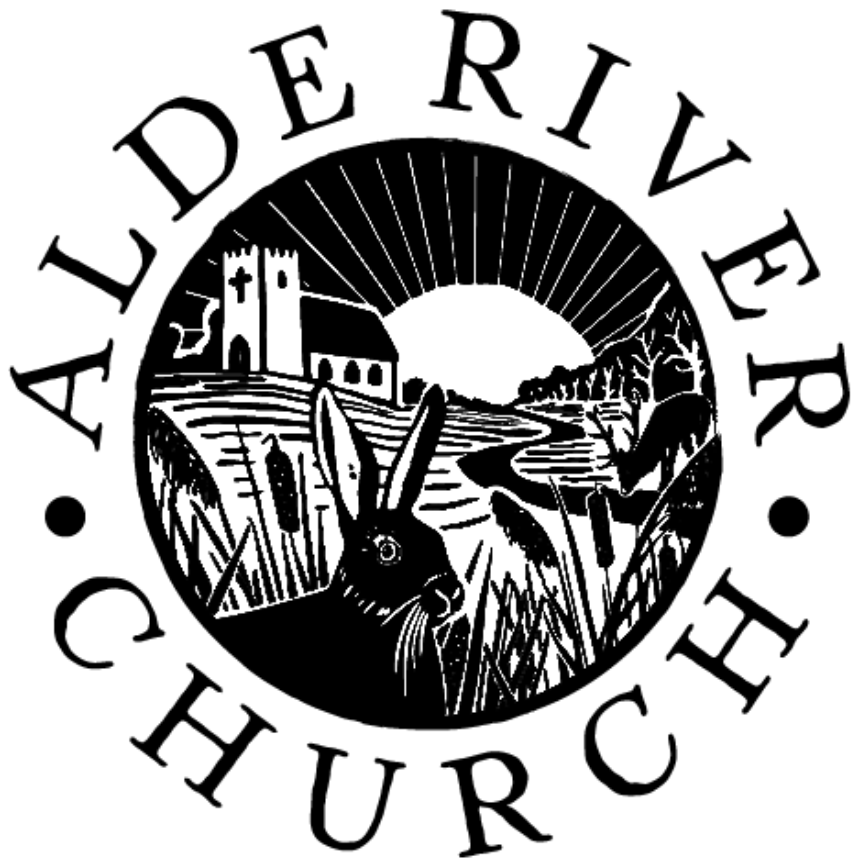


Marriage Brochure

Your guide to a church
wedding within the Alde
River Church





Welcome to the Alde River Church

Alde River Church is one church with seven buildings. We are a caring and welcoming community.

You will always find a warm welcome at our churches with the regular congregations fully involved in church life, supporting activities both within their own community and further afield.

We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

Congratulations

Congratulations on your decision to get married.

We are delighted to be involved in such an important occasion. This booklet is designed to tell you many of the things you need to know about getting married in the Alde River Church.

Please read this and keep it handy; it will answer many of the questions you may have over the coming months.



Qualifying connection to the Alde River Church

To be married at any Church of England church, one of you must have a qualifying connection to the church. Various qualifying connections are listed below:

You can marry in a Church of England if one of you:

Have at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, or

Was baptized (christened) in the parish concerned, or
Is confirmed and your confirmation was entered into the register of confirmations for a church or chapel in the parish (this will usually be the case if you were prepared for confirmation in the parish), or

Has at any time regularly attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

Or

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:
has lived in the parish for at least 6 months, or
has regularly attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

Or

That one of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish

This means that any couple who has no other connection to a particular church can gain a QC if they commit to regularly attending (at least once a month) the church in which they wish to be married for a period of at least 6 months. This enables you to get to know the rector and church family who will be praying with and for you as you prepare to be married.

Legal Preliminaries

The legal preliminaries for your wedding will usually be the publication of banns. This is the notice given out in weekly church services on three consecutive Sundays which states you intend to marry and gives others an opportunity who thinks there is a reason why you cannot legally be married to state their objections.

Your banns will be read at our 10.00 am service on the first, second and third Sunday two months prior to the wedding taking place.

Please remember that if one or both of you lives in a parish other than Alde River Church you must have your banns called in your home parish as well and it is your responsibility to arrange this.

The fee for the calling of banns and the issuing of a certificate is within this booklet. Please ensure that the minister taking your wedding receives your banns certificate as soon as possible, and at least two weeks before your wedding is due to take place. Without it, the wedding cannot legally take place.

Marriage Preparation Courses

Each year we provide an opportunity for couples who are about to be married to come together to explore some of the issues to do with being married (as opposed to the wedding itself). We aim to make the session useful, fun and interactive. The minister taking your wedding will give you details of our next Marriage Preparation Course.



Flowers

Should you wish to provide your own flower arrangements you can contact a local florist or arrange the flowers yourself in your church.

Arrangements can be placed on pedestals, on the window ledges and tied to the ends of pews. Some couples also opt for an arch of flowers over the porch entrance or milk churn displays aside the door.

Florists must ensure that no staples, pins or nails are used to secure arrangements anywhere in the church.



Videos and photography

We allow videoing by prior arrangement although please note that this increases the fees payable to the organist or other musicians due to copyright issues related to recording of the work of other composers. If you use a professional videographer, please check that they have a license to cover the recording of hymns and music.

Photographs should only be taken during the service by an official photographer so as not to distract from the significance of the wedding. There is plenty of scope for family and friends to take pictures after the signing of the register and as you depart down the aisle.



Officiating minister

Here at Alde River Church, we have a wonderful team of clergy. The minister that you meet for the planning of your ceremony will usually be the person who officiates at the wedding, but last-minute changes may occasionally be necessary.

Service Option

When it comes to your wedding service, there are a number of things for you to choose such as readings, hymns and musical pieces. Please take time to consider what you would like to include in the service and speak with the minister conducting the service about your chosen options.

Participation

Although the person taking your service is very happy to lead the whole ceremony, some people like to invite friends and family to participate in the service in some way, by reading from the bible, reading a poem, leading the time of prayers, singing or playing an instrument.

Music

Our excellent organists are very willing to discuss your musical choices and give you any help you need. We can also play any pre-recorded music. Any pre-recorded music must be brought to the church for the rehearsal for checking.

Confetti

Please can we ask you to inform your guests to use only biodegradable confetti, flower petals and bubbles. Rice and paper confetti are very difficult for us to remove from the churchyard and should not be used.



Wedding Rehearsal

Typically, this will place place on the Thursday/Friday evening preceding a Saturday wedding and usually takes less than an hour.

Although anyone is welcome to attend, it is essential that the bride and groom are present! It is also helpful if the ushers (or at least one), best man, bridesmaids (or at least one), the person walking the bride down the aisle and anyone who is participating in a significant way (such as doing a reading) attends. Please inform the people at the earliest possible stage so that they can be available.



Wedding planner

The Church of England has produced an excellent online wedding planner, which covers many aspects of the wedding preparation.

In particular, there is a facility for selecting and listening to samples of common hymns and producing a printout of the service order. There is also a FAQs section. You can reach the website at www.yourchurchwedding.org.



Suggested Bible readings

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13; 8.6-7

Romans 12:1-2, 9_13

1 Corinthians 13

Ephesians 3: 14-end

Ephesians 5:21-end

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 4: 7-12

Matthew 6:24-34

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

John 2: 1-11

John 15: 9-17

Wedding music

We do our very best to provide your choice of music to make your wedding day special. We can provide an organist to play the hymns and music before and after the service, or you might have friends or family who are musicians or singers that you would like to include in the service.

The order of the service for a wedding includes music for the Bride's entry, up to three hymns, music during the signing of the register and a final piece played as you leave the church.

Fees for musicians

Fees are payable for the services of the organist and bell ringing as part of your wedding fees. The standard fee includes three hymns, organ music before and after the service and during the register signing.

The fee for the organist is £100

If you have your own soloist to sing or play during the register signing, your organist will happily accompany if needed.

A small extra fee may be payable, depending on the amount of rehearsal required

Should the service be recorded the organist fee will be doubled.

The Summary of the Order of Service

This summary of the order of service will help you plan your own service booklet. You will need to include the words of any hymns or songs which the congregation will sing together. It is recommended that you send a proof copy of the order of service to the minister prior to printing.

Entry of the Bride

Music Title and Composer/Artist

Welcome

Introduction to the Marriage Service

First Hymn

Include all the words

Declaration

Ending with:

Will you, the families and friends of N and N,
support and uphold them in their marriage
now and in the years to come?

All ***We will***

Hymn

Include all the words

Readings

it is often helpful to print the Bible reading(s) in full

Sermon

Marriage vows and proclamation

Prayers

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer – either the traditional version or contemporary version.

Final hymn

Include all the words

Registration of the marriage

Exit of the Bride and Groom

Music title and composer/artist

You might like to include words of thanks to those involved in the service and directions/details of the reception

Welcome to the Alde River Churches

St Mary's Church, Benhall

Deadmans Lane, Benhall, IP17 1JL

St Marys Parish Church was built in the 12th century during the reign of Henry II. It has a Grade II* listing. This classic English church building sits within an extremely attractive churchyard facing open countryside all around.



It has a flint exterior, a Norman style tower housing six bells (which can still be rung), and since 1842 when a north transept was added, a separate space inside which is used as a meeting room with a kitchen and toilet in addition to the vestry. The building particularly benefits from its varied internal spaces.

In the main church, a balcony was added in Victorian times, and this can seat up to 50 people, increasing the church capacity to around 140 people in total.

The church organ is located between the north transept and the nave. Inside the church, there are several interesting carvings and monuments, a Jacobean (17th century) pulpit and Victorian (19th century) box pews.

The altar stands in front of clear glass windows, looking out upon the fields beyond.

There is a car park to the north of the building and additional parking available several hundred metres to the south, by arrangement

Capacity of the church: 140 people

Fee for ringing the bells: To be arranged with the ringers.

w3w: [windpipe.dolphins.pegs](https://www.windpipe.dolphins.pegs)

Welcome to the Alde River Churches

St. Peter's Church, Blaxhall

Church Road, Blaxhall, IP12 2DW

St. Peter's Blaxhall is a typical rural country Church, surrounded by its hedged churchyard and farmland in east Suffolk. Whilst not an architectural gem, St. Peter's has a number of interesting features and a simple charm. The many visitors often remark on a sense of peace and an obviously very active and well-loved Church.

There are normally sheep in the churchyard.

Capacity of the church: 130 people.

No additional costs to those normally charged except we charge for heating in winter. Choir is agreed between church and bridal couple.



There are six bells at St. Peter's dating from 1655 to 1902. Although the Tower has recently been repaired the bells cannot be rung because of an unsafe bell floor. Options for future ringing are currently being considered.

w3w: unspoiled.elaborate.routine

Welcome to the Alde River Churches

St Mary's Church, Farnham

Church Road, Farnham, IP17 1QA

The Church of St Mary is perched on a hill, which might have once been the site of a Roman encampment. The initial church structure could date back to AD 800.



However, it remained concealed for centuries and did not appear in the Domesday Book. The current building, primarily constructed from flint and stone, originates from Norman times.

Notable features of the church include 12th-century narrow windows and 14th-century oak rafters in the chancel roof. On the chancel's south side, there is a blocked priest's door beside a fluted basin from the late Norman period. Additionally, a doorway and stairway that once led to a rood loft are present. Carved panels from the original screen are on display.

The church also boasts 18th-century box pews and a pulpit. The octagonal font, designed in a 13th-century style, was made in the 19th century. A single-manual organ, installed in 2000, was originally built in 1849.

The west Tudor tower contains two bells, one from 1521 and another from 1630. The church's notable plate includes an Elizabethan cup from 1567.

Capacity of the church: 100 people

Fee for ringing the bells: To be agreed with the ringers

w3w: [relations.musician.liquids](https://www.relations.musician.liquids)

Welcome to the Alde River Churches

All Saints Church, Great Glemham

The Street, Gt Glemham, IP17 2DA

We are sited in a small parish of 220 people in a particularly delightful piece of gently undulating Suffolk countryside.

The church is open during daylight hours.

As you approach our main door you will see a one-handed clock on the church tower that dates from 1770 and is still in use today. The earliest features are the chancel windows which date to the 13th century and our most recent addition was that of the bell ringing platform completed with the Queen Elizabeth II coat of arms to celebrate her majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. This was the last of the work that included converting part of the vestry into a disabled toilet (accessed from the outside through the West door) and a kitchenette housed in what looks like a vestry chest.

The greatest treasure of All Saints' is the octagonal seven sacrament font and is a masterpiece of 15th century stonemasons' art; sadly defaced in parts during the reformation – but still beautiful. It also has a 'crucifix lily' among the trefoil-headed lilies in pots on panels around the stem.



The roof shows the original 15th century timber framework with angels looking down, and 24 lovely carved bosses including a 'greenman' and 'pie crust' designs.

All Saints is not a museum, but a building with a purpose, and as such, it is cherished and cared for by the people of this small community who meet regularly for Christian worship, as they have done for hundreds of years and look forward to greeting new people to both our church and services.

Confetti is welcome

Capacity of the church: 100 people

Fee for ringing the bells: No fee

w3w: [elders.renew.shops](https://www.elders.renew.shops)

Welcome to the Alde River Churches

St Andrew's Church, Little Glemham

Little Glemham, IP13 0BH

A lovely, very rural setting with a beautiful historical church.

It is close to Glemham Hall should the wedding reception be held there.



Seating 80 but extra in the North pew on chairs

Large car parking space in the field by arrangement with Glemham Hall

No bells caveat there are bells which can be rung on VERY special occasions

Capacity of the church: 80 people

Fee for ringing the bells:

Biodegradable confetti only

w3w: [reinstate.bands.forgotten](#)

Welcome to the Alde River Churches

St John The Baptist, Snape

Farnham Road, Snape, IP17 1QW

The 13th century St John the Baptist Church Snape is easily accessible from the A1094 Road, which is the main road from the A.12 at Friday Street to Aldeburgh.

It is only one mile from the Snape Maltings complex and river Alde. This is a delightful peaceful area with quiet walks to both the rivers Alde and Fromus. The post code is IP17 1QW. There is ample car parking on the green by the church and in a car park on the opposite side of A.1094 road.

The nave seats 100 adults in pews and there is additional accommodation for 20 more on chairs in the west end of the church.

The grounds are tastefully maintained, and we appreciate biodegradable confetti only.

The two manual organ was built by local organ builder Peter Bumstead and completed in 2000. The Church acoustics are excellent.



Our three bells are 'hung dead', in other words they do not move, and the sound comes from a clapper striking the inside of the bell. Due to the state of the tower, they are not currently in use.

We have a modern toilet which is fully fitted out for the disabled. In addition, we have a kitchen in the nave with running hot and cold water.

Capacity of the church: 120 people

w3w: [sake.reshape.describes](https://www.sake.reshape.describes)

Welcome to the Alde River Churches

St Mary Magdalene, Sternfield

Church Hill, Sternfield, IP17 1RX

St Mary Magdalene, Sternfield, is a small 14th century church of stone and flint, sitting centrally within its' tranquil graveyard, in a village of just over 100 residents.



You enter through an ancient (probably original) heavy oak door into a peaceful simple church. Behind the altar is a large oil painting, possibly by Benjamin West, of Christ healing the blind man.

Some of the pew ends have carvings, and most are damaged, probably by Oliver Cromwell's men in the 17th century.

In the tower there are 4 bells.

Additional parking can be arranged on a local grass field.

Capacity of the church: 80

Fee for ringing the bells: The bells can be rung subject to the availability of ringers, with the cost to be negotiated with the ringers.

w3w: clasping.mice.wider

Documents to check ID for wedding couples

Evidence of being a relevant National

- a) Current British or Irish passport
- b) Certificate of Naturalisation
- c) If born before 1st January 1983 then a UK birth certificate

Option 1

Passport plus one of the following:

Evidence of current use of name – one of the following:

- a) Utility bill no more than 3 months old at time of ID check and within 12 months of wedding date
- b) Bank or building society statement or passbook no more than 1 month old.
- c) Council tax bill – within 12 months
- d) Current residential tenancy agreement
- e) Valid driving license

Option 2

Certificate of naturalization plus one of the above evidence of current use of name

Option 3

No passport or certification of naturalization and born before 1983

Birth certificate plus

evidence of current use of name as above
Or proof of change of name; ie marriage and decree absolute

Option 4

No passport or certificate of naturalization and born on or after 1st January 1983

Full birth certificate plus

- A. evidence of current use of name as above (and evidence of any name change)
- B. Evidence of either of parents British citizenship or settled status at time of birth; eg passport describing parent as a British citizen or that she/he has definite leave to remain
- C. Parents marriage certificate if British citizenship is claimed through the father

If neither party is a British or Irish citizen then use the online tool under Guidance of Clergy 2021 on government website.



Further information

We hope you have found this brochure to be useful in planning your wedding.

Should you have any questions or wish to speak to a member of the Alde River Church team, details can be found on our website:

www.alderiverchurch.org

We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

Every blessing.

