

The Parish of Greenford Magna

YOUR WEDDING



at

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

First of all, on behalf of everyone at Holy Cross, we wish you both every possible happiness together in your future married life. May God bless you as you prepare together for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Rector: **The Revd. Prebendary Neil Richardson 020 8578 1543**
The Rectory, Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, UB6 9JS
email: neil@holycross.ndo.co.uk

Parish Clerk: **Mrs Lorna Churn** (contact at the Rectory
8578 1543 on Friday evenings 7.30pm-8.30pm)

Church address: Ferrymead Gardens, Greenford, Middx. UB6 9JT

A map of the area around the church may be down-loaded from this website

Your Wedding Day

Our Mission

We aim to help you plan the wedding service that you want and enjoy it thoroughly with your friends and all your family guests.

We hope to provide a clear and secure plan for the actual ceremony in Church so that you may anticipate it without worry and so enjoy all the other preparations in the weeks before the wedding. We want you to enjoy getting married, saying the words to each other and being in the Church together with your family and friends. We want to make the words from the wedding service vital and real for you both on the day. We want your family and friends to enjoy the ceremony and the whole occasion with you.

It is our ambition to make your wedding day a truly memorable and vivid experience which you can remember with pleasure all your life.

It is a busy but an exciting time. If there is any way we can assist, please do not hesitate to phone us, either the clergy or the Parish Clerk, or ask to speak to The Rector at The Rectory.



A winter wedding?

INFORMATION TO HELP YOUR PLANNING

Making an advance booking for a wedding

Normally, you will have booked a provisional day and time for your wedding well in advance of the proposed date. We recommend early booking. **About three months before the date**, you will **both** need to complete and sign an application form. We will expect you to remember to come to The Rectory **without being called**, on a Friday evening between **7.30pm and 8.30pm**. The Parish Clerk will assist in the completing of the form, give any necessary advice at this stage, and also arrange a date for your wedding rehearsal with the clergy.

The Bride and Groom's wedding rehearsal

The rehearsal is arranged for a date about three weeks prior to the wedding. Normally, you will be asked to come to The Rectory at 7.00pm to discuss arrangements before going over to the Church to rehearse the words and movements in detail.

On this occasion, we:

- a) collect any Certificate of Banns called in other Churches, unless you both live in this parish.
N. B. The wedding cannot proceed unless the Banns Certificate is produced in advance;
- b) take payment of fees (in cash please);
- c) settle choice of hymns and music (which may have been discussed before this date);
- d) discuss videos, photographs and any planned order of service;
- e) rehearse the words and movements of the ceremony;
- f) discuss any difficulties and answer any questions which have arisen.

Because this is a time for thinking carefully about the meaning of the service, only the bride and groom attend this rehearsal. Another time may be arranged for others who need to see the Church in advance.

Marriage of persons under the age of 18

When either party is under 18 at the time of the marriage, a letter of parental consent is required by Law. The minimum age is 16.

Cancellation or postponement of your wedding

If you need to cancel or postpone the arrangements for any reason, it is very important that you do so in person or in writing as soon as possible. If you have not appeared or contacted us two months before the wedding, we will automatically assume that **you have decided to cancel** and others may be allotted your time in the diary.

Keeping your details up to date

Because we may need to contact you for various reasons it is also **vital** that you let the Clerk know of all **changes in your address and phone numbers**. Changes may affect your legal rights to be married in Holy Cross church, so please tell us.

Choice of Churches

We are fortunate in having two excellent church buildings in which to hold Marriage services:

The Old Church has been a centre of Christian worship in Greenford for over 600 years.

The **OLD CHURCH** seats a **maximum** of 100 people.

The New Church, designed by Sir Albert Richardson, was completed in 1941 and was designed to be a complementary companion to the Old. It is an excellent place for weddings, with deep red wooden beams and a sympathetic ambience.

The **NEW CHURCH** is more appropriate for congregations in excess of 100, avoiding overcrowding. The spacious and stylish lines of the New Church make for a very successful wedding.

Before making a choice of building, it is advisable to visit both churches in daylight. Both are fine examples of church architecture and are listed by English Heritage as being of great architectural importance. The Old Church is listed as Grade I and the New Church is graded as II*.

Wedding Fees

Fees are set by Parliament and change each year. Ask for current rates when you attend the Rectory to plan your wedding.

a) There are fees for Banns called for a wedding at another church.

b) The Wedding Service at Holy Cross Church

At the Church, we call the Banns and there is the work of the Clergy, the Parish Clerk, the Verger, the Organist, the Bell Ringer, those who clean and prepare the church and prepare floral decorations. Their work is all designed to make the wedding day a special day which you will always remember. Some of these people receive a fee for their work, as does the Parochial Church Council.

If you plan to video the wedding, an extra £40.00 is payable-

made up of: Church Council fee £20.00 and the organist has an extra £20.00

It greatly assists the Parish Clerk if you are able to pay your fees in cash.

A deposit of £25 is required at the time of booking, and will be deducted from the fees which you will be asked to pay nearer the wedding date. The deposit is returnable only until three months before the wedding.

Photography and video recording are allowed in the Church, but it helps if members of the congregation allow the professionals to take good photographs, as the sound of multiple camera actions and a blaze of flashes can be very distracting for the couple.

Please note: The Parochial Church Council accepts the use of a video recorder in the churches on the understanding that by virtue of accepting a fee, they are thereby indemnified against any breach of copyright should the video be played back anywhere.

Will you help us preserve these Church buildings?

As you can see, only a part of the fees you pay goes towards the maintenance of the churches. There is no Government help. All costs are met by the congregation and voluntary donations.

Are you willing to make an extra donation to help preserve these beautiful churches for the future?

We would be very grateful. Please make cheques payable to Holy Cross PCC. There is also a collection of money after the wedding so that your guests may make a donation towards the upkeep of the churches.

Music and hymns

It is probably best to choose one hymn unless you are confident that guests will sing heartily. Then, there is enough time for two. The time normally allotted for the wedding is insufficient for more than two hymns, especially if there are several weddings on the same afternoon.

Some *examples* of suitable hymns: theme:

Be thou my vision	763	A vision for living
Dear Lord and Father	383	God with us through life
Father hear the prayer	385	Prayer for support
Lead us heavenly father	426	Prayer for joy and peace in life
Lord of all hopefulness	813	Inspiration for our life
Love divine	437	Celebration of God's love
Morning has broken	822	New beginnings
O perfect love	346	traditional wedding hymn
Now thank we all our God	533	Thanks giving for life
Praise my soul	470	God gives us goodness
The Lord's my shepherd	850	metrical version of 23rd psalm
The King of love	490	another metrical psalm 23

There are many other suitable hymns and this is a short list to help you start thinking. The numbers refer to the books we use at Holy Cross. Unsuitable hymns are children's hymns, and hymns associated with funerals. Hymns at a wedding should reflect the themes of love, commitment, vision and hope which are at the centre of married life.

Other music at the wedding

You may also choose suitable music for:

- a) the bridal entry
- b) the exit of the bride and groom
- c) during the signing of the registers
- d) other incidental music

Unless you wish to hear the traditional wedding music (Wagner and Mendelssohn) **you need to speak to the organist as soon as possible** to discuss alternatives. It may be necessary for you to provide the sheet music if you wish to hear a particular piece played.

The organist of Holy Cross Church is **Krystyna Palamarchuk**. She is willing to offer advice about wedding music. Phone 07986 711203

Order of Service

The Church provides an basic Order of Service and hymn books. You may also prepare a sheet for your hymns. If sufficient notice is given, please enquire about a customised Order of Service including your names, your words and hymns. If you will provide a floppy disc, we will copy the file from which you may print the Order. Alternatively, we can email the file directly to you. Please make plans and speak to the Clerk quite early. The Parish Clerk can help you, or you may discuss your own ideas with the clergy. We are always willing to help you find ways of making the wedding day a great success.

Model Order of Service

Please regard this as a suggestion, rather than a blueprint,
and compare to the church's standard Order of Service

Bridal Entry

traditional music by Wagner or other, as you choose

Introduction

Hymn

(if 2 hymns are required) words printed out in full usually
but not necessarily all the verses

The Marriage

Hymn

(if 2 hymns are required) printed out in full usually

The signing of the Register

Prayers

The Blessing

Exit of the Bride and Groom

traditional music by Mendelssohn or other as you choose

You may also have a black and white line drawing of the Churches to use on your wedding stationary and Order of Service if you wish. Please ask the Weddings Clerk.

A **model** Order of Service including pictures can be sent you via email.

Just ask neil@holycross.ndo.co.uk

Flowers at your wedding

Church flowers are provided and arranged by colunteer members of the congregation (except during Advent and Lent when it is not usual to have floral decorations.) Your standard fees do not include any contribution towards flowers and so a donation towards the cost on the day of your wedding would be most welcome. Please make cheques payable to **Rosemary Abernethy** and forward via the Parish Clerk in good time. If you wish to discuss flowers, telephone Rosemary as early as possible before your wedding rehearsal.

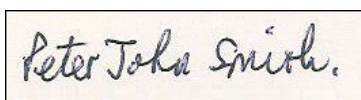
Wedding readings and sermon

There is an opportunity for you or a member of your family to read from the Bible or another suitable source during the service. If you are interested in this, please speak to the clergy in advance and make plans. There will also be a short sermon.

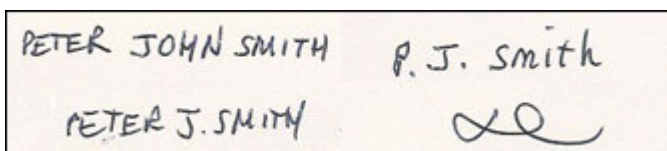
Signing the registers

The register is a legal document. It has to be copied in future months and years and we use Stationer's ink for the signing. It is important that you **and** your witnesses write your names legibly. All your Christian names should be written out fully, but not printed.

An example on how to do it:



Some examples on how not to do it:



Please alert your witnesses to this.

The signing of the Registers

Takes place in the middle of the ceremony and on the alter, in full view of the congregation. You will need to ask two people to be witnesses, both of whom must be over the age of 18. Your photographer will probably wish to take posed photographs at this point.

Marriage and Divorce

The Church of England wishes to witness to the importance and sanctity of marriage and so, those who come for Holy Matrimony are understood to be entering a life-long relationship.

However, the reality of divorce cannot be ignored and it is the rule of the Church of England that the parish clergy have discretion as to whether or not they will conduct marriage for those who are divorced and with a former spouse still living.

At Holy Cross, we are willing to use this discretion to marry divorcees who legally qualify and they are treated in the same way as other applicants, except that the legal preliminaries may be different.

Divorcees may use the Banns system preliminary to marriage and this requires the Banns to be called in the parish where both parties live. Where either party does not reside in the Parish of Greenford Magna, one of them may qualify for marriage at Holy Cross by being enrolled on the Church Electoral Roll, following a 6 month "habitual" attendance at worship at the Church.

Sometimes, divorcees are asked to arrange for the Superintendent Registrar to publish banns at the Registry Office of the Borough where they live. For more advice about this, read below or contact The Rector or the Parish Clerk.

Who can get married at Holy Cross?

Anyone who is qualified for marriage under the Law.

To qualify you must

EITHER:

- i) live within the *parish* borders (not just Greenford generally)

OR:

- ii) be entered on the Electoral Roll of the Parish Church.

The rules of the Church of England state that it is necessary "to habitually worship" at Church concerned for six months prior to an application to join the roll.

Those who do not qualify in i) or ii) may still be able to marry at the Church if they successfully apply for an Archbishop's Licence. To be successful, the Archbishop's Office must feel that there is a sound pastoral reason. There is a substantial fee for this Licence. Divorcees may not have an Archbishop's Licence. If you need further help, please speak to the Rector or Parish Clerk.

Who conducts the wedding?

The Rector will be generally available and expecting to conduct most of the weddings. In the case of the Rector being on holiday or other time away from the parish, other local clergy will be available. Requests for particular clergy are accommodated if practical.

Participation of family or clergy from other churches

We welcome clergy from other parishes to participate in the service or if you wish to invite friends or members of your family to read from the Bible or read a poem or other piece. Please feel free to enquire.

Wedding Etiquette means being on time

Especially if there are three or four weddings on your day, it is important to start on time. A late bride creates serious congestion and upset for the rest of the afternoon. Please try not to be *deliberately* late. Unforeseen situations may delay you, and that of course is understood. But if you are deliberately late, please think about what this means to the other brides of the day and their guests. Apart from the upset and inconvenience, there is so much confusion on the street for those wishing to park. In some cases, it may be necessary to omit hymns and time for photography may have to be shortened to make up lost time. Please arrive at the Church 10 minutes before your service starting time so that the Bride's and the Bridesmaids' pre-wedding photography may be completed without a rush.

What happens if you are late?

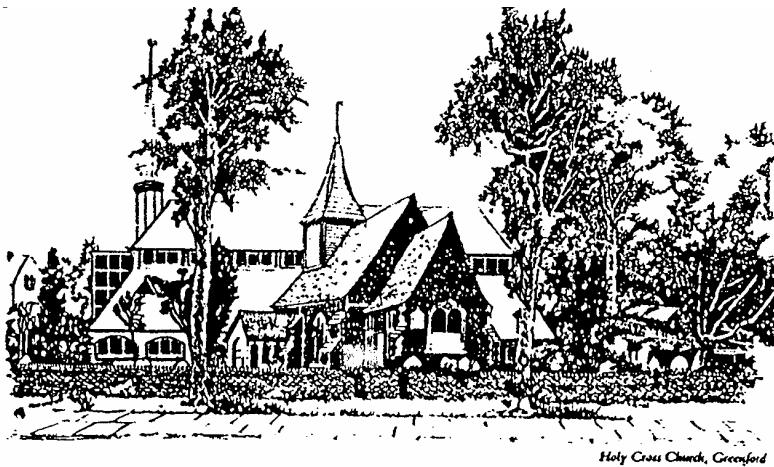
If the bride is late, we reserve the right to leave out hymns and shorten the time available in the church and churchyard for photography.

After the wedding, you may choose any suitable place in the Churchyard for your photographs.

We request that your guests refrain from throwing confetti on the graves. Bio-degradable confetti is an advantage.

Don't forget!

The Parish Clerk is available at The Rectory on Friday evenings between 7.30pm and 8.30pm, except for obvious public holidays.



Contact list

You may find these addresses and phone numbers useful:

1. **The Revd. Prebendary Neil Richardson** phone 020 8578 1543
The Rectory,
Oldfield Lane South,
Greenford,
Middx. UB6 9JS
email: neil@holycross.ndo.co.uk
2. **Mrs Lorna Churn**
C/o The Rectory on Fridays from 7.30-8.30pm

In the event of not being able to contact these people when information is urgently required, ask the following for assistance:

- | | |
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| 4. Mr. Peter Abernethy
66 Chinnor Crescent ,
Greenford, Middx.
phone 020 8575 2274 | 5. Mr Arthur Johnson
57, Chinnor Crescent
Greenford, Middx.
phone 020 8578 2045 |
| 6. Mr Ray Allen
11 Chartwell Close,
Greenford, Middx.
phone 020 8575 7770 | |

Countdown to *your* Wedding at Holy Cross

YOUR ADVANCE THINKING

1. Decide the date and time with friends and family
2. Attend The Rectory to ascertain if you qualify for Marriage at Holy Cross
3. Attend The Rectory in person together and book date and time of your wedding and pay a deductible deposit.
4. Consider various options to decide, as in this booklet

THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE DAY

5. Both attend The Rectory on a Friday between 7.30 and 9pm to sign an official application form.
6. Fix dates to hear your Banns read in Holy Cross and any other Churches
7. Agree rehearsal date (usually about 3 weeks before the date)
8. Seek advice from Clerk or Clergy about any unclear issues
9. Finalise Order of Service and hymn words details, if you are having one specially printed, with advice from the Clerk or Clergy

During this 3 month period

10. Attend Church to hear Banns or confirm other preliminaries
11. Collect Banns Certificate from other Churches where they have been called (the wedding cannot go ahead without this)

THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE DAY

12. Attend rehearsal and bring Banns Certificate and cash for fees

THE BIG DAY

13. Wedding Day – the Bride arrives 10 minutes early for pre-wedding photography in the Churchyard.