

Church Hill Weddings

Wedding FAQs

The Wedding Service:

What Wedding Service do you use?

We run a classic wedding according to the Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of Australia. Please contact us for a copy of the service.

Can we write our own vows?

No. We are bound by law to conduct weddings according to the Rites of the Anglican Church of Australia. The words cannot be changed or added to. We suggest saving personal words to each other for your reception.

Can we bring our own minister?

Only if your minister is ordained in the Anglican Church, and/or is known to the Church Hill Ministry team, and only after permission is granted by the Rector, Rev. Justin Moffatt.

Does the church print the Order of Service for us?

No, you need to create and have them printed yourself. You have freedom to be creative, but please send through the final draft before printing. Please contact us for a template to work from.

Can we have a wedding on any day of the week?

We are happy to marry couples on any day, except Sundays. On Sundays, the buildings are being used all day for church services.

Am I allowed to have a Page Boy or Flower Girl?

Yes. But if you are planning on having a Page Boy or Flower Girl under the age of three, please indicate this to the minister as soon as possible.

Does the bride need to be on time?

Yes, absolutely. Anything more than 10 minutes late and you risk your organist and bellringers leaving before the ceremony is over. They often have other commitments, including other weddings.

How long does the ceremony go for?

Approximately 45 minutes.

If you anticipate your service going beyond this length you will need to book in extra time.

How long will we have access to the buildings and grounds of the church?

2 hours and 15 minutes. The church is opened one hour before the wedding starts for set up. You are given around half an hour to mingle with guests/ have photos taken after the service. e.g. if your wedding starts at 2:00pm, you will be expected to vacated the church building by 3pm and have left the grounds by 3:15pm.

When can our florist/friends/ musicians access the church?

The church is opened one hour prior to your ceremony and is kept open for half an hour after the ceremony.

Will there be another wedding on the same day as mine?

Possibly. If this is the case, you will be notified of this in advance. When more than one wedding is booked on any given day, we set a minimum gap of two hours between the start times of the two weddings. It is essential that you arrive on time and help the flow of the whole day by vacating the church grounds on time. If you feel like you would like more time in the grounds of the church, or to use the interior of the church for your official photos please book in for the extra time option.



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Serving Refreshments

Can we serve afternoon tea/refreshments after our ceremony?

There are two options for serving refreshments after your wedding

- 1. OUTSIDE** Use of the grounds directly outside the main doors of either church, there is no wet weather option. We ask that you bring everything with you (table cloths, food, drinks, crockery etc.) and take it all with you at the end, including the rubbish. Trestle tables are available for your use. You will need people who are willing to set up, serve and pack up for you.
- 2. INSIDE** Hall hire is available at both churches for a fee and must be booked ahead of time.

You are required to have Public Liability Insurance cover for the day. Extra fees and strict conditions apply, and the extra time is subject to availability.

Please discuss with the Weddings Administrator at the time of enquiry.

Pre-Marriage Course and church attendance:

Are your pre-marriage courses required?

We strongly encourage you to do a pre-marriage course. It doesn't take very long, compared to the time often invested in planning a wedding, and is a valuable investment in your marriage. Our courses are held in person at The Garrison Church, Millers Point and include attendance at the 4pm service on three Sundays.

How many times are we expected to attend church?

We ask all couples to attend church four or five times in total in the lead up to their wedding.

- Once to meet the minister and receive approval for the wedding to go ahead in one of our churches.
- Three times in conjunction with the three sessions of the Marriage Preparation Course.

Some couples choose to come with parents or other family members in the couple of weeks before the wedding.

Readings:

Can we have readings from poems, plays, or novels during the ceremony?

Your wedding is a Christian ceremony, therefore all readings need to be taken from the Bible. We suggest including any other readings at your wedding reception.

Do we choose Bible Readers?

You will choose two Bible readings, and two readers. Please send your chosen passages to your readers before the wedding and encourage them to practice. You can also contact us for some tips for Bible readers.

The Minister:

Do we need to pay the minister or give him a gift?

No, you do not. The minister performs wedding ceremonies as part of his duties. If you bring your own minister (after approval is given) you should discuss this with them.

Do we need to invite the minister to the reception?

No, you do not. The minister doesn't expect to be invited to the wedding reception.

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Flowers and other decorations

What are the rules regarding decorating the church?

All decorations must be agreed to by the Weddings Administrator. If you choose to have your floral arrangements provided by Church Hill, then the flowers must be left in the church. If you would like to take flowers away after the service, we recommend that you arrange for your own florist. Please send them the following guidelines:

- Nothing is to be attached to the pews or building that would potentially damage or leave residue: no screws, glue etc.
- Nothing too large to be placed in the aisles that would make it difficult for the bride, and her gown, to walk down the aisle.
- It is the florist's responsibility to ensure that any arches, towers or frames with florals on them are secured with adequate sandbags. Any arrangements placed inside the church need to not block any guests view of the wedding.
- We recommend that all arranging to be done offsite, so that all the florist needs to do onsite is deliver arrangements and put in place.
- We have two pedestals you are welcome to use, or supply your own.
- All dropped leaves and petals from arrangements need to be cleaned up by the florist before the ceremony starts as well as after the arrangements are removed.

How many pews are there if I want to decorate the pew ends?

Many brides choose to decorate only every second row, or just the first 10 rows of pews. At St Philip's, there are 20 to the cross aisle, and 27 rows all the way to the back of the church. At The Garrison, there are 16 rows of pews to the back of the church.

What does the cost of flowers include?

The \$500 fee for flowers includes 2 large arrangements on pedestals and 2 smaller arrangements on the table at the front of the church. They are arranged by a professional florist. Flowers are usually white, unless specific colour scheme requests are made, which we can sometimes accommodate. Our florist is also able to arrange pew decorations for an extra fee. Contact the Church Hill office for more information.

Flowers cannot be removed to your home or reception venue. If you would like to take flowers away after the service, we recommend that you arrange for your own florist.

Can our guests throw petals/confetti/rice, or have petals scattered down the aisle of the church?

No. We request that your guests do not throw confetti or rice, either on church property or on the street. This is a safety and littering issue and we appreciate your co-operation. Genuine flower petals can be thrown outside the church as they are biodegradable and will not harm the birds. If you would like to scatter flower petals down the aisle of the church, this is only permitted at St Philip's (NOT at The Garrison Church) and will incur an extra \$75 fee for cleaning.



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Music:

What is the best way to play music for our wedding?

At St Philip's Church we recommend the use of the Organ – it's simple to organise, our organist is accomplished at playing for weddings, and it sounds beautiful in the space.

Can you help us choose music?

Yes. We can provide a list of suggested wedding music. Our organists are also very happy to discuss your music choices with you. Contact our Weddings Administrator for their contact details.

What parts of the service need music?

Music will be needed for these five moments:

1. As your guests arrive;
2. The Processional (the bridal party walking into the church);
3. A hymn (optional);
4. The signing of the register;
5. The Recessional – the bridal party walking out of the church.

Can we sing a Hymn?

If you would like to, but it is not required. We recommend solid, easy to sing, well known hymns, sung with the organ. We also recommend asking a friend or family member to lead the singing for you.

Are we allowed to use an iPod for music?

Yes. But song choice will need to be approved by the minister. Please appoint one of your wedding guests to 'press play' on the day. This person should also come to the wedding rehearsal the week prior to your wedding to learn how to use the system.

Can we have a soloist/singer?

Yes, at the approval of your minister. If you want a rehearsal for your soloist with the organist, there will be an extra charge for the organist's time. To avoid this cost, we suggest that the soloist practise when the organist arrives 30 minutes before the wedding. Please let our administrator know prior to your wedding.

Can we have a band with contemporary songs?

Yes. If you wish to have a contemporary band, we will need to appoint a Sound Operator, who is trained in using all our sound gear. The fee for this is \$350. Microphones, DI-boxes and most leads can be supplied by us, along with monitors for musicians, music stands and microphone stands. You will need to provide all instruments (except if you are choosing to use the grand piano). You must indicate at least 3 months out from your wedding if you intend to bring in a band for your wedding.



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The Buildings:

What is the seating capacity of the churches?

Both churches fit 150 easily, 200 comfortably, 300 at a squeeze.

Are the churches air-conditioned?

No. We provide fans in warmer months and gas heaters in the cooler months.

Is there parking available?

There is dedicated parking space for wedding cars at both churches. At St Philip's, there is a wedding bay on Clarence Street. At The Garrison Church the length of kerb from the front gate to the driveway is reserved for your wedding cars.

There is limited onsite parking at both churches. We can't guarantee any of these for your use, but contact the office if you would like to reserve 1 or 2 for disabled or elderly guests, or the photographer. There is usually plenty of metered street parking near the churches on the weekends, and parking stations nearby.

- St Philip's: Lang Street (Wilson) or Jamison Street (Amora Hotel).
- Garrison: Clocktower at The Rocks (Wilson).

Photography and Livestreaming:

Is flash photography allowed and is it ok to video the ceremony?

Yes, but please ask your photographer to be respectful during the wedding, keeping in mind it is a Christian Service. Videographers will need to supply their own microphone, which the minister is happy to wear.

Is it possible to livestream our wedding for family and friends overseas or unable to be there in person?

Yes, we have one camera at each church to livestream weddings and Sunday services via our Youtube Channel. A private link can be scheduled and sent out a few weeks before the wedding. There is no extra charge for livestream.

Ours is a reasonably simple set-up, and we are not a media production company, nor are we immune to internet connection or other technical issues. So if this is a particularly important aspect of your wedding you might consider hiring a professional livestream company.

