

GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS AT ST. ALBAN'S, SALISBURY

A Christian wedding, large or small, is a service of worship and, therefore, is customarily held in the church and conforms to the same standards that apply to any service. Likewise, every wedding must meet the requirements of the Canons of the Episcopal Church. St. Alban's is available for weddings after consultation with the Rector. Preference will be given to couples (or if they be under 30, their parents) who are active, contributing members of the congregation. Others will be expected to become, and continue to participate in the life of this or another congregation, both before and after the wedding.

The following local policies and standards are made in the interest of assuring a truly Christian wedding ceremony that is reverent and beautiful. All arrangements are at the discretion of the officiating clergy and generally follow these guidelines.

Wedding arrangements should be made at least three months in advance with the Rector. In the case of remarriage after divorce, at least six months is strongly preferred. This allows time for the counseling required by church law and for other necessary scheduling arrangements. The clergy may decline to officiate at any time; and the Bishop may refuse permission in the case of remarriage after divorce.

Arrangements for music should be made as soon as the date and time of the wedding are fixed. The bride and groom should contact the Principal Parish Musician to discuss musical selections. She must approve all music, in keeping with canon law and the instructions of the Prayer Book. Only the Principal Parish Musician or someone approved by her is permitted to play the organ or piano. The Principal Parish Musician has first right of refusal. Other instruments may be used as authorized by the officiating clergy and the Principal Parish Musician.

A rehearsal is required and will normally be the evening before the ceremony. The Principal Parish Musician does not generally participate.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages by the wedding party immediately prior to the service is inappropriate.

Photography during the wedding service will be limited to unobtrusive, unlit still or video photography. "Official" photographers, professional or amateur, are expected to consult with the clergy about further details prior to the service, preferably at least the day before. The taking of photographs after the service will be limited to one half hour.

Flowers are generally limited to two vases on the pulpit and lectern, and an arrangement on the floor in front of the altar. Deviations from this must be approved by the Rector, in consultation with the Altar Guild. Ordering of the flowers is the responsibility of the couple.

Nothing may be thrown at the bride and groom inside the building. Bird seed or bubbles will be permitted outside. The wedding party is responsible for clean-up following.

The Parish Hall is sometimes available for receptions at a nominal fee. Sit-down seating capacity is 75, fewer if space for a band and/or dance floor are desired. Use of the kitchen is included. Clean-up and restoration for next use is the responsibility of the wedding party. (We do not employ a sexton.)

Wedding Fees

The fee schedule follows. Any deviation from these fees needs to be discussed and approved by the Rector at the couple's first meeting with her. These fees include the use of the church, musician' fee, and, in some cases, the fee for clergy services. A deposit of \$100 must be made to reserve the church and set up appointments with the Rector. This deposit will be credited to the fees and is non-refundable after the first preparation session.

Fees for Contributors

- Organist \$150
- (Optional) Organist rehearsal with soloist - negotiated with organist
- (Optional) Parish Hall use for reception, including use of kitchen \$50
- (Optional) Bulletins for Wedding (office reimbursement) \$30.00

Fees for Non-Contributors

- Marriage Preparation and Building Use \$500
- Organist \$150
- (Optional) Organist rehearsal with soloist - negotiated with organist
- (Optional) Parish Hall use for reception, including use of kitchen \$100
- (Optional) Bulletins for Wedding \$40

Fees for the organist are made payable to the individual; All other fees made payable to St. Alban's. ALL FEES AND MARRIAGE LICENSE ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE SERVICE.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE SERVICES OF THE CLERGY, except in the following case:

Fee for Marriage Preparation Only for Non-Contributors

\$75 per session, minimum of 3 required, made payable to St. Alban's Parish

Honoraria paid to the clergy will be deposited in the Rector's Discretionary Fund, per Letter of Agreement.