

**A Warm Welcome
to Couples
who are considering
Marriage at Boxgrove Priory**

An introductory guide

August 2026

Welcome!

We are delighted that you are interested in getting married at Boxgrove Priory.

Christians believe that God is love, and that God has made us for relationships of joy and delight with one another. Just as God is loving and faithful towards us, so marriage is one of the ways in which we can be drawn more deeply into God's love. It is for this reason that the Church speaks of marriage as a sacrament: we believe that God's love and faithfulness is made visible in the public declaration of love and commitment between a couple when they marry.

If you are wondering about getting married at the Priory, you may well have lots of questions. The information below tries to provide answers to some of these, but please also speak to the parish priest who will be delighted to discuss your plans and answer any queries you may have.

Eligibility: Can we get married at Boxgrove Priory?

In order to get married at the Priory, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- One of you **lives in the parish** presently

If you do not live in the parish, you may also be eligible for marriage at the Priory through several other criteria, called 'qualifying connections':

- You can show that **one of you has lived in the parish for at least six months** at any point in your lifetime.
- Or you can show that **your parent has lived in the parish for at least six months** in your lifetime

To check whether you live or have lived in the parish, go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/> to do a postcode parish search.

- One of you has (either now or in the past) **regularly worshipped** at the Priory at least monthly, for at least six months.

If you have never worshipped at the Priory, we would be delighted to welcome you, and help you build this qualifying connection.

- **One of your parents has**, at some point in your lifetime, **regularly worshipped at the Priory** for at least six months.
- One of you was **baptised** at the Priory
- One of you is **confirmed and your confirmation is in the register of confirmations** at the Priory
- One of your **parents or grandparents was married** at the Priory

When you approach the parish priest with a firm intention to be married at the Priory on the basis of one of these connections, you will need to complete and return an application form stating which one applies to you. You may also have to provide some documentary evidence, for example, a parent's marriage certificate, or proof of past residence.

What about if one (or both) of us is divorced?

We recognise that relationships can break down, sometimes beyond repair, and that it can become unhealthy or unsafe to remain in a marriage. We also believe that God offers healing and brings

new life. While the Church of England teaches that marriage vows are made for life, it also makes it possible for those who are divorced to be married again in church, depending on their circumstances and with the agreement of the parish priest.

If one or both of you has been married before, please make this clear when you first contact the parish priest to discuss marriage at Boxgrove. He will ask you and your partner to have one or more conversations with him about your previous marriage, and how it, and its ending, relates to your current relationship. He will also ask you to complete [this](#) form, which also explains the process for remarriage in church in more detail. Please be assured that these discussions will always be treated with utmost sensitivity and discretion.

It is also possible for couples who have experienced divorce to be civilly married, and come to the Priory afterwards for a service of Thanksgiving and Blessing. Please let the parish priest know if you would like to explore this option.

Do we have to be Christians to get married at the Priory?

The wedding service itself will be a Christian act of worship, and will witness to our faith in God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christian tradition presumes that those who ask for a church wedding will also be baptised members of the Church. However, as long as you meet one of the legal criteria above, you are eligible for marriage at the Priory. If you or your partner is not already baptised but would like to be, preparation for baptism and confirmation can be offered alongside preparation for Christian marriage: please do let the parish priest know.

What does it cost to get married at the Priory?

The following costs (for 2026) are set by the Church of England and apply to all weddings at the Priory:

- Marriage service: **£566**.
- Publication of banns of marriage (see below for more information): **£39**. If you do not live in the parish, you will also need to pay this to the parish(es) in which you currently live, where the banns will need to be published as well.
- If your banns need to be read in a parish other than Boxgrove, you will also need to pay for a certificate of banns of marriage from the parish(es) in which you currently live. These verify for the parish priest at Boxgrove that the banns have been read elsewhere and there is no impediment to the marriage. The fee is **£20** per certificate.

In addition, the parish will normally charge a fee for:

- Verger: £30
- Heating (November-March): £35

There are also a number of other costs, depending on which 'extras' you might want for your marriage service:

- Organist: £150
- Choir Director: £70
- Choir (up to 8 members) £360
- Video recording: £150

What are banns of marriage?

Before you can get married at the Priory, you will need to have banns read in church. Banns are a legal requirement that serve two purposes: to publicly announce your intention to marry, and to give those present an opportunity to put forward a reason why the marriage cannot lawfully take place. Banns must be read in church on three separate Sundays in the three-month period before the wedding.

If you do not live in the parish, you will need banns read at the Priory, as well as the parish(es) in which each of you live. In order to have your banns read, you will need to complete an application for banns form, available from the parish priest.

When can we get married at the Priory?

Marriages do not normally happen in church during Lent (the period of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter). Outside of this period, weddings can take place on any day of the week, but the availability of the church will depend on what else is going on – we aim to be flexible to accommodate your preferred time and date. The earlier you enquire about your wedding, the easier it will be to accommodate.

Nationality: What if one (or both) of us lives abroad, or is a foreign national?

The parish priest will need to verify your identity and citizenship at an early stage of your application to marry at the Priory.

Separate procedures apply for anyone who lives abroad, or is a foreign national, so please speak to the parish priest for more information if this applies to you or your partner.

Music

There is no obligation to sing hymns or have organ or choral music at a wedding. However, the Priory is home to a skilled choir of adult voices with a wide choral repertoire, which can be booked to sing at marriages. Our Director of Music, Alex Dichmont, will be happy to discuss musical options with couples as part of the preparation for a wedding service.

Bells

The Priory only has one bell, so unfortunately we cannot offer to ring a peal of bells after the marriage service.

Nuptial Mass

Couples who are regular communicant members of the Church are warmly encouraged to consider celebrating their marriage with a Nuptial Mass, at which they can receive Holy Communion together as husband and wife, together with friends and family.

Flowers

It may be possible for the Priory flower arrangers to coordinate the colour of church flowers with your wedding colours. Couples are welcome to make use of local florists for arrangements, or bring their own. These will need to be discussed with the parish priest before they are ordered, and will need to be removed from the Priory after the marriage service.

Confetti

Throwing confetti after a wedding service is welcome, but we ask that only natural flower petals are used.

Contact

The parish priest, Fr Dominic Keech, can be contacted at:

frdominickeech@gmx.co.uk

or by telephone on:

01243 774045

and looks forward to hearing from you.