



Thank you for asking about getting married in the parish of Stone with Dinton and Hartwell. It is always a privilege to take a Marriage Service and come alongside people at an important point in their lives. This leaflet is intended to give you some of the basics that you need to be aware of in applying for a Marriage Service.

Can I get married in Stone or Dinton churches?

The authorisation for Church of England Ministers to take Marriages is subject to a number of conditions. It is a legal requirement that you are either residents of the Parish or can demonstrate a qualifying connection with the church.

To assess where you are resident four questions are helpful. For what address are you:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paying council tax? | Registered with a GP? |
| Registered to vote? | Paying utility bills? |

You have Qualifying Connection if either of you:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were baptised in the parish in the parish church. • Or have your confirmation entered in the church registers of the parish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Or have at any time had been resident in the parish for at least 6 months • Or have at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months; |
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OR a Parent has at any time during your lifetime:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had their usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Or habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months; |
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OR a Parent or Grandparent was married in the parish at the parish church.

If, from the above, one or both of you are truly resident in the parish or can demonstrate, subject to quite stringent evidence requirements, that you have one of the qualifying connections then you can be married by Banns. Banns are an announcement of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the Marriage may not lawfully take place.



You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the Wedding. This is often done over three consecutive Sundays but does not have to be.

If either of you is resident in a different parish, banns must also be read in those parishes. Find your local parish here:

Music

Most couples like music in their Marriage Service. You will need to choose the hymns carefully in conjunction with the Minister. Other music e.g. that for the Bride's entry and your leaving together as a married couple, needs to be discussed with the organist if you choose to have one, but see over.*

The coordinating organist for both Stone and Dinton churches is:- Mrs. Chris Ashbridge, email: C.Ashbridge@stonedintonhartwell.com Mrs. Ashbridge can also arrange for a choir and advise you on choir items. If you wish to have a video or tape recording of your wedding this is possible with prior permission but the Performing Rights Society ask for a surcharge on music fees **.

Bells

Some wish to have bells rung for when the bride arrives and the newly married couple leave. This is usually possible.

The contacts for the bells are: -

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| Stone: The bells at stone can not be rung | Dinton: Mr. Andrew Wild: A.Wild@stonedintonhartwell.com |
| Stone- The bells at stone cannot | Dinton - |

Flowers

The church has people who can provide and arrange flowers but you are perfectly free to use a florist of your choice.

The church flower contacts are: -

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| Mrs. Joan Shurvell (Stone) 01296 748530 | Mrs. Sylvia Eaton (Dinton) 01296 748537 |
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Fees 2015

The Statutory Church fees cover the costs of a said Service in the Church with the provision of a Minister. For ancillaries like Organ, Choir, Bell Ringers and use of Church florist additional fees are incurred. Both Church buildings are very old and expensive to heat and light; additional charges may be incurred during winter months. The Church treasurer, who will advise you of the exact amount of fees and to whom the Statutory Fees must be paid at least seven days before the wedding, is: Mr Alan Weston
Treasury@stonedintonhartwell.com

Fees:

- Statutory Church fees for a said Wedding Service:-£415.00 (including £21 for banns)
- Organist:- £70 basic, this is payable even if you use your own organist **
- Choir - £200 **
- A PCC charge of £40 may be incurred for heating and lighting during the winter period.
- Flowers: - please ask. (£25 for cleaning up costs if you use your own florist.)

Bells: -

	Weekday	Weekend
Stone	N/A	N/A
Dinton	£120	£120

NB. The Vicar will normally hold a Marriage Preparation Group on a Saturday morning. *The Organist will attend part of this meeting to give couples an opportunity to discuss hymns, wedding music etc. ** IF A VIDEO RECORDING IS MADE OF THE SERVICE, THESE FEES MAY BE DOUBLED. Please contact us to check the fee that will be incurred.

*** If you decide to book to marry in one of our parish churches, we will ask you to bring two documents, one giving proof of identity (passport or driving licence) and one giving proof of address (recent utility bill or driving licence alongside a passport).

Getting Married....

For further information please contact:
Wychert Vale Benefice Office
 Email: office@wychertvale.org



**St. John the Baptist,
Stone**

Or

**St. Peter and St. Paul,
Dinton.**



**The Parish of Stone with Dinton and Hartwell
2016**

www.stonedintonhartwell.com

