

## Marriage at St John's Hoxton

Thank you for your enquiry about holding your wedding at St John's Church in Hoxton.

This letter is designed to briefly address a few initial questions:

### **Can I Get Married At St John's?**

St John's is a Church of England parish church. As such, we are only allowed to perform weddings for people in one of the following three categories:

1. Residents of the parish: Your permanent residential address must be within the parish boundaries. Send us your address and postcode to check this.
2. Members of the church: If you are on the electoral roll of the church, you are eligible to be married at St John's. To be on the electoral roll, you must habitually attend Sunday worship for at least six months. The roll is revised once per year in February / March.
3. People with a Qualifying Connection: the connection is varied – if you were baptised, or if your parents were married here, you may be eligible.

More information here:

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/youre-welcome/more-churches-to-choose-from.aspx>

### **What Are The Legal Requirements?**

Marriage is a legal ceremony, and as such there are restrictions set in law about who can marry in the UK. Here are some summary points:

- Both parties must be UK / EU citizens. (It may be possible to marry if one or both of you are not, but there are more complicated legal preliminaries.)
- The marriage must be between a man and a woman, neither of whom are already married. Same-sex marriage, although permitted in UK law, is not permitted in the Church of England.
- You must be at least 16, and if under 18 will require parental consent.

More information here:

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/youre-welcome/legal-aspects-of-marriage.aspx>

### **What Is The Timescale?**

At St John's, we never perform a wedding less than three months from the date of initial enquiry. This provision allows us time to ensure all the legal preliminaries are properly adhered to.

We usually recommend allowing a good six months to ensure proper preparation can take place.

The first steps if you wish to marry are as follows:

1. Contact the church to check whether the date you wish to marry on is available. You may need to speak to the Vicar at this stage to get advice.
2. Determine the grounds on which you're eligible to marry at St John's: are you a parishioner? Are you a congregation member? Do you have a qualifying connection?
3. Consider the legal preliminaries: if you're both UK / EEA (European Economic Area) citizens, then contact the church directly. If either party is not a UK / EEA, then you will need to arrange legal preliminaries and give notice at your local Registrar office: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/giving-notice.htm#.VNDCYMZR69w>
4. Consider the statutory fees: currently around £35 per person to give notice, and a further £420 for the service. There will be additional costs for musicians / flowers etc.
5. Consider registering on a Marriage Preparation Course. We recommend: <http://www.relationshipcentral.org/marriage-preparation-course>

From here on, you will have a course of several meetings with the Vicar to continue making arrangements for your wedding.

Best wishes!

St John's Hoxton