



Your Wedding  
or  
Marriage Blessing  
at



HALIFAX  

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MINSTER

A very warm welcome from the clergy team and church community here at Halifax Minster. The following information is provided to try and make the practicalities of your wedding or blessing as clear as possible. It contains information on the following areas:

Qualifying to have your service in the Minster

- Booking information
- The support our team can offer you in planning your special day.
- Information on Wedding Fees for 2019

There is also a great deal of information about all aspects of your wedding or blessing service, including legal information, suggestions for readings and music, and why marriage is important in the Christian faith at [www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org). We hope you will make the most of this resource as well as discussing your hopes and dreams for this special day with our clergy.

### **Can we get married or have our wedding blessing here?**

Certain legal criteria need to be met so that you can have your wedding service at any church or venue (*note this does not apply to wedding blessings*). You are entitled to marry in the Minster if:-

- One or both of you, or any one of your parents live, or have formerly lived in the Minster parish for at least 6 months
- One of both of you, or any one of your parents, worship or have formerly worshiped at the Minster for at least 6 months
- One or both of you were baptised or confirmed at the Minster
- If either of you have parents or grandparents who were also married here at the Minster.
- You may be able to get married at the Minster if you have been married before but will need to discuss this with the vicar.

When you come to see us to book your service we will work out together on what grounds you qualify to have your service with us. If you don't meet any of the criteria above, don't worry! You can start coming to church regularly now and in 6 months you will qualify.

### **How do we book the service?**

You will need to come to Vestry Hour – this is held most Thursdays in the Minster from 6.30pm to 7.30pm\*. There is no need to make an appointment, just pop in. One of the Minster clergy will be there to

help with your enquiry. We will ask you to complete an application form, with your personal details and the date and time you wish to get married. You will also need to provide evidence of UK/EEA nationality e.g. your passport. We will then write to you to confirm if the date and time you have requested is available, or to suggest other times if the church is already booked.

\*(there may be occasional cancellations due to events in church – please contact the Minster Office to check particular dates on 01422 355436)

### **What else will the church do to help us?**

You will be invited to attend a ‘Wedding Breakfast’ in the 6 months prior to your ceremony, where there will be the chance to talk to the Minster’s organist, flower arrangers and others about how you would like your service to be. You can also pop back in to vestry hour as often as you like to fine tune your arrangements. You can contact the minister who will be performing your ceremony for advice and assistance around hymn choices, reading choices, and particularly the words of the service and how you need to present these in your Order of Service. Your minister will visit you at home in the weeks prior to the wedding/blessing too to help finalise arrangements and to get to know you better before the big day. Finally there will be a rehearsal in the week before your ceremony so everyone can practice their bit of the service and make sure everything goes well on the day.

### **What will our wedding or blessing cost?**

The legal fees for any church wedding are set nationally by the Church of England. In addition to this there are fees for other services the church offers which are optional, such as organist, flowers, vergers, bells, choir etc. For full details of our fees please see the table on the back of this leaflet. A **non-refundable deposit of £300** will be required following confirmation of your booking. In addition to your fees there will also be a £250 refundable deposit to cover the costs incurred by the Minster if you are over 20 minutes late for the start of your ceremony. The church will send you an invoice for the total amount, which is then due to be paid in six weeks before the date of your ceremony.

**Any questions?** Please come down to our Thursday Vestry Hour to share your plans with us.

Minster Office: 01422 355436

Website: [www.halifaxminster.org.uk](http://www.halifaxminster.org.uk)

Email: [admin@halifaxminster.org.uk](mailto:admin@halifaxminster.org.uk)

## Table of Fees for 2019

	Wedding	Blessing	Notes
Service	£455.00	£505.00	The Wedding fee is a legal fee set nationally. The Blessing fee is set by the Minster.
Calling of Banns	£30.00	n/a	The calling of Banns is a legal requirement in the Minster and in the parish where you live unless you are marrying by license.
Verger	£50.00	£50.00	The Minster is a big building and in order for services to run smoothly and well a verger is required at any service with over 20 guests.
Flowers	£205.00	£205.00	This price includes 3 large pedestals – in the porch, in the Holdsworth Chapel and at the front of the church.
Organist	£145.00	£145.00	The organist fee is set by the Minster based on the recommendations of the RSCM and the Musicians Union. Our organist is a professional musician.
	<b>£885.00</b>	<b>£905.00</b>	These are the average costs of a wedding or blessing at the Minster which will vary depending on the legal requirements (banns, license etc)

An additional **cheque deposit for £250** will also be required to cover the costs incurred by the Minster for the late start of services (over 20 minutes past the agreed time) – this will be returned to you if the ceremony begins within 20 minutes of the agreed time.

In addition you may like to add to your celebrations with any of the following:

Bells (Weekends)	£300.00	Bell ringing is available by negotiation.
Bells (Week Days)	£350.00	Bell ringing is available by negotiation.
Choir	£250.00	This fee would include the choir and their conductor by negotiation. Other music may also be available – ask at Vestry Hour for contact details for our Director of Music.
Video	£145.00	There is an additional fee to video a wedding due to issues of the copyright of texts and the performance of music.
Service sheets	£1.00 each	Basic service cards are provided free – this would be the cost of printing a personalised order of service.
Voluntary Donation	£100.00	As you will see looking at all of the above very little money from the fees you will pay actually goes towards maintaining the Minster and safeguarding its future for the next generation. We are not allowed to charge you for the costs of lighting and heating the building and keeping it in a good state of repair. <b>We ask all those <i>who are able</i> to be generous in their giving.</b>