning. Please note however that this does *not* include flowers or other decoration of the church, which should be arranged separately.

Of the £275, we ask that a £75 non-returnable deposit be paid early in the planning process to secure the date. The remaining £200 must be paid no later than ten days before the wedding. Fees should be sent to the Treasurer, c/o Trinity URC (address above), with a note indicating your names and the wedding date. Cheques to "Trinity URC Wimbledon".

If you have any other queries, please do contact the church's minister who will be pleased to advise.

Overleaf: instructions concerning the Registrar

Instructions concerning the Registrar

You are both required, by law, to obtain certificates of authority for marriage from the Registrar of Marriages for the Registration District in which you have been living for the previous seven clear days. You will need to make an appointment. For the Borough of Merton the details are as follows:

Merton Register Office
Morden Park House
Morden Park
London Road
Morden SM4 5QU
tel. 020 8274 5777 email register.office@merton.gov.uk

When to go to the Registrar

You are required by law to give a MINIMUM of 28 days notice before the date of your wedding, but it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you visit the Registrar more than ten weeks prior to the wedding date. However, you should NOT visit the Registrar more than a year before the wedding – since the certificate of authority requires that the wedding take place within a year of its issue date.

What to tell the Registrar

State that you have come to give notice of your forthcoming marriage at Trinity United Reformed Church, Wimbledon, and that you have contacted the minister in question and made preliminary arrangements for your wedding. Please note that if neither of you is living within the Merton Registration District (i.e. London Borough of Merton), the Registrar for your District may require evidence that Trinity is your “usual place of worship”.

What to take with you

- Documents proving your residency & nationality
- If divorced, your decree absolute or equivalent; if widowed, a death certificate for your previous spouse
- If you have changed your name, legal documentation to support this
- The registrar may ask for evidence that you are over 18 (or, if over 16 but under 18, that your parent/guardian consents to your marriage)
- If you are subject to immigration control, special rules apply (and in particular, the notice period is likely to be longer than the standard 28 days) – the Registrar can advise.

Receiving the Registrar's certificates of authority for marriage

Following the legal waiting period, if no objections have been received, you will each receive a certificate of authority for your marriage. The Registrar will charge a statutory fee for these certificates. As soon as you receive them, we suggest you bring them to the church minister for safe keeping (they can be kept in a safe in the church). *Without the two certificates of authority for marriage, the wedding cannot legally take place!*